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## Welfare center orphan starts college studies

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FUXIN, an orphan who was sent to Shenzhen Social Welfare Center when he was 5 years old, left Shenzhen on Wednesday to start his college life at Xinhua Finance and Economy School in Guangzhou.

The 19-year-old young man is the first child from the orphanage to attend college.

“Thanks to the orphanage which has provided me with the warmth of a family, I will study hard in Guangzhou, and hope I can work for the orphanage after my graduation,” he said at a farewell party organized by the welfare center Wednesday.

Fuxin was one of the first orphans adopted after the establishment of Shenzhen Social Welfare Center, hence his name Fuxin, given to him by staff. “Fu” is the first word of Fuli Yuan, social welfare center, and “xin” means new in English.

The former chief of the welfare center surnamed Jiang still remembers when Fuxin first came to the orphanage.

“He was very thin and malnourished and he was introverted by nature and often kept silent with his head down,” said Jiang. Fuxin has now grown to be a 1.77-meter-tall young man, full of hope, energy and confidence.

“The patience and meticulous care of teachers in the welfare center

changed my life and have given me hope for my future,” said Fuxin.

To help Fuxin prepare for this year’ s National College Entrance Examinations (NCEE), Shenzhen Creta Electronics Co. included Fuxin in its aid program for 10 orphans and invited maths and English teachers to help him with his studies. Shenzhen Social Welfare Center appointed a special teacher to look after him and his diet for three months during the NCEE preparation period.

Prior to Fuxin’ s departure, Shenzhen Charity Association offered 10,000 yuan (US\$1,316) for his first year’ s tuition. In his second year, the association will pay for half of his tuition, and Fuxin said he would pay for the rest with his scholarship and help from some businesses. He will major in computer science at the school.

“If possible, I hope to return to the welfare center to work after my graduation,” Fuxin said. “I want to repay all those people in Shenzhen who have cared for me and helped me. I want to stay in Shenzhen because it’ s my home.”

■(Han Ximin)