

5/14/2010 Fuzhou Social Welfare Institute Report

By Ms. Luo (Amity Foundation)

1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Zhou Ling (周凌)
- b) **Institute Vice-Director:** Zhou Youping (周幼平)
- c) **Head of the Children's Division:** Fu Suhua (付素华)
- d) **Head of the Amity Foster Care Project:** Wang Lao (王劳) and Huang Qing (黄青) interview the Institute's foster families once a month. They make note of any special circumstances they discover, but generally do not keep records of these visits.
- e) **Number of Children:** Amity sponsors 16 children for foster care, while Holt International provides infant formula for almost 40 other foster children. Approximately 40 children reside at the Institute itself (this number often fluctuates).

- 2. **Overall Impression of Foster Families:** the foster families associated with the Fuzhou Social Welfare Institute are located in the Fuzhou urban center, the suburbs, and the surrounding countryside. The foster children living in the urban center and suburbs enjoy somewhat better living conditions than those in the countryside, but no matter where they are located, all of the families are very loving to their foster children. All of the children have also developed a profound child-parent connection to their foster mothers and fathers and become very close to all

3. Interviews

- a) Met with 16 foster children and their foster families. The individual reports (with a photo) will be sent to the foster care sponsor of each child.
- b) Met with scholarship child FWH



FWH is a 12 year old deaf boy in third grade at a special education school who likes to read books and play basketball. He is taking Language Arts, Math, Art, and P.E. He scores better in Language Arts than in Math, but overall he earns good grades compared to the rest of his classmates. He is restless and mischievous, but he is also a mature boy who listens to the teacher at school. Sometimes he has trouble concentrating in class, but he's already more self-disciplined than before. He takes the bus to school every day.

- c) Met with 2 Amity Grandmas. These Grandmas give the handicapped children at the Institute attention and care they otherwise would be without and are making a huge difference in their lives.



Wu Fangni is responsible for the rehabilitation and education of the handicapped children at the Institute. On this visit, she was helping this girl practice standing up. She can now stand while leaning on something for longer than before. She can even walk a few steps if held under the arms. This girl is very cooperative in her physical therapy; her face fairly glowed with pleasure when it came time for her to stand up out of her chair. It was obvious that she enjoyed being able to stand. Grandma Wu also integrates her education into her physical therapy and massage sessions and she has made great progress in her verbal abilities. She can now use 3-5 word sentences to converse with adults without too much difficulty. However, she still needs Grandma Wu to go over numbers and colors with her again and again before she can start remembering a few of them.



Grandma Liu also helps with the rehabilitation and education of the handicapped children at the Institute. Grandma Liu is shown above holding the hand of a girl as she helps her practice walking. This girl can now walk by herself, but she's still a little unsteady on her feet and sometimes isn't willing to walk without being held by the hand for fear of falling. She likes to play outdoors and will tug Grandma Liu toward the door whenever she wants to go outside. Besides doing physical therapy with her, Grandma Liu also sets aside time to teach her some basic knowledge. Even though it is very difficult to make an improvement in her cognitive abilities Grandma Liu continues to teach her.

- d) Delivered notebooks to those children attending kindergarten (see picture below).



4. Other Information

Three children from the Amity Foster Care Project enrolled in the Half the Sky Early Education Program at the Institute this April. They are sent to and picked up from school by their foster families Monday through Friday. These three girls should of course be in kindergarten now that they are of preschool age. At the Institute kindergarten these three girls interact only with other Institute children and their contact with children from mainstream society remains very limited. I believe that attending the public community kindergarten would be more beneficial to the social and mental development of these girls (if the community kindergarten accepts them).