



Melissa, David and YanYan

Melissa and David applied for a grant during our October 2017 cycle. They were adopting a thirteen-year-old girl who was about to age out of the Chinese orphanage system when she turned fourteen this January. Melissa's sisters met "Yan Yan" at a camp hosted by an adoption agency in the US. They told Melissa about the girl and their experiences with her at the camp; "she struggled to walk miles in her walker to prove to everyone that she wouldn't be a burden on a prospective adoptive family. Later during the week, it was discovered that she had been doing all of that walking in shoes that were two sizes too small." Helpusadopt.org provided Melissa and David with a \$10,000 grant to help bring their daughter home. This January, Melissa wrote to us,

"I'm hoping you can pass our thanks on to the board! We have been home with TianYan (now TianYan Summer) since November 25th. It's hard to remember life before she was a part of our family. She is adjusting beautifully. Her naturally happy attitude and sense of adventure has helped her transition to her new life better than we expected. She is incredibly brave and does things that scare her daily—like going to school! She is eagerly learning English and embracing her new family. I just want to express our heartfelt appreciation for our grant. It enabled us to complete our adoption without debt—truly a miracle. As we get a better picture of her overall health, we are grateful we can enter the next phase of her care with firm financial footing. In addition to beginning physical therapy to better address her cerebral palsy, YanYan needs extensive dental work under general anesthesia! I don't think I can ever adequately express our gratitude for your role in bringing YanYan home. She is learning and growing daily in ways that were impossible for her at the orphanage. You have truly helped to change a life forever.

Thank you, Melissa, David and especially YanYan"

