



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

# Heartbeat

May 2018



## Help Save Maggie's Life

**Maggie (Tian Xin Xin)** is suffering from critical renal failure, and has been in and out of hospital for the last few months for dialysis. This has been a very long and difficult process for her, but Maggie has shown nothing but grace and strength throughout.

She also has a complex heart defect, so doctors have had to monitor her regularly, to determine whether she can withstand transplant surgery.

This week we received some very exciting news – rigorous genetic testing has determined that Maggie is indeed viable for a kidney transplant! Now we need your help. In order to receive this life-saving surgery, we need to raise **US\$110,500 (¥700,000 RMB)**. Your donation will help

cover her surgery, as well as her room and inpatient care. Maggie loves to draw and get her hair and nails done, but really loves playing with her friends at Shepherd's Field. We'd love to give her the opportunity to do just that, so every dollar counts. This surgery will save Maggie's life – here's where to donate today: <https://www.chinaorphans.org/donate/>.



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



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## Teacher Zhang Returns to the Classroom!

*"I am very grateful to be able to share my story with you all today. I am a teacher here at Shepherd's Field Children's Village and have worked in the school for more than 12 years. Saturday, August 13, 2016 was supposed to be like any other weekend, but the events of this day would change my life forever. I was eating lunch with my family, when I suddenly felt a sharp pain in my head. I don't remember anything after this, as I was rushed into hospital in Beijing. The doctors at the hospital diagnosed me with cerebral vascular malformations and a massive cerebral hemorrhage. The situation was very critical, and my outcome was uncertain.*

*"Following craniotomy surgery I was placed in the Intensive Care Unit, where I fell in and out of a coma for 20 days. I'm very thankful for my family and my husband for standing by my side throughout this horrific ordeal. I'm also blessed to have such great colleagues and friends – and even the kids – at Shepherd's Field, who prayed for me. I believe that this was the force that pulled me back from the hands of death. Even the doctors said it was a miracle.*

*"After more than a year of rehabilitation, I've slowly begun to regain my health. Over this time, all I could think about was returning to the children in my class as soon as possible. This is what motivated me to get better – I needed to get back to the kids I love. Every time I'd visit Shepherd's Field during my rehabilitation, Tim would ask 'How are you feeling? We hope you get better soon – take care of your mind and body.' I am very thankful to everyone in my life, especially those at Shepherd's Field Children's Village." – Teacher Zhang*



## Shepherd's Field Launches New Website



Shepherd's Field is excited to announce our revamped website, so stop by [www.chinaorphans.org](http://www.chinaorphans.org) and check out the changes. [Back40 Design](#) gave us a visually appealing new look, but even more exciting is the new content, including a [Features](#) section – where current stories and photos will be posted – and a [Get Involved](#) section, describing how to go the extra mile for the Shepherd's Field kids. *There are many ways **you** can make a difference in the life of a child – check it out!*

**K**aty and **Dustin Everhart** joined our growing Shepherd's Field family in mid-March, and we quickly welcomed them into the fold. Katy is an Occupational Therapist, and Dustin is an IT Specialist – so they'll both be very busy here. *But where did it all begin?* Turns out, it was during a short volunteer visit several years ago. In 2012, Katy served in our **Therapy Program** on a three-week trip with [Joni and Friends](#) and was deeply moved by our kids. At the time, she was still an undergraduate student and wanted to pursue Occupational Therapy as a career.

After bonding with the children and ays here, Katy was determined to come back someday with a degree and some experience, to help provide more for the children over a longer period of time. She finished her undergraduate degree at Ball State University, then earned her Masters in Occupational Therapy at the University of Indianapolis. Along the way, Katy met and fell in love with Dustin – and very early in their relationship, she disclosed to him that she was moving to China someday. He was fully supportive of her dream, and continued to cheer her on through grad school.



Fast forward several years – Katy and Dustin are now married, and have both been working in their respective fields, gaining as much experience as possible. Armed with an education, valuable skills, and hearts to serve, they've moved across the world and jumped right into their roles – Katy started helping some of our more challenged kids maximize their independence and motor skills; and Dustin is keeping our computers and network humming smoothly. We are very grateful for these two tall transplants, and look forward to many years serving together.

## Therapy Brings Independent Mobility

The **Shepherd's Field Therapy Department** challenges our kids daily, and is grateful when they respond to treatment, in big ways or small. **Jason (Hu Tao)** is a shining example of their dedication and perseverance, and has recently begun an independent life-skills course. He's been working very hard to complete his treatment goals, which include walking with crutches instead of a walker, which limits the terrain he can travel across. We started introducing crutches 15 months ago, and slowly Jason's been building up his endurance and confidence. With great excitement we can say that he has now successfully integrated crutches into his everyday life, and will be able to travel around campus independently. We're so proud of Jason, and will continue to inspire him to even greater feats.



# Dang Shihua Visits Her First Family

Recently, our staff and kids were very excited to welcome **Nora Davoli** (formerly **Kelly Dang Shihua**) and her Forever Family back to Shepherd's Field for a visit! Nora – who is now six years old – was adopted by the Davolis in December 2015. She's undergone successful corrective lower leg surgery in the U.S., and is now walking, running, riding a bike and happily playing with her friends.

It was a beautiful reunion for both Nora and her former Aiyis in the **House of Love**. She remembered all of her nannies, her bedroom and even some of her old friends! Everyone in the House of Love had a great afternoon playing together and sharing happy memories. We're thrilled to see how well Nora is doing, and grateful to know that she's being loved and cared for by her new family.

## Fruit Trees Planted at Center Court

The staff of the **Hong Kong Shanghai Bank Corporation (HSBC)** have been very kind to us through the years. HSBC bankers and executives have partnered with us on many projects, and have personally volunteered to help make life better for our children. For instance, they built our amazing aquaponics greenhouse, and also redid all of our on-campus sidewalks – which made them smoother and wider for our children using wheelchairs and walkers. They also planted grapevines along the south and west sides of the greenhouse, so the children can enjoy fresh organic grapes. These kind of gifts just keep on giving.

They recently did it again, and delivered three beautiful, mature fruit trees – peach, apple and pear – and planted them in the center courtyard of our campus.

The trees were too large and heavy for us to carry, so HSBC rented a crane with a 66-ft. boom, and carefully put them in place. The kids squealed with joy as they watched the giant machine pick up the trees one-by-one off the truck, lift them high in the air above the Outreach Center, and skillfully place them in the holes dug by the



HSBC team. *It was really something to see.* We're very grateful for our friends at HSBC, who have once again provided our kids with healthy fresh-off-the-tree produce to enjoy for years to come. *Thank you!*



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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