

GANZHOU SOCIAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

AMITY REPORT - AUGUST 2012

Altrusa International Foundation of Longview-Kelso

Foster Care – Altrusa (through Amity) continues to sponsor 25 children for foster care from the Ganzhou Social Welfare Institute and the Amity team met with all of them on this visit. Mr. Ding Kelang remains the Institute Director with assistance from Xie Jingming and Qian Weiping, who are the Ganzhou SWI officials most specifically involved with the Amity foster families.

Tuition - There are currently 22 children Amity sponsors for education expenses. Although most of these children are in primary school, there are older children attending secondary school and one student who is attending a three year program in nursing. Generally, the foster families place a high value on education as reflected in their willingness to help their foster children in any way to be successful students. And, like kids everywhere, the universal experience of making friends is a highlight of the school experience.

Here are just a few of our sponsored children:



ZY is just learning to talk. He responds when adults speak to him with “ah” and “oh” sounds. ZY can stand up and walk forward when he leans on something and can eat cookies or small snacks by himself. His foster family adores him. For fun, ZY enjoys cartoons and likes to clap his hands or wiggle his feet when he is happy. He has a healthy appetite and sleeps peacefully at night.

During the summer holiday, ZX’s foster family went traveling with her outside the province. They had a great time together and visited many interesting places. ZX was very happy to have such a wonderful adventure! She is now a Grade 4 primary school student and earning good grades in her classes.



ZM gets along well with all the members of her foster family-father, mother and grandfather all care deeply about her. ZM enjoys exciting places, so her foster family often brings her to the park or square to have fun. She is able to communicate well and has clear pronunciation and knows many simple phrases. She is sometimes shy around strangers., but is very comfortable with her foster family. ZM can do many things by herself, but her foster mother often helps her since she is still young. She has a healthy appetite and sleeps peacefully at night.

Hugging Grannies – Five Hugging Grannies are sponsored by Altrusa at Ganzhou SWI. These women provide extra care and attention that improves the quality of life for children living at Ganzhou SWI, all of whom have various disabilities. The Grannies are able to provide both physical therapy and emotional comfort for children in need of both.



Grandma QH is helping one of the children with physical therapy exercises. This young girl is getting better at using her walker to steady herself as she moves forward. Her right foot cannot take a full step forward, so Grandma QH guides her when she needs it. This girl has many challenges in learning to walk, but Grandma QH is very patient with her. Over time and with Grandma QH's dedicated encouragement, this young girl's walking has improved dramatically.



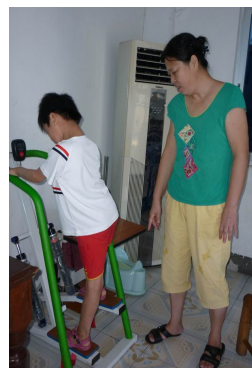
Grandma XH has been helping with physical therapy exercise and language development. Grandma XH teaches simple sounds, words, and phrases. Little YX is much more steady than before and can even run for a short distance. Grandma XH is also helping her learn how to walk up and down stairs safely. Although she was afraid at first, YX is now more confident thanks to Grandma's guidance. Because her physical abilities are improving so much with Grandma XH's attention, the Institute has started looking for a foster family for this little girl.



Grandma ZL is playing with a young child who has a physical disability in her legs and is unable to stand. She loves Grandma ZL and playing games together. Little WW's language development is delayed, but Grandma ZL is helping her improve through games and exercises. Grandma ZL also helps WW improve her physical strength by doing exercises with her hands and helping her reach for things while sitting. Although WW's legs are still not strong, she can grab things and use her hands to crawl with Grandma ZL's encouragement.



Grandma ZL is attending to a sick child who has hydrocephalous. He loves to play games with Grandma and is always happy to see her. Since he was sick and needed an IV, Grandma ZL kept him company and sang songs to him. He listened at first then started to sing along! After singing, Grandma ZL helped him make a game of stacking small boxes into a tower. She stayed with him and made sure he was comfortable and happy!



Grandma ZX is helping a young girl with her leg exercises. When this little girl is on the exercise machine, Grandma ZX helps her to use the equipment properly so she doesn't hurt herself and works with her to improve her balance. Grandma ZX also helps this girl improve the flexibility and dexterity in her hands and legs with fine motor exercises and massages. Not only is little XJ improving her strength, but her confidence is also improving. She loves exercising with Grandma ZX and they get along really well.