

1. Background Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Ding Kelang (丁克浪)
- b) **Head of the Children's Division:** Xie Hong (谢红)
- c) **Head(s) of Foster Care:** Xie Jingming (谢晶明) (Assistant Head of the Foster Care Office) and Qian Weiping (潜卫平).
- d) **Number of Children:** Amity sponsors 20 children for foster care; over 40 children live at the Institution itself.
- e) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** foster children are given physical exams twice a year (around the same time as semiannual reports to Amity are due). They are taken at regular intervals to an epidemic prevention station for vaccinations.

2. Overall Impression

- a) **Foster Families:** the foster families affiliated with the Ganzhou City Zhanggong District Social Welfare Institute are concentrated in three areas: the city proper, the areas of Gan County surrounding the city, and Tiancun Town (located farther from the city). All of these foster families are very loving to their foster children, and the children are growing up strong and sturdy under their meticulous care.
- b) **Foster Children in the Project:** most of the foster children participating in Amity's Foster Care Project are enrolled in school, and all of them are earning good grades. This good performance in school is inseparable from the way these foster families monitor their children's academic progress, do their best to provide a positive atmosphere for study, and both help and encourage their children to learn.

3. Interviews

- a) **Amity Grandmas:** 5 Amity Grandmas (Qi Hongying, Zhong Xiaoli, Zhong Lieyuan, Xiao Houying, and Zhou Longxiao) are mainly responsible for looking after the infants and young children at the Institute, as well as for rehabilitating and educating children with cerebral palsy from the Disabled Division. Grandma Zhou Longxiao is taking the place of Grandma Xie Ruiying, who left the Amity Grandmas Project on Jan. 28, 2010.



Grandma Zhong Lieyuan was teaching some of the Institute children in Building 2 on the day of our visit. In the photograph above, Grandma Zhong is teaching ZL (the little girl by her side) how to read from a picture book. ZL is especially attracted to colorful picture books; she will read page after page and mimic any actions that she sees depicted in the illustrations. When she comes across a picture she does not recognize, she will point to the picture and look to Grandma Zhou. Once Grandma Zhou tells her the word for the picture, ZL will point again and repeat the word.



Grandma Xiao was working in Building 2 on the day that we visited. The little girl pictured above with Grandma Xiao is JL who underwent surgery for her congenital heart disease last year. The operation was successful, as evidenced by JL's smooth recovery and improved physical health. JL is a favorite of all the Grandmas and Institute workers. She can speak in short sentences and sing the songs the Grandmas have taught her. She likes it when Grandma Xiao plays with her and teaches her to read Tang poetry.



On the day of our visit, Grandma Zhong Xiaoli was working in Building 4, where she was rehabilitating the Institute's disabled children with different therapies targeted to their individual conditions. The little girl pictured above with Grandma Zhong has cerebral palsy. She entered the Institute just a few days ago, and cannot walk or stand on her own. Grandma Zhong was helping this little girl practice walking when we visited. After just a few days of therapy, this little girl can now walk a few steps while Grandma Zhong holds her up by her underarms. Grandma Zhong also massages this little girl's hands, which tend to clench into fists, as part of her rehabilitation.



On the day I visited, Grandma Qi was in Building 4 helping a girl with cerebral palsy named LL practice walking. LL cannot speak and also once could not walk, but after undergoing surgery on her legs and physical therapy with Grandma Qi, she can now walk along a wall or a railing. Grandma Qi helps LL practice walking every time she is in Building 4, and as a result, LL can now walk a greater distance than before. LL likes playing outside, so as encouragement, Grandma Qi will hold LL's hand and have her climb down the stairs to go play outside in the courtyard. LL was afraid of climbing down the stairs at first, but she's much better about it now.



Grandma Zhou volunteered many times for the children and elderly at the Institute before joining the Amity Grandmas Project, so she has a particularly great store of love for the Institute orphans. On the day we visited, Grandma Zhou was in Building 2 caring for the infants in the nursery, as well as teaching and rehabilitating the disabled children. Her rehabilitation and massage techniques are still on the simple side, but she will ask for guidance from the other Grandmas when she runs into anything she doesn't understand.

- b) Interviewed 20 foster children and their foster families. A report on each child, with their photo, will be sent to their individual sponsors. But we do have four children that need a new sponsor, they are:



A nine year old girl who is now in third grade. Her report says, "She gets average grades at school, can finish her homework on her own at home, and actively participates in school activities. She can wash her own clothes and help out around the house.



A boy born in August 2007 who has a club foot. His report says, “He can now walk following successful surgery for his twisted left foot (though that foot still tends to drift inward when he walks). His left shoe now also stays on his foot. He can communicate in short, simple sentences, but he still does not enunciate very clearly. His is developmentally on target; for example, he can feed himself and put on his shoes. Jinshun likes playing with little rubber balls and doodling with pens—he likes to doodle next to his older sister with her pens while she does her homework.



This five year old girl has cerebral palsy. Her report says, “She likes kindergarten very much, as she has many friends among her classmates and likes playing with them at school. She now listens to adults when they reason with her. She has become much livelier ever since starting school. She always actively follows along with whatever the teacher is teaching. She especially loves learning to dance.

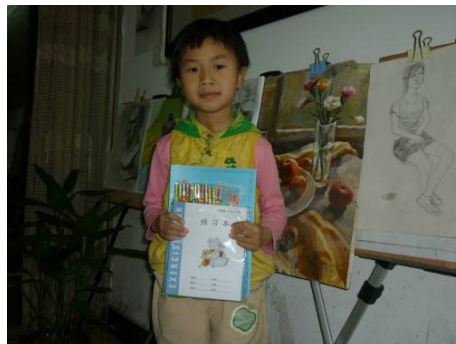


This healthy 11 year old girl also needs a sponsor. Her report says, “Her foster mother is a very loving woman who does everything she can to take care of CP and help her in her studies. CP herself has something of a hard-headed streak and sometimes won’t listen to reason, but she is self-aware enough to fix her own mistakes. CP is in first grade at No. 2 Red Flag Primary School, where she earns above-average grades compared to her classmates. She is unfortunately not the best at self-directed study and sometimes needs adult supervision to finish her homework. Outside of her five-day school week, CP also attends a 90-minute calligraphy class every Saturday morning. CP quite likes calligraphy and enjoys taking the class.

- c) We purchased school supplies for all of the Amity Foster Care Project children enrolled in school; pictured below are some of these children with their new school supplies.



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