



Lillian

was another of our little heart babies. Born March 14, 2007, she was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot and came to live at New Day shortly after she was abandoned. In July of 2007, she had what was supposed to be a 4-hour, fairly routine heart surgery. During the course of the surgery, her heart was placed on bypass. When the surgery was complete and the doctors took her off bypass, they were unable to restart her heart. After evaluating the situation, the surgeon realized that the pressure in her pulmonary arteries was too high and quickly put her back on bypass and began to do a second, unplanned surgery to correct the arteries. The entire process took 10 hours. When the tired doctor finally came to give us an update, he was not hopeful. He said her blood pressure was low and her circulation wasn't good; he told us her heart might stop at any moment. However, Lillian pulled through the night and began to show signs of improvement the next day. Today, she is another one of our healthy babies and a true success story!



Anna

Though we knew she was born on May 30, 2006 and was 3 months old, Anna was as tiny as a 1-month-old baby when we brought her to New Day. On the train to Beijing, we woke up throughout the night to check and make sure she was still breathing, as she was in such poor health that we were concerned she wouldn't make it through the night. Anna was diagnosed with a heart disease and umbilical hernia, and when she arrived at New Day, she weighed only 6.34 pounds. We needed to wait until she was healthier to treat her medical needs. In March of 2007, when she was healthy enough to have her heart surgery performed, we were sent home from the hospital when the doctor found that the 6.5mm hole in her heart was completely healed! Furthermore, her umbilical hernia improved on its own, and the doctor said that she didn't need surgery for that either. Seeing Anna change from a tiny baby with a small chance at life, to a pretty, chubby little girl with a bright future—all without any medical intervention—has been an amazing thing to watch.



Abigail

was born on October 3, 2005 and was diagnosed with anal atresia, a birth defect resulting in no anal opening. Abigail underwent emergency colostomy surgery. When Abigail was less than a month old, she arrived at New Day weighing 5 pounds. She would need 2 surgeries: one for anal, vaginal and urethra reconstruction and the second to reverse her colostomy. When Abigail was two years old, she was finally able to have the first 15-hour surgery. The doctor left Abigail with a colostomy, intending to wait at least one year to perform the second surgery so that her body could fully heal. However, within 2 months of the first surgery, we knew she couldn't wait that long because she wasn't getting enough nutrition, she had to undergo painful therapies, and she was very unhappy because she wasn't able to eat what the other children ate. We evaluated her for the second surgery, and the doctor agreed to go ahead and perform it, 10 months ahead of schedule. The surgery was very successful, and within a few weeks, she started to gain weight. Now, she can eat all the foods the other children enjoy, and she is a beautiful and happy little lady!



Victoria

arrived at New Day in October of 2007. She was abandoned and taken to the local orphanage only 6 months prior to her arrival at New Day, probably because her parents knew they couldn't obtain the medical care Victoria needed to save her life.

Victoria had 2 holes in her heart, a VSD of 32 mm and an ASD of 10 mm -- by far the largest VSD we've ever faced. When she arrived, Victoria's heartbeat was 40 beats per minute (normal is 100-120), so we sent her to the hospital right away. At the hospital, the staff found that while she was sleeping her heart rate would drop dangerously low. When meeting with the surgeon, he told us that normally children with this severe a heart defect do not live beyond one month after birth. Needless to say we were amazed that she made it so long. Going into major heart surgery while also grieving the loss of her family and handling the stress of multiple moves in 6 months, little Victoria faced a tremendous hurdle, and we were all concerned about whether or not she had the will to live. We learned that she was a fighter, as the surgery was a big success. They were able to correct both problems, and they installed a permanent pacemaker. Now, Victoria has a hope and a future, and we can't wait to see what it holds.



We met Philip,

who was born on February 9, 2006, when he was 3 months old. He had spina bifida and hydrocephalus. Unable to have him transferred to New Day at the time, we were saddened the next year to see that the orphanage had been unable to get him medical assistance.

The surgery was too difficult for the local hospital, and his conditions had worsened rapidly. The spina bifida defect was quite large, about softball-sized, and his head had grown to 53 cm in circumference. We brought him to Beijing for surgery.

Both surgeries were successful, though the surgeon told us that an MRI revealed that he only had a 2 cm rim of brain tissue around the inside of his skull remaining; the entire center of his brain had been filled with water. They told us he was severely brain damaged. However, as Philip recuperated from the surgeries, the doctors were amazed to find him alert and responsive. Today he is a smart, outgoing, and talkative little boy who does many things that should not be possible. The doctors think it is a miracle, and we agree!



Four months before his second birthday, **Luke** was abandoned at the gate of the local orphanage. When we met Luke shortly after his arrival at the orphanage, he was a sad little boy who was clearly grieving the loss of everything familiar.

We were immediately struck by his resemblance to Paul, a little boy who lived at New Day and died the previous year during heart surgery, so when we learned Luke had the same heart condition as Paul, we were surprised. The orphanage, knowing the surgery was too complicated to be performed locally, asked us to help Luke. While we knew we wanted to help him, taking home a child who both looked like and had the same issues as Paul was not easy to do; we were scared to go down the same road twice. However, we knew we had to help.

When Luke arrived at New Day, he was very weak and cyanotic from lack of oxygen. Two months later he was able to have surgery. The surgery went very well. After he was adopted, Luke had a second even more serious heart surgery. It was a success, and now he is a healthy little boy.

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Drew

, who was born on March 11, 2006, came to New Day with two medical needs. The first was a large umbilical polyp and the second was hypospadias. Doctors successfully treated both, but Drew developed pneumonia after surgery for the umbilical polyp. While being treated, his doctors discovered that half his left lung was not working, a condition called pulmonary sequestration, and he also had a 10.2 mm hole in his heart. Both of these problems were unknown before this time!

We did surgery to fix the pulmonary sequestration right away, but the doctor feared it did not go well. After completing the surgery, he sadly told us that Drew wouldn't live through the night. But Drew pulled through and 10 days later, he came home from the hospital. In March 2007, we took him in to have heart surgery, but the shocked doctors told us it was no longer necessary because the 10.2 mm hole had shrunk to 5 mm.

Drew has now joined his adoptive family, and we are so thankful that we brought him home to New Day where he was able to receive treatment for life-threatening conditions that might never have been discovered until it was too late.

