

GUANGCHANG SWI

GENERAL INFORMATION

Institute Director: Director Dai

Number Of Children: Approximately 44 children, 30 of whom live in foster care.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

Guangchang has a population of about 200,000 and belongs to Fuzhou “city” (what we would call a county). They are famous for growing the lotus plant which is their main source of income. They are also famous for a juice they make from the lotus bulb/seed and also for the little oranges they grow. They do not have any factories so their water is very clean. At lunch the Amity staff commented on how good the tofu tastes in Guangchang and they said it’s because their water (which the tofu is stored in) is so clean.

The director of the SWI (which houses both children and the elderly) is Mr. Dai who has been the director for 7 years. He looks quite young but is 35 years old and has a daughter (first born) and a son. He is an only child married to an only child so they are allowed two children. It seems this is quite common now and may be one of the factors resulting in fewer children being abandoned. He says he works very hard and often doesn’t have time to take care of his own children.

Director Dai says about 1,000 children have been adopted internationally from Guangchang since they started doing international adoption in 1996. A few years ago they had over 100 children under their care but that has decreased quite a bit and right now there are only forty some children. In the past almost all the children were healthy (not special needs) but now about 20% have disabilities. All of their children are girls although they did have one boy but he was adopted recently to Shanghai. Fourteen children live in the orphanage and a little over 30 are in foster care.

Zhou Bo from Amity Foundation described the type of support we provide to other orphanages and he said his greatest need was for an incubator. They had a premature baby that died in late 2012 because they didn’t have an incubator for it.

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I gave the director the letters and photos from adoptive families that had sent them with me.

I asked about the clothes washing machine that Lisa Smith's daughter, Guang Lilin, raised money for and donated when she visited in 2010. They are still using it.



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This is the main doorway to building.

We then walked to the building with the children's rooms



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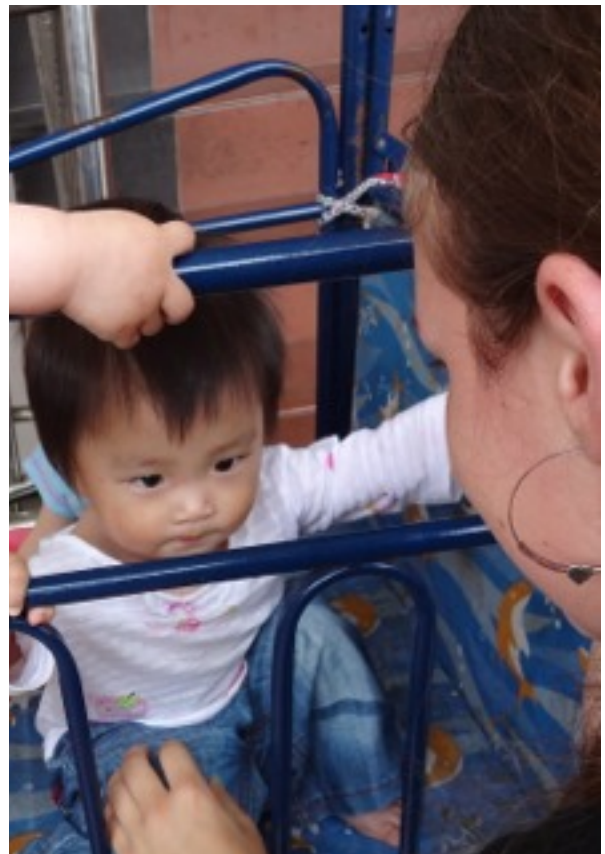
Group of children in hallway just after entering gate from stairway



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Inside children's room were twins sitting side by side in chairs and later photos being held.



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A three year old blind girl that will be adopted soon.



The girl in this group is the “leader” of this little group of children but will soon be adopted.



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My daughter, Megan, holding one little girl and giving her a bottle.



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Director Dai holding one of the children.



They showed us the clinic which had boxes of IV fluids stacked up. They say a pediatrician comes regularly to this clinic and they don't like to send children to the hospital because they're afraid they'll get an infection there.

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Group photo (left to right): Zhou Bo (Amity), Director Dai, Peggy, Zhou Qiaolin (Amity), Megan, Mimi.

As mentioned earlier, Director Dai said that what he needs most is an incubator. They had a premature baby that died towards the end of 2012 that could have been saved if they had one. The cost will be approximately \$1900. Is anyone interested in donating towards this?

Altrusa Foundation of Longview-Kelso is a 501(c)3 organization so your donation is tax deductible in the US. Altrusa does not take out any admin fees and 100% of your donation goes to Amity Foundation, our partner in China who has only a 7% admin fee. You can read more about us at www.altrusa.info or visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/JiangxiChinaOrphanAid

Please let me know if you can help.

Thank you,
Peggy Gurrad