

Butterfly Children's Hospices

The Butterfly Wing

March 2019

Quote from Lyn Gould, co-founder and CEO

"In a recent blog, I recounted the story of Snowy as background to a new project we have been working on in the Changsha orphanage, the 'Butterfly Care Home for Fragile Children.'

<https://butterflyhospice.org/bigger-vision-new-directions-part-one/>

"It has long been a hope of mine that by being in the orphanage, training and modelling care that we would improve care for fragile and vulnerable children on the medical floor of the orphanage. Currently the Butterfly Home cares for those who have very high needs and are categorised as 'life expectancy of less than 6 months'. As we have seen, time and time again, this shortened life expectancy is often improved, the children's quality of life and physical condition much more settled with the higher level of care given in our home. But over the years we have received many children (like our precious Snowy) who, with better care would not need to come to the Butterfly Home or deteriorate to such a fragile condition."

The Vision

The expectation is that during the five-year duration of the project all orphanage staff who care for fragile children will be trained and capable of delivering care which will prevent a fragile child's condition deteriorating to the point where they need intervention by staff of the Butterfly Home.

Orphanage staff including ayi's (nannies), doctors and nurses will work alongside our Butterfly staff to provide a high standard of care for the children as well as attend our ongoing professional training.

The project will be evaluated at the end of each year to assess progress and whether we can continue with the objective of gradually devolving responsibility from a very hands-on approach in year one to minimal oversight by year five. In the later stages of the plan we will offer supportive training to parents of children with complex needs, hoping to be able to prevent the need for them to abandon their child.

The Story so far...

We are delighted to share that the beginnings of our vision have become reality and the 'Butterfly Wing' is officially open. It has been a team effort to get this far and we appreciate all of the hard work that has gone into this project; from builders to decorators and everyone else in between.

The orphanage has provided and renovated rooms to our specification on the medical floor for the Butterfly Ward. There are 6 cots, a bedroom, day room, food preparation room, and bathrooms to cater for little children as well as bigger children.

Butterfly Children's Hospices are providing 6 of the 8 ayis, a housekeeper, the nurses, the food and all equipment for the children. Alongside this, we are responsible for training, for planning and supervising the daily care of the children and working with the whole orphanage team.

This new project means we will be able to reach out and help more children who need care from the Butterfly team. We are already providing care to three fragile children in these cribs. We cannot wait to get to know these children more, watch them grow and share their stories and the progress of this latest project.