

Half the Sky



Our China Care Children Progress Reports: Fall 2014

We are pleased to provide you with these stories and photos about the incredible progress of the medically fragile children at our China Care Home. Thanks to your help, the children are receiving stellar, often lifesaving, medical care and patient, loving, nurturing as well.

We think you'll be especially pleased to read the "Exit Progress Reports" for children who have completed treatment -- it is so gratifying when infants and toddlers we welcomed at The Home -- so weak and so sick -- are given a clean bill of health so they can move on with their lives and soon find a permanent family.

Again, our deepest thanks for enabling us to help these children who have so much potential once they are given the medical care and love they desperately need.



Yueping

Yueping is a three-year-old girl who received medical care through the government's "Tomorrow Plan." She came to us at the China Care Home on August 8, 2014 for pre and post-operative care. She had a facial hemangioma. On August 20, she underwent surgery to remove the tumor. The surgery was very successful but left her with a significant facial scar. However, now, she is healthy and has a bright future.

Yueping is adored by the caregivers at the home. When she returned from the hospital, she had trouble adapting to the home, despite having stayed here prior to her surgery. She refused to eat and drink but her caregiver would often entice her with a handful of snacks here and there. She didn't want to go to sleep at night either. Instead, she wanted to walk around while holding her caregiver's hand. She also

Continued on page 2



liked to keep to herself; she preferred to go to a quiet corner and play alone with a big pile of toys. But after getting to know her new environment and the people and kids here, she started to show us her real personality. Now, she has the reputation of being a little tomboy. She is very rambunctious, and a bit naughty too. She likes to climb the windowsill and rip books. But equally as often, she runs into her caregiver's arms, looks up at her with big puppy eyes, and calls her "mom" softly, which makes her caregiver's heart melt each time.

Yueping likes to be barefoot. She doesn't like to wear shoes and socks so tears them off whenever she can. Her caregiver reminds her constantly to put them back on, so she doesn't get a cold.

Although she has a reputation for being a tomboy, Yueping also loves beautiful things. Whenever her caregiver takes out new clothes and tells her: "You are going to wear something new today," she laughs out loud and runs towards her caregiver and says: "It's so beautiful!" And when someone takes a photo of her, she will go to the camera to see her picture immediately. Often, she raises her eyebrows and says: "I don't like that picture!" She is adorable!

Yueping's doctor said that she will be eligible for plastic surgery when she is six years old. This will help increase her self-confidence. We hope that Yueping will always be true to herself and embrace tomorrow, which belongs to her!



Niuniu



Niuniu is 6 years old now. Because of her chronic myelitis, she can't walk properly. On September 22, she was taken to our China Care Home by her institution staff. When they had to leave, she clutched one of the staff member's leg tightly and screamed: "No! No!", and wouldn't let him go. She wouldn't listen to anything our staff said to her, to try to reassure her, and didn't want to go into

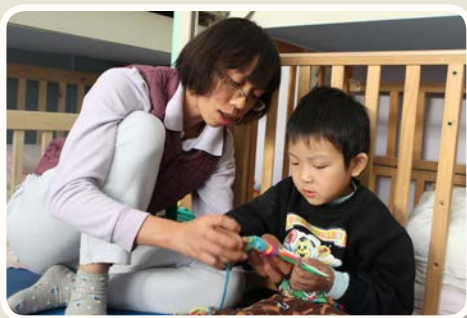
the center. She is very strong-minded girl.

On September 26, we took her to Ji Shui Tan Hospital to be evaluated by a pediatric doctor. The doctor said her condition was not acute, that Niuniu should take antibiotics for four to six weeks and then he would do another evaluation. Niuniu seldom cries on her way to the hospital, instead, she likes to talk with her caregiver in the car, like a little "grown-up".

Niuniu is a very clever girl. Whenever a caregiver enters her room, she will welcome her with a big smile and call her 'mom' joyfully. After teaching her how to count and write from 0 to 9, and telling her that 10 is a 1 with a 0 on the right side, and 11 is a 1 with another 1 on the right side, she could write all the rest of the numbers until 19.

Niuniu is very mischievous. For example, if you ask her to move a little bit to the left, she will do the opposite; and when you are trying to take her photo, she will try her best to avoid the camera. She also always wants to be the first to get the new toys, and won't accept toys from other children at the home. However, she knows the names of all the children and will play with them when the caregivers are busy washing the dishes. She can be a wonderful and kind helper to the younger child. During an arts and craft lesson, the teacher at the home was showing





them how to make a Wish Star. When she was asked what her wishes were, she said that she only had one wish: to go on an airplane ride, because when people are high up in the sky, they can see the world from a different perspective.

Niuniu is still waiting for her next medical evaluation, but we hope that she will have her surgery and recuperate soon so she can one day fulfill her dream of seeing the world from high up in the sky.



Xinxia



Xinxia is a 2-year-old girl who was admitted to the China Care Home in September of 2013. She had cleft lip and palate at that time but one month later, she received her lip repair surgery. The surgery was very successful. In the following 5 months, we provided post-operative care to Xinxia. Though she was afraid of strangers and cried a lot at first, she gradually became more cheerful and we could often hear her giggling. Xinxia recovered quickly from the surgery, and the doctor instructed us to wait another 6 months

before doing the palate repair surgery, so the staff from her SWI came to the China Care Home on March 28, 2014 to take her back to her home institution until it was time to come back for her next surgery.

On October 16, 2014, she returned to the China Care Home. Unlike the first time, she didn't cry at all this time. Perhaps she recognized some familiar faces at the home? The caregivers were also very happy to see Xinxia again. They touched her head softly and said: "My Xinxia has come back to see me!" In late October, the medical coordinator took her to the hospital for some tests, with the hopes that the surgery would take place as soon as possible but the results of the examination surprised us. She did not have a cleft palate and didn't need a palate surgery. We were relieved that she would not have to undergo a painful surgery again.

Xinxia is a very independent and strong-minded girl. Sometimes she likes to sit in a corner, pick up an illustrated book, and pretend she is reading. This is funny because she can't read at all, let alone understand the content of the book, so we all believe she will become an excellent scholar one day.

When the kids and caregivers are all playing in the activity room, she will run to her caregiver with her arms wide open, for a hug, then sit comfortably on her lap, happy and content.

We hope that Xinxia will grow up happy and live a carefree life.



Exit Progress Report – Fu



Fu was admitted to the China Care Home on May 20th, 2014 at the age of 10 months. He suffered from retinoblastoma and came into our care after his left eyeball enucleation surgery on April 18, 2014 at the Peking University First Hospital. At our China Care Home, a loving and well-trained caregiver was assigned to him for around-the-clock care.

Fu is a very handsome boy. When he first arrived, he could only lie in his bed or play on the floor mat but he was not afraid of strangers. Every time someone walked into his room, he would smile, open his arms and wait for them to hold him. Fu is also a quick learner. During his five-month stay here, he has learned several words like 'mama,' 'baba,' and 'jiejie' which mean 'mom,' 'dad,' and 'sister' in English. He has even learned how to walk slowly. Interestingly, he didn't like people being around him when he practiced walking at first, not even his caregiver. He always practiced on his own, holding onto the rails. Although he fell often, he never cried. He pulled himself up and tried again and again to keep his balance. What an adventurous spirit he has!

Fu also seemed to enjoy music. Whenever he heard music playing, he would raise his arms and dance to the beat. Sometimes his caregiver would imitate his strange dance moves, but he didn't seem to care at all. He was immersed in his own world, with a big smile on his face.

He is also a very brave child. After the surgery to remove his left eyeball, he had to undergo 6 rounds of chemotherapy over the following 5 months. Every time we took him to the hospital, he didn't cry or scream. Instead, he focused on his caregiver intently. The nurses at the hospital also fell in love with Fu. Whenever they made their rounds in his ward, they would see his beautiful smile and go to his bed to give him a big hug.

After the 6th round of chemotherapy, the ophthalmologist from the Peking University Hospital said they would reevaluate him in 3 months, to see how effective the treatments were. As a result, Fu was taken back to his home institution for the duration of the waiting period. The caregiver that was taking care of him was very sad to see him go and kept saying: "My son has left."

We sincerely hope that Fu will have a happy and healthy life and will soon have a family of his own.