

A Life A Time Foundation Newsletter



A Life A Time Foundation

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Foreword

“The frost-covered leaves are more rosy than the flowers of spring” is a sentence in a poem every Chinese is familiar with. Besides praising the beautiful red leaves, it also emphasizes that the splendid redness occurs only after the cruel frost.

Thanksgiving season is a holiday of love. We appreciate your love and support. It's your continuous encouragement for our children and their families that helped them not to be discouraged by the darkness of their misfortune. Instead, they fought to live a beautiful life. Thank you!

Children Status:

1. [Xinyi Huang](#) (Girl, 4, burn trauma): Because her throat was swollen, she needed to continue to do inhalation treatment. No surgery has been scheduled.
2. [Huanghuang Shen](#) (Girl, 13, scoliosis): Because the change in her physical condition and her family, she temporarily moved out of the hospital to recover.
3. [Linhan Xie](#) (Girl, 2, hepatoblastoma): Her checkup after discharge went very well. She already went home.
4. [Min Tang](#) (Girl, 11, burn trauma): She can already walk with the help of prosthesis. She plans to go back to china in December.
5. [Qiyong Liu](#) (Boy, 7, neural damage): He is starting the next rehabilitative treatment.
6. [Chu Liang](#) (Boy, 10, accident): He had a transplant surgery on both of the tendons of his hands.
7. [Tianyu Zhang](#) (Boy, 5, cerebral palsy): He was discharged from the hospital at the end of October.
8. [Liupeng Zhang](#) (Boy, 14, cerebral palsy): The surgery for his tendons' relaxation and extension was successful and he already went home.
9. [Xilai Hao](#) (Boy, 2, leukemia): He went to do chemotherapy in Beijing.
10. [Ruofan Cui](#) (Girl, 3, congenital heart disease): She is in desperate need of surgery and still lacks about ¥10,000.



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Call for help

Help Yong Xiang finish chemotherapy, give life an honest chance to succeed

The year and half old baby, Yong, was a beautiful and handsome boy. Yong was born in an ordinary farming family, residing at Pinshan Village, Yanggao County, Datong City, Shanxi Province. His hearing impaired father, barely finished middle school, which prevented him from finding work outside of the village, makes approximately ¥2,000 per year in farming. The stay-home mother is a hepatitis B carrier, with minimal education. She has no job and no income. The surprised arrival of Yong, has brought much joy and happiness to the family.

As Yong turned to one year old, bad luck began to fall on the family. On Jun 20, 2011, Yong's right eye suddenly turned red with an enlarged pupil. The anxious parents visited many hospitals with him. Finally at the 4th Zhangjiakou Hospital, by means of a CT scan, Yong was diagnosed with a very common form of eye cancer, which often happens in infants and young children, called retinoblastoma (RE).



Young before surgery



A family lives in a 60-year-old rambler made of wood and mortar. Every time it rains, it pours through the roof.

Quickly, the family was referred to the most famous eye enter in Beijing, Tongren Hospital. Through a complete eye examination, Yong was re-confirmed with stage E of retinoblastoma. The doctors informed the family that the right eye must be surgically removed; after two and a half weeks, the doctors performed an enucleation surgery on Yong's right eye. The follow up treatments are six chemotherapy sessions, with a minimum five-year readmission after the chemotherapy treatments are complete.

This unfortunate tragedy had brought the family a tremendous hardship. While the family questioned the unjustness of life, the enormous economic pressure exerted from medical treatment, also suppressed the family to near bankruptcy. The family scarcely survives based on their ordinary farming income; as of September

of 2011, they have already spent nearly ¥50,000 to complete Yong's first chemo session, which includes ¥20,000 from friends and family, and ¥10,000 from a high interest rate loan. The new debt has piled up higher and higher while old debts still are not repaid.

In this near desperate moment, the parents were and still are pleading the world's good people for Yong a chance to survive, many loving and caring volunteers turned to the Internet for aid while begging God to show mercy to this poor child. In the following months, many charities and people donated monetary funds to help Yong finish two more sessions of chemotherapy (each session costs approximately ¥5,000). Yong will begin his fourth chemo session at the end of Nov 2011; the family still is in need of ¥2,500 to pay for this visit. And they are still searching for additional help to pay for the last two sessions.



Yong was doing treatment in Beijing.
He was holding on his mother tightly.

While facing this unforeseen reality of economic pressure, the mother decided to leave the father and Yong. Little Yong is now in the custody of his father and grandmother. The good news is, the test results in early November, showed Yong was currently in very good and stable condition. As Yong's uncle lamented "Yong has survived this far, because of so many good-hearted people."

Yong's chemo treatments cannot be delayed, please open up your generous hearts, and help little Yong to finish final two sessions of treatments. With your help, Yong can triumph over the battle of retinoblastoma and grow up strong and healthy.

[Link to donate to Yong Xiang](#)

[More children needing help](#)

Special Report

Leading a colorful life: little heroine Min Tang & her brother Ze Tang



The photo with the sister-brother looking at each other affectionately has been touching many people

She was under 9 years old, yet had more courage than most adults: when everyone was running out of the burning ground, she ran to her brother's bed without telling her parents. She covered her one-year-old brother with her own body against the terrible flame that burned her skin inch by inch.

85% of her body surface was burnt in the fire. She lost both legs and most of her fingers, but not her confidence. She fought, bravely, against her injuries.

She is at an age of carefree childhood. Her dream was to become an artist. The fire accident cruelly took everything away...

Her name is Min Tang. Her brother is Ze Tang, who also lost his legs and a hand in the fire. It's been three years since they

became bed-ridden. Many loving donors contributed a total of 660,000 RMB to save them from dying. In 2011, HandReach Foundation brought them to the Shriners Hospital for Children in Galveston to receive free medical treatment. After their story was reported on A Life A Time's [newsletter in January 2011](#), many overseas donors responded by fundraising money to cover all their expenses during their stay in the US.

In May, the siblings finally came to start treatment in the US. In June, Min and Ze completed the first-stage surgeries. They were so brave, that they shed no tears either before or after the surgeries. Ze started to wear prosthetic legs and to do physical therapy. Min recovered well and started physical therapy, too. The surgery

allowed her to have regular bowel movement and improved appetite. She gained 6 kg in about 4 months. In July, Min and Ze received successful follow-up surgeries. In August, Ze started standing up by himself, and he was able to walk while being held by the hand. Min was able to write and draw with one hand. In September, Min also received prosthetics legs. It was the first time in 3 years that she stood up by herself! She was in a good mood, often singing and laughing happily. Because of her renewed hope, she worked hard in exercising, never complaining about being tired. Ze worked hard too. He started to walk by himself. His motto was to "never give up". By October, Min was able to walk 60-70 meters independently, and Ze started climbing stairs by holding onto the railings. On Halloween,



Min in training with her artificial limbs

children in the hospital went to different floors of the hospital to ask for candy. Ze walked from the first to the fifth floor and got lots of candy. The stairs are circular in the hospital. It was not easy to walk on them, yet he walked up 5 flights! In November, Min's surgery was completed. The doctors suggested that they finished more rehab before going back home in December.



Ze in training with his artificial limbs

The two siblings were young but extremely caring of each other. They played and exercised together. If one had surgery, the other would be at the bedside. Their mutual support and love touched everyone.

During their treatment, the local Chinese church groups who heard about their situation reached out to them. The groups translated and cooked for them. They also sent clothes, toys and books. During the holidays, friends from the hospital and the Church gave these kids new toys and clothes for gifts. Their surgeon was a loving and skillful Taiwanese doctor. Other

people such as the rehab therapists, or even just strangers in the hospital were very friendly too, making them feel loved all the time. During the holidays, friends from the hospital and the Church gave these kids new toys and clothes for gifts. Their surgeon was a loving and skillful Taiwanese doctor. Other people such as the rehab therapists, or even just strangers in the hospital were very friendly too, making them feel loved all the time. Without all these loving individuals and their caring contributions, Min and Ze would not have had such a successful and enjoyable stay in America.

Min and Ze, we wish you grow up brave and strong, like the grass that survived thunderstorms overnight in the dark, and is now standing tall and smiling in the morning sun. We believe that you will lead colorful lives despite losing your limbs. We hope to see you with strong voice and actions, smiling at your victories over all misfortunes. Remember, you will always have our support. Because you were the subject of so much love and giving, you will also become the testimony of each other's lives and love.



In Aug, Min celebrated her 12 year old birthday in US with hope and wishes.

Financial Report

Balance Sheet As of 10/31/2011

Cash in US Bank Account	\$ 142,696.51
Cash in China Bank Account	\$ 16,285.95
Total Cash	\$ 158,982.46
Total Assets	\$ 158,982.46
Net Assets/Fund Balances	\$ 158,982.46
Total Liability & Equity	\$ 158,982.46

Income Statement 01/01/2011 - 10/31/2011

Contributions & Grants	\$ 198,782.65
Interest Income	\$ 205.58
Program Services	(\$238,833.90)
Management & General	(\$2,214.02)
Total Income	(\$ 42,059.69)

Progress Summary

1/1/2011 - 10/31/2011

1. Rescue for Individuals:

Numbers rescued	48
Average amount donated	\$ 1,435
Subtotal	\$ 68,865

2. Congenital Heart Disease Program:

Numbers rescued	90
Average amount donated	\$ 1,649
Subtotal	\$ 148,389

3. Other Programs:

Western Foundation Hydrocephalus Project	\$ 15,500
Jingen Hospital in Henan Province (CP)	\$ 2,155
Pingdingshan Orphanage in Henan Province	\$ 1,190
Nanyang House of Love in Henan Province	\$ 427
Angel Mom's Angel's Home	\$ 2,315
Subtotal	\$ 21,588

Total: \$ 238,842