

April 28, 2010 Visit to the Hengfeng Orphanage

Zhou Bo from Amity Foundation's Nanjing office traveled to Jiangxi province in April 2010 to meet with Ms. Luo, our Jiangxi coordinator. Zhou Bo discussed the current situation of the orphanages with Ms. Luo and signed an agreement with Ms. Luo to extend the project for one more year, with Ms. Luo continuing as the local coordinator. The agreement also detailed and clarified the duties and responsibilities of each side. The two of them then visited four of the Jiangxi orphanages together. At each orphanage they talked with the orphanage directors and other people in charge to acquire a better understanding of the present state of affairs at each orphanage. They discussed and assessed the improvements at each orphanage, observed the working conditions of the Amity Grandmas Project ("Hugging Grannies") and visited several foster care families. Hengfeng was one of the four orphanages visited.

The Hengfeng orphanage has more than 70 children in all. Among these, about 20 children—mostly healthy infants—are living in the orphanage itself. The rest are living in foster families. 38 of these foster children are under Amity sponsorship: 18 jointly sponsored by Amity and Altrusa, and 20 jointly sponsored by Amity and FCC, Australia (this is the last year of FCC, Australia's support for Hengfeng).



Doctor Zhu Tianfen, who is under Amity sponsorship, is an experienced doctor. She is responsible for the children's medical care and physical examinations, as well as for medically advising the foster parents. She visits foster families every month to examine the children and counsel foster mothers on sickness prevention.

One of foster families visited:



These three children all live in the same foster family. The mother is experienced in taking care of children with disabilities. One of these children was just transferred into this foster family due to issues in her previous foster family (her former foster family lives next door to her new home). The three children are always playing together. The oldest girl is still attending kindergarten. She gets along well with the classmates and likes singing.

Comments about Hengfeng:

Hengfeng County is one of the most impoverished counties in China. Most of the children at the Hengfeng Social Welfare Institute are living in foster families; of the children living at the Institute itself, more than half are healthy infants. When we informed the Hengfeng orphanage director about the coming reduction in foster care support from us, he said that the children would still be put in foster care if possible. We were glad to hear that the project would be sustained after our gradual withdrawal.