

Fuzhou Social Welfare Institute Report: October, 2011

1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Zhou Ling
- b) **Institute Vice-Director:** Zhou Youping
- c) **Children's Ward Director:** Fu Suhua
- d) **Amity Foster Care Director:** Wang Fang, Huang Qing
- e) **Number of Children:** The orphanage has more than 50 children but this number often changes. Altrusa/Amity sponsors 11 children in foster care and Holt sponsors 20 children.

2. Overall Impression

The Fuzhou Social Welfare Institute has more than 50 children, most of who have disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy, mental retardation, Down's syndrome, congenital heart disease, etc. The SWI staff takes care of children in all different stages of development. The Amity Grandmas look after the seriously disabled children who need particular care. The Grandmas are patient and kind towards the children and help them with physical therapy and recovery exercises. They teach basic general knowledge to the children who are not yet in school or have been refused entrance by the schools (with no special ed services) and play games with them. They learn through the games they play with each other and all play together very happily. (Pictured below).





3. Interviews

a) Met with 2 Amity Grandmas

Grandma Liu Pinghua and Grandma Wu Fangni work together in the orphanage. They teach the disabled children basic knowledge and also do physical therapy and recovery exercises with them. On the day we visited Grandma Liu was helping MM with physical therapy by giving him massages and doing strengthening exercises for his legs to help him stand straight. Although the effects of the therapy are not obvious MM has made small improvements. Grandma Liu finds great satisfaction with the work that she

does and always meticulously cares for the children, whether they are doing exercises, physical therapy, or playing games. The grandmas also like to play games with the children to combine exercises with fun and relaxation. Playing games is a nice break from physical therapy routines and ensures that the children are happy and active. It also helps the children to learn to behave and cooperate better during their exercises. In the photo below Grandma Liu is playing with Minmin. This type of game is helping increase movement in his hands and legs and is also lots of fun!



Grandma Wu Fangni is responsible for doing physical therapy and recovery for the disabled children as well as teaching them general knowledge. When Grandma Wu first started physical therapy with JL she was a little timid and shy. After a long time of physical therapy and exercises, JL is now able to walk steadily by herself, although she is still nervous and sometimes depends on the grandmas for help. She is more comfortable having others pull her along than walking on her own. The grandmas try different methods to encourage her to walk by herself, sometimes with success and sometimes without. However, when all is said and done, JL has had noticeable improvement in her steadiness and distance of walking. In the photo below, Grandma Wu is helping JL to stand on a trampoline. When she first started this exercise JL was afraid to put her feet on the trampoline. Grandma Wu patiently helped her many times to get more comfortable with the trampoline and then helped her to learn to stand up on it by herself. Although JL is still a little nervous, she is not afraid of the trampoline anymore and now has fun with it!



Grandma Wu Fangni and JL

b) Met with the 14 year old deaf boy we are sponsoring for school.



From his report: He is very mature for his age both in thoughts and actions. He can plan his own affairs very thoroughly and also help his classmates when they need it. He is very popular with his classmates and gets along well with all of them. He studies hard and gets good grades. He is also skilled at handicrafts, such as paper cutouts and paper folding. All of his classmates like his handicrafts and want to learn his techniques, and though he is modest, he still teaches them.

- c) Met with 11 children in their foster homes. Their individual reports (with photo) will be sent to their foster sponsors. Two of our foster kids were adopted to the US in August! Here's a few of our foster kids:



Two year old with cerebral palsy that can walk and even run a little now.



One year old that had been born prematurely but is now doing well. She is anxious around strangers but her foster mom is able to calm her and "bring a smile to her face".



Five month old with cerebral palsy that especially loves being held by her foster mom.



12 year old with cerebral palsy and developmental delay that is very close to her foster grandmother, they go most everywhere together.