



Shepherd's Field  
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE  
牧羊地儿童村

# Heartbeat

February 2018



## A Match Made in Heaven

"We first met **Teddy** almost eight years ago, when we traveled to Shepherd's Field to bring our daughter, **Meng Yan** home. We didn't hold him – or even spend much time with him – but we were attracted to Teddy, and began praying for him once we returned home.



Our family continued to be drawn to this boy, and eagerly decided to sponsor him. We looked forward to reading his updates and following his story, and hung Teddy's photo in our dining room as a daily reminder to pray for him. A few years ago, his health started to fail, and he began to lose weight. My husband and I were compelled to do more than just sponsor Teddy, so we arranged for him to get diet supplements and high-calorie formula, to boost his weight. Eventually, my daughter and I traveled to China to spend time with him, and it was during this visit that I began to feel that Teddy was more than just a baby we sponsored – perhaps he was actually going to be a McKinney!

With **Lily's** help, Teddy's orphanage agreed to prepare his file and make him available for adoption. We pursued this, only to be rejected by our adoption agency! They claimed his needs were too great for our large family, considering the medical demands of our other children. After a long battle and an abundance of prayer, we finally found an agency to endorse us for Teddy. The real miracle, however, was that Chinese officials approved us only *four hours* before China legally changed the family size limit, which would have made his adoption impossible for us. *Hallelujah!*



It seems surreal that our eight-year relationship with this little boy has led to him officially being our son, and we're blessed and excited beyond measure. God is very good, and we thank Him, as well as the staff of Shepherd's Field for keeping Teddy safe for us! *Welcome home **Teddy Dai Rong McKinney!*** – **Ann Mckinley**

Stay connected with us for the latest news, updates, photos and stories from Shepherd's Field.



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## Emergencies Drain Our Medical Fund

Our beloved **Maggie (Tian Xin Xin)** was recently sent to Langfang Pipeline Hospital by our Medical Team after her nanny discovered that the color of her urine looked abnormal. Tests revealed she had a urinary tract infection with blood and protein in her urine, indicating renal failure. Doctors at Pipeline Hospital were unable to treat her for this, so our team transferred her to **Baiyi Hospital** in Beijing, where she was admitted. This problem is quite serious for Maggie, and she remains in the hospital, receiving treatment. The infection has cleared up, but she'll need kidney dialysis in the future, which is a tough diagnosis. Her doctors at Baiyi are unsure of the cause of this problem, but say it's probably congenital. Without knowing Maggie's birth family and their health history, we may never know. Regardless, Maggie will need lots of support and care going forward. She's already spent nearly a month in the hospital, and her inpatient treatment will continue for quite a while. We need your prayers and financial support for Maggie as she struggles with this new reality. Treatment is estimated to exceed **US\$10,000**, so anything you give will be a blessing.



**Hector (Dang Guobu)** is an outgoing, smiley 10-year-old who loves to wheel around Shepherd's Field and engage his classmates, the staff and volunteers in conversation and silliness. When this happy-go-lucky guy lost his smile and began to complain of abdominal pain, our Medical Team rushed him to Langfang Pipeline Hospital, where he was diagnosed with appendicitis and quickly transferred to **Baiyi Hospital** in Beijing for surgery. During the operation, they discovered that Hector's appendix had ruptured and caused a serious infection, but the surgical team skillfully treated that, and sent him to recovery. Since he has less lower-limb activity than normal, his recovery time was extended. Hector spent 28 days in the hospital, and would

often cry that he wanted to go back to Shepherd's Field. Once he arrived home, it didn't take long for him to get back to his good-natured self, and he's now doing very well. However, the surgery and extended inpatient care incurred a huge **US\$7,500** medical bill, which is straining our resources. Please consider contributing to our **Medical Fund** to help both Hector and Maggie.

***Thank you!***



# One More Orphan Finds a Home

*“We always wanted a family.* Before Tommy and I married, we frequently talked about having kids, but we also wanted to adopt – so caring for orphans has forever been on our hearts. Therefore, in the winter of 2009 – while living in China and teaching English – we jumped at the opportunity to visit **Shepherd’s Field Children’s Village (SFCV)**. We were quickly impressed with how well the children were cared for and loved by the staff, and never forgot them. Even after moving back to the U.S., China remained deeply in our hearts.

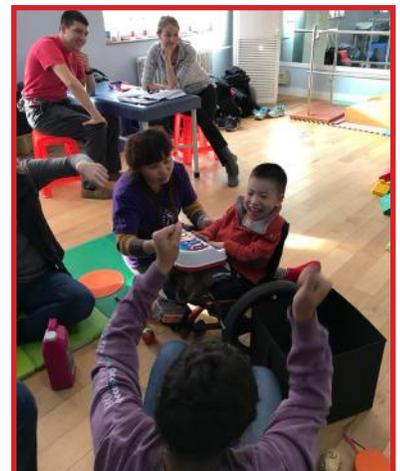
Fast-forward six years. Our daughter, **Ruby** was three years old, and we were ready to take on another adventure. We felt the time was right to move abroad and do some good for others, so we contacted SFCV and were invited to join their staff. After a long journey, we soon found our places, and served in the greenhouse, gardens and multimedia center – but we experienced *real* joy spending every spare moment loving and caring for many of the kids. Then we met **Meili “Pippa” (Yan Yangjia)**. She’d arrived at Shepherd’s Field shortly before we had, and was one of the only children who didn’t want to be held. She was definitely frightened of us, but we felt called to her, again and again. We fell in love with Meili and wanted to adopt her.



Thankfully, we’d started our adoption paperwork before moving to China, knowing that we wanted to add to our family while there. Throughout the two-year-long adoption process, we encountered many delays and interruptions, but during that time Meili grew to trust us. We completed our adoption just before Christmas 2017, lovingly welcomed Meili into the Thompson family and moved back to Denver. She has blossomed into a happy, loud, funny, outgoing little girl, and every day I’m surprised with the progress she’s made. We’re very grateful for the care our daughter received at Shepherd’s Field, and especially for the love that the nannies poured into her. *She’s beautiful, and she’s home.* – **Laura Thompson**

## Huntington and Living Hope Join Forces

Shepherd’s Field recently hosted some amazing volunteers from both **Huntington University** and **Living Hope International**, including 15 Doctoral students enrolled in Huntington’s Occupational Therapy Program, a professor and two physicians. During their stay, team members not only evaluated our children and provided recommendations for future medical and therapy treatments – they even repaired several wheelchairs and walkers! The volunteers willingly served wherever needed. Their visit was short, but very beneficial to our program, and an amazing experience for our kids and Therapy Team. We’re very grateful for our partnership with both Huntington University and Living Hope International, and hope to expand this program in the future. *Many thanks to all who volunteered.*



During my summer internship at Shepherd's Field Children's Village (SFCV) last year, I had the opportunity to serve in the Therapy Department. As a Psychology major on my way to Occupational Therapy school, I learned more than I could have imagined through all the hands-on experience. I had the opportunity to work every day with a little boy named **Matthew**, and my moments with him were some of the most treasured times of my five-week stay at SFCV. I loved seeing him develop and succeed right before my eyes! My time in the Therapy Department confirmed my desire to go to OT school, and revived my passion to work with special-needs children. The Shepherd's Field Internship Program really impressed me – I was amazed at all the caring people who so diligently served and loved China's orphans. I loved getting to know all the other interns and, of course, I savored every moment with the kids. Not a day goes by that I don't miss and long to be with the people of SFCV again!

– Allie Broaddus, Oklahoma, USA

**Is China Calling You?** Apply now and see how an internship can change *your* life! For more details about our internships, or to apply, please contact Naomi Preedin at: [naomi.preedin@chinaorphans.org](mailto:naomi.preedin@chinaorphans.org). The Internship window for Summer 2018 closes March 1st 2018!



## Gloria Goes Home to Texas!

At 12 years old, **Gloria (Si Jinhua)** was beginning to wonder if she'd ever meet her Forever Family, but her dream came true on January 9! Her new mom, **Jill** and sister **Katie** traveled from the U.S. to Jinan, China to welcome Gloria into their family – and this new, little Texan couldn't have been happier.

Gloria has been a Shepherd's Field fixture for years, and will be deeply missed by all her friends and aiyis, who will forever remember her beautiful heart and smile. Thankfully, we got to hang out with Gloria before she left, and celebrated with some scrumptious dumplings and a good movie. We're confident that this superstar girl will bless her new family the same way she blessed us, and bring new joy into their lives.



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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