

May 14, 2011 Ji'an Social Welfare Institute Report

1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Mr. Liu (刘院长), formerly of the Elderly Division
- b) **Institute Deputy Directors:** Peng Ying (彭英), deputy director and head of the Amity Foster Care Project at Ji'an
- c) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** Institute workers visit foster families on the 15th and 30th of every month to administer vaccinations to foster children who need them. They also give a physical check-up to every foster child on the 30th
- d) **Number of Children:** the Ji'an Social Welfare Institute has a total of 11 foster children, of which Amity sponsors 8 and the Institute funds 3. Approximately 60 children—over 10 infants, and about 40 older children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities—reside at the Institute itself.

2. Overall Impression

- a) **Foster children:** the Ji'an Social Welfare Institute has few children in foster care—aside from the 8 sponsored by Amity, the Institute itself only funds 3 foster children. The Ji'an foster families have all had some experience with fostering; they take great care of the children while providing them the warmth and safety of a home.
- b) **Institute nursery children:** the majority of the children in the Institute nursery all have some form of disability or medical condition. Disabilities and medical conditions found among these children include: congenital heart disease, delayed development, nephropathy (damage to or disease of the kidney), mild cerebral palsy, etc. (see pictures below).



1 The girl with the small towel has disease congenital heart disease



2 Child with congenital heart



3 Developmentally delayed child



4 Child with dropsy (excess fluid accumulation) of the kidney

3. Interviews

- a) Visited 8 foster children and their families. The reports (with a photo) for each child will be sent to their foster sponsor but here are photos of a couple of them:



- b) Met with 4 Amity Grandmas (the fifth Amity Grandma was on leave to support her daughter's preparations for the college entrance exam; she will return to the Institute once the exam is over).



Grandma Cai Cihua (above) teaches the Institute children and rehabilitates those with disabilities. One of the children Grandma Cai works with is this four-year-old girl. On this visit, Grandma Cai was doing physical therapy with her, but she also helps her develop cognitively. This child's verbal abilities are fine, and under the Grandmas' tutelage she has learned to recognize some simple characters, count from 1 to 5, and sing a few children's songs. Physically, she needs rehabilitation for her legs. Prior to therapy she could not walk even while leaning against a rail; now, she walks easily by herself between the parallel bars used in therapy. She can also walk if someone holds both of her hands. She is very happy that she can now walk with something for support. This means that she can now practice walking every day on her own, and as a result is walking much faster and more smoothly than before!



Grandma Liu Yuedi replaced Grandma Luo Shunfeng in March 2011. Since Grandma Liu previously worked as a nurse at this same Social Welfare Institute, taking care of the children's daily lives and needs, she is very familiar with all the Institute children and knows each one by name. However, Grandma Liu did not rehabilitate children with disabilities during her time on the nursing staff, so she is currently learning about physical and massage therapy from the other Grandmas. The other Grandmas will often guide her through sessions with the children. Her massage technique is not yet practiced, but Grandma Liu is a patient woman, and she is committed to improving her skills so that she can give the most effective therapy to each child with a disability.



Grandma Luo Julian teaches the Institute children and rehabilitates those with disabilities. We were unable to meet with Grandma Luo on this visit because she had taken leave in order to support her daughter as she prepared for the college entrance exam. Once her daughter has finished the exam, Grandma Luo will come back to work. According to her colleagues, Grandma Luo is loving to and patient with every child with a disability who needs care or therapy. She always has a gentle smile and a soft word for all the children, and the children in turn all like Grandma Luo, calling her “mommy”, “auntie”, or “granny”. (Note: the photograph of Grandma Luo was taken last time.)



Grandma Guo Yuanlian also teaches the Institute children and rehabilitates those with disabilities. On this visit we found Grandma Guo still working with this girl (above). Thanks to therapy with Grandma Guo this girl can now walk while supported under the arms. Grandma Guo takes her out every day to practice walking and she fortunately enjoys this, and so cooperates quite well in stepping in time to Grandma Guo's, "One, two; one, two!" Grandma Guo also incorporates language training into their walking sessions. For example, she will ask this little girl to walk to that big brother here, or that big sister over there. Once they reach the person in question, Grandma Guo will encourage her to say, "Big brother!" or "Big sister!". She cannot yet say 'big brother' or 'big sister'—her lips move to form the words, but no sound comes out—but we trust that given the Grandmas' patience guidance, she will soon be able to say all that and more.



Grandma Zhou Guilian teaches the Institute children and rehabilitates those with disabilities. On this visit, Grandma Zhou was working with a ten-year-old girl with cerebral. Her verbal abilities aren't bad, as she can communicate with others in Mandarin. Physically, however, her left hand lacks fine motor control and her feet do not touch the ground properly when she walks: it's always her toes first, and then very slowly, the rest of the soles of her feet will gradually come down onto the floor. Grandma Zhou began working with her following her surgery for her cerebral palsy last year. She began by holding her up as she walked over flat ground. Once she started walking faster, Grandma Zhou started her on the stairs. Because her left hand cannot keep a grip on the stair railing, she still needs support from behind to climb all the way up the stairs. In the future, Grandma Zhou will pay special attention to strengthening her left hand, while also continuing her walking practice. Everyone hopes that this girl will one day be able to walk on her own!