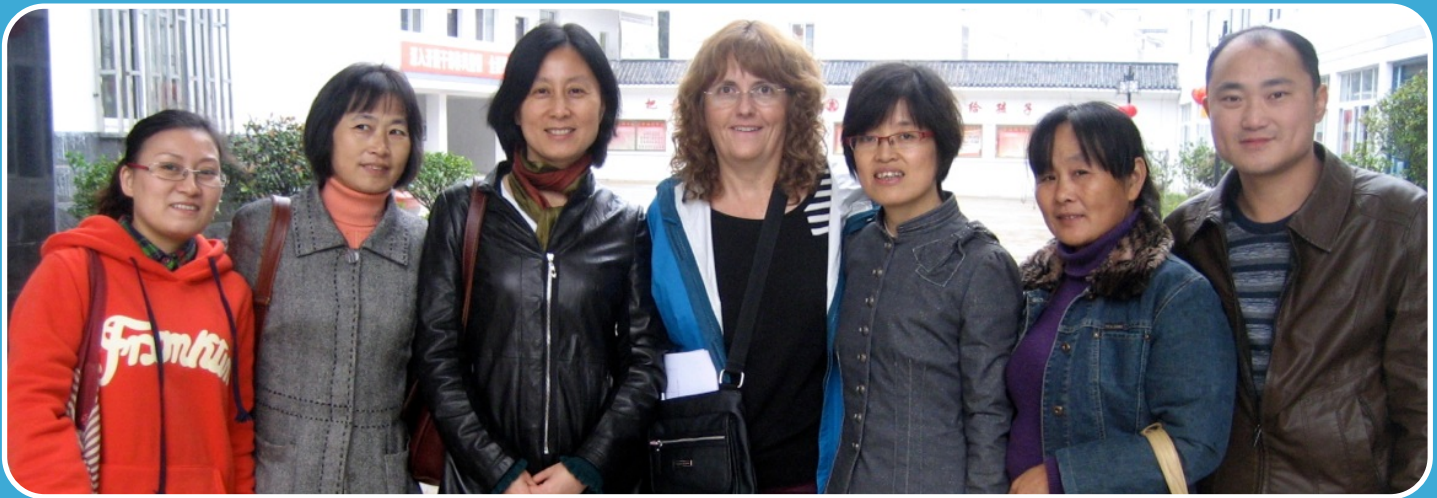


JINGDEZHEN SOCIAL WELFARE CENTER

Peggy Gurrad's Trip Report...November 15, 2012

Altrusa Foundation of Longview-Kelso working together with Amity Foundation in China



My November visit prompted this fun group photo in front of the new Jingdezhen facility: from left to right, Ms. Luo (Amity), Ms. Wu (Director of Children's Division), Zhou Bo (Amity), Peggy Gurrad, Director Li, Ms. Pan (in charge of foster care), and Mr. Jiang of Jingdezhen Social Welfare Center.

Jingdezhen is one of Altrusa's favorite orphanages because of its wonderful director, Ms. Li, who takes time to get to know each child individually.

Even though someone else is in charge of Children's Services and foster care visits, Ms. Li makes time for the children. She's been a strong advocate for foster care even when facing some other pressures to keep children in the orphanage.

There are 58 children under the care of the Jingdezhen Social Welfare Center.

36 children are in foster care (20 of them are sponsored by Altrusa and 8 by the orphanage alone). Four are in Beijing for medical care and 18 are living at Jingdezhen. Once a child turns 18 years old, the government will only give the SWI 360 yuan per month for their care rather than 1000 yuan.

Jingdezhen has not had any international adoptions so far this year (2012). They have sent in paperwork for five of the children, but none have been adopted yet. Of those children, one is healthy but was premature and the others have minor special needs. Soon, they will be sending in papers for three more children to the "Division for Special Needs."



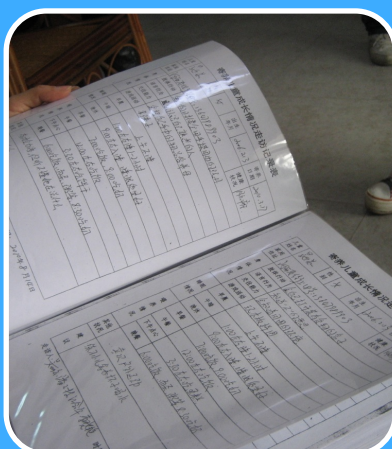
Peggy and Director Li in front of the new orphanage building

Foster Care



Excellent record keeping

Each child has their own notebook, with a page for each visit (twice monthly).



Ms. Pan, shown here with Director Li, is in charge of foster care.

Jingdezhen pays foster families a stipend of 600

yuan (200 from Altrusa and 400 from the orphanage) plus 600 yuan for formula, or for the older children, food, school supplies and clothing. In addition, they also provide the child's bed, quilt and some toys for the foster children. They ask local businesses for assistance, but in general, these are just one-time donations and not a source of on-going support.

The orphanage also has to pay for medical expenses and given that the government gives them a total of just 1000 yuan per child for both

foster and medical care together, it simply isn't enough money to cover all of their expenses. Because of this shortfall, Jingdezhen asked if we could increase our contribution to the foster family stipend. We feel that this is reasonable, especially given the excellent job that they are doing with their foster care. The families are good and the orphanage staff keep very good records, complying with all of Amity's guidelines. They were told that Altrusa will increase their contribution to 300 yuan (\$52) per month per child starting January 1, 2013.



The director and staff were happy to see the photos sent by the Edwards and Casey families. They thought the children looked healthy, but could not understand why they want to look so tanned! They were also very impressed by the hand written note in Chinese characters by the Casey girl.

The area where the older children live is complete with bunk beds, quilts, stuffed animals, books and nooks and crannies where the children can read, play games, or do embroidery.

Currently, one child is in middle school and if she goes on to high school or vocational training, Jingdezhen will apply for a sponsorship for her.



Older Children's Living Area



Bunk Beds, Stuffed Animals and Book Cases

Children's Rehab Room



heater/air conditioner



Baby Clinic Room

They are just finishing the construction of a new building.

It houses the children and adult rehabilitation rooms, a baby clinic and a medication room. Dir. Li requested money to pay for the heater/air conditioner in the children's rehab room (see photo above). It has been installed but they have not paid for it yet.



Adult Rehab Room

Visiting the Foster Children

JBj - age 8



Our first stop was at a kindergarten that both JBJ and JYX attend. Eight year old Jing Bingjie has cerebral palsy. JYX is listed as "developmentally delayed," but she has the appearance of Down's Syndrome. What a great smile she and her foster mom share!

JYX - age 2



JBQ - age 6

The staff report that JBQ, who has cerebral palsy and a defect of the soft palate, has improved greatly since being placed in foster care and attending kindergarten.



JBQ used to sit with a vacant stare and would not communicate or respond; she also could not walk or feed herself. Now, she can easily eat by herself and she walked across the room at a fairly fast pace to show us how well she could do! She could also identify different body parts by pointing to them. She showed us her bright smile when she was with Director Li.

JHJ - age 6

Six year old JHJ is blind and has cerebral palsy. His special needs seemed to be quite severe. He can't stand unsupported, so he needed to be held up.



These photos were taken at the home of JBQ (above) and JHJ, who share the same foster mother. In addition, this woman also fostered the Casey girl, so the staff brought the photos of her plus the note she wrote to show the foster mother, who, as you can see, was very happy to see them!

JYN - age 13



JYN and JBJ (in gray jacket on right) attend the same special needs school for children with a low IQ, which JYN appears to have in addition to "light cerebral palsy." Jing Bingjiao has a mouth deformity. Amity also reports that he has a developmental delay, especially where his speech is concerned.

BJJ - age 7



This is a boarding school, so the orphanage must pay 500 yuan per month for the cost of boarding. During the time the children are boarding at the school, the stipend to the foster family is reduced. The children return home to the foster family one week each month, during holidays and summertime.