

January 16, 2011 Guixi Social Welfare Institute Report

1. General Information

- a. **Institute Director:** Director Shao (邵院长)
- b. **Institute Vice-Director:** Yang Dong (杨栋)
- c. **Head of the Children's Division:** Director Hou (侯主任)
- d. **Head(s) of Amity Foster Care:** Amity Grandmas Wang Huomei (汪火梅) and Ye Jinzhu (叶金珠)
- e. **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** foster families bring the foster children back to the Institute for physical check-ups and any necessary vaccinations on the 30th of every month.
- f. **Number of Children:** the Institute sponsor 8-10 children for foster care at any given time. 9 children reside at the Institute itself.

2. Overall Impression

The Guixi Social Welfare Institute remains responsible for a very small number of children: less than 20 altogether. All of the Institute's foster children live in Tangjia Village, and two Amity Grandmas make unscheduled visits to each foster family every month. The foster children do not live in the wealthiest homes but thanks to their foster mothers' attentive care, all of them are in good physical health and exhibiting excellent emotional growth. The Amity Grandmas' regular visits also mean that the Grandmas can respond to any of the foster parents' questions or problems in a timely manner.

3. Interviews

Met with Amity Grandmas Ye Jinzhu and Wang Huomei.



Wang Huomei has been a Hugging Granny since 1999 and previously worked at Guixi Women's and Children's Hospital. She visits foster families and helps care for the infants at the orphanage. The weather in Jiangxi is currently very cold, so Grandma Wang has been advising foster families to keep their children from catching colds by bundling them up and keeping them inside to play as much as possible. During my visit there, I saw Grandma Wang bottle-feed a newborn baby in the Institute nursery. Aside from a case of neonatal jaundice, the infant was in good health and appeared to be developing normally. She always drinks the whole bottle at feeding times, after which she always gets drowsy, so Grandma Wang puts her back into the crib and pulls the blanket up over her.



Grandma Ye Jinzhu has also been a Hugging Granny since 1999 and was previously a primary school teacher. She visits the Institute's foster families (all of whom are located in Tangjia Village) with Grandma Wang Huomei. Outside of visiting foster families, Grandma Ye will also spend time in the Institute nursery with the infants there. During this visit, we saw Grandma Ye holding a baby with a cleft lip and palate. Grandma Ye told us that this little girl came to the Institute underweight, unable to breath properly, and barely able to suckle due to her condition. She has gained weight following a period of careful nursing, and can now breathe easier and drink milk a bit faster (though Grandma Ye still has to be careful not to let her choke when feeding her). Grandma Ye is thrilled to see this baby growing stronger every day, especially since this means she will likely be healthy enough when she reaches the age for surgery to repair her cleft lip and palate.