

# Gao'an City Social Welfare Institute

September 10, 2010 Report

By Ms. Luo (Amity Foundation)

## 1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Huang Zhiyong (黄志勇)
- b) **Institute Vice-Director (Head of Foster Care):** Ao Chunjing (敖春景)
- c) **Number of Children:** the Institute is responsible for approximately 25 children, among whom Amity sponsors 13 for foster care. The Institute funds another 10 for foster care. 2-3 older children reside at the Institute itself.
- d) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** foster mothers bring foster children to a specified disease prevention center for check-ups and vaccinations on the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month.

## 2. Overall Impression

- a) **The Institute:** my impression of the Gao'an City Social Welfare Institute was a favorable one overall. The Institute has both an Elderly Section and a Children's Section. Most of the residents of the Elderly Section are senior citizens without familial support or income. Only two or three older children actually live in the Children's Section. The Institute—which seems genuinely concerned for the children's emotional and developmental needs—has placed the rest of its orphans into foster homes.
- b) **Special Concern about a foster child's school performance:** This girl's sponsor has been concerned about her school situation due to her poor grades, so I had a talk with her head teacher during this site visit who told me that the girl might benefit from an intervention, but bringing her up to speed would be difficult.

When I asked if it would be possible to find a private tutor, she said finding a local tutor would be difficult, as teachers were not allowed to teach students outside of class, most college students were studying elsewhere, and high school students were all too busy preparing for the university entrance exam. The head teacher also informed me that it would not be possible to hold her back a grade, as schools are not permitted to have students repeat grades during the nine-year compulsory education period. The teacher's personal opinion was that the girl's biggest problem was a lack of confidence and that the best thing everyone could do was to help her build her confidence, which would require more guidance from her foster parents, more visits from the Institute

staff, and of course more concern and encouragement in the classroom. The head teacher was certain that as her confidence improved—a process which would be long and slow, to be sure—so would her performance in school.

### 3. Interviews

- a) Met 13 foster children and their foster families. Individual reports on each child, with a photo, will be sent to their foster and school sponsors.
- b) Met with scholarship student GCH. She is learning disabled and attending a special ed school. She does well at school, where she is well-liked by her teachers and gets along with her classmates. Outside of earning high grades, she is also the monitor of her class and assistant to the teacher, responsibilities she was given due to her strong ability to function independently and willingness to help others.
- c) Gave school supplies to all our sponsored children that are in school; see pictures below:



