

April 26, 2010 Visit to the Nanchang 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. Nanchang was one of the four orphanages visited.

Observations and Comments:

Nanchang:

Ms. Ni is now the person in charge of the foster care office at the Nanchang orphanage; she took the place of Ms. Gong, who left the orphanage a few months ago. There are 6 foster care administrators at Nanchang who divide the children among themselves; 2 of these administrators are in charge of foster children sponsored by Amity. Holt international also supports the foster care program (Holt International focuses mainly on healthy infants and slightly disabled children).

Some of the foster families visited in Nanchang:



This is a mentally disabled girl who was transferred from another foster family several months ago. She looked fatter and healthier to us on this visit. She likes playing outside in the afternoon. She cannot speak, but she understands when foster mother talks to her. She gets along well with her foster family.



This is another mentally disabled girl who looked pretty and sweet. She is well-mannered and a little shy. The foster mother is patient and full of love. She has fostered several children who were eventually adopted; she showed us an album of her past foster children and told each of their stories. We could imagine how much love and care she and her family had given them.



This is also a mentally disabled girl. She looked so happy and excited when she saw that guests had come to visit her. Her foster mother praised her, saying that she could take care of herself, was a polite girl, and that every family member liked her very much. This girl likes walking outside and shopping. Sometimes she plays with another foster child in the neighborhood as well as other neighbors.

Comments about Nanchang:

The foster care project has become more professional and every foster care staff member now knows more about child development and project administration, thanks to the regular training provided by the orphanage, Amity, other organizations. Most of the foster mothers are experienced and full of love; they have spent much patience and energy on the children. All the children, including those with disabilities, have become deeply attached to their foster families. Great thanks to the foster mothers and their family members!