

April 27, 2010 Visit to the Jingdezhen 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. Jingdezhen was one of the four orphanages visited.

Some of the foster children visited in Jingdezhen;



This girl with cerebral palsy, has seen great improvement in her physical development thanks to daily massage from her foster father. (Her foster father has 17 years of experience working in Chinese massage.) Her foster father likes her very much; when he first saw her, he made up his mind to treat her through Chinese massage and acupuncture. We could see the improvement the child had achieved, and of which the foster parents were so proud. They told us that they would target her language development next.



These two girls are fostered in same family. One of them is blind. The orphanage staff had recently returned from the training program held by Amity in Yangzhou, and so they were able to advise the foster family with new knowledge about caring for and educating blind children. We were glad to hear that Amity's training was benefiting child and family.



This is a girl with cerebral palsy who recently entered the Amity foster care project. She entered the same foster family as one of our other foster children and soon got used to living with them. When we visited her family, the neighbors were sitting out in the yard. They talked with us about the children. The community seemed very harmonious. It is good for children to grow up in such a psychologically healthy community, as this will make it easier for them to later be accepted in society.



This is an active girl (first on the left, in the yellow sweater) who is receiving very good care in her foster family. Everyone in her foster family adores as though she were their own child. Her foster mother told us that they traveled every year, and this girl is always very happy during these vacations. When we visited her, she was playing with the other neighborhood children, she looked very happy and greeted us politely



This boy with cerebral palsy and Hepatitis B is living at the orphanage. He is a cute and active boy but has been refused enrollment in the local school due to his disability, even though the orphanage has contacted the school many times. The orphanage staff is currently giving him a basic education at the orphanage. He was so happy when he got his gifts from us (see picture).

Comments about Jingdezhen:

The foster care project in Jingdezhen is being well-implemented. The directors and staff are familiar with each child. The documents of each child under sponsorship are kept updated and filed in the office. Regular visits are arranged and made each week.

The entire social welfare institute (orphanage) plans to move into a new building at the end of May of this year. The senior citizens unit is ready and will move in first; the children's unit will move in later once all the facilities are constructed.