

Nanchang Social Welfare Institute

May & July 2011

Zhou Bo from the Amity Foundation office in Nanjing traveled to Jiangxi province in July to meet with our Jiangxi coordinator Ms. Luo. They visited four of the orphanages together and Nanchang was one of these. Ms. Luo had also visited the Nanchang orphanage and foster homes in May.

A wonderful piece of news from these visits is that we have six Nanchang girls, ages 16 to 20, that want to attend the Nanchang Women's Vocational School! In the past the girls this age at the Nanchang orphanage were not willing to get any training and would not consider learning to live outside the orphanage, even if we were to help them adjust with a group apartment with a house mother. So having these young woman want to go on in school and become independent is exciting! One is double majoring in tourism and air transport, another wants to be a kindergarten teacher, one a tea specialist and three are majoring in computer science.

For some of you these girls are the same age your daughter is. One of them was born the same month and year as my daughter from Nanchang so it was quite sobering to look at her photo and realize it could be my daughter in that photo instead. When I showed it to my daughter she said "I'm really glad I'm not that girl". But if by chance it was my daughter or yours that never ended up with a family of their own I know you would want them to have this chance at an independent life. So I hope that some of you can help with their tuition and expenses, they each need \$903 for the year so any amount you can contribute would be much appreciated. I can send you a photo of any of these girls if you are interested.

Two of the girls started this past spring semester and these are the reports on their progress:



WY has adjusted to life and become familiar with her classmates at the Nanchang Women's Vocational School after half a year there. She currently has classes Monday through Friday and can only return to the Institute on weekends. Her major, computer science, will take three years to complete and then she wants to find secretarial work after graduation. Methodical and orderly in her studies she is earning good grades in all of her classes. She is quiet and introverted in personality, as well as more mature than most of her peers, having already learned how to live independently. She took advantage of this past winter break to work, saying that this would help her get some experience in the real world, and also make her a little extra money for things like school supplies.

WY has adjusted to life at the Nanchang Women's Vocational School after half a year there. She has gotten close to her classmates, always chatting with them after class, and gets along

great with her roommates. Because the school is a boarding school, she currently has classes Monday through Friday and can only return to the Institute on weekends. She is aiming to complete two degrees, tourism and air transport, in three years. Double-majoring means that she needs to work extra hard to get a solid grasp of the basics and theories of both areas. She struggled initially with her computer class, which covered things like keyboarding and other office skills, and is now putting in extra practice to catch up and improve. She is an open, sociable girl who likes making friends and is very close to all her “sisters” at the Institute.

We also have a ten year old boy that needs to be tutored at his foster home since the school will not accept him due to his disabilities. He has a tutor (once a week) teaching him art which he loves and looks forward to each week. His foster mother has been tutoring him in math and Chinese but he now needs a regular tutor for these subjects. His report says “he has applied himself meticulously to learning his pinyin and characters. Naturally, his characters are all very neat. He also likes drawing and crafts and draws daily.” Having a home tutor is expensive (\$1605 for the year) but I think a worthwhile investment in his future. Would any of you be willing to help with this? He is the boy in the white T-shirt, pictured with his foster mom and another foster child.



As you can see, foster care is making a huge difference for this boy as it does for the other children from Nanchang we are sponsoring in foster care. The cost is \$34 per month and could be donated monthly, quarterly, half yearly or yearly. We do need a new foster sponsor for these two girls:



This teenage girl from Nanchang has some cognitive disability and her most recent report says, “She is a pleasant, well-behaved girl who listens to her foster mother at home and her teachers at school. She has made a certain degree of improvement in her self-help skills, so that she can now basically do all her own things for herself, as well as help her foster mother with cleaning the house. She is extremely talkative with people she knows but won’t talk with strangers. At school she is doing well in language arts but struggles with math.



This nine year old Nanchang girl also has some developmental delay. Her foster mom patiently goes over things again and again and she is making progress towards age appropriate independent functioning. Her verbal abilities have also improved and she is described as "a social girl who likes playing games with the other kids in the apartment complex". What a wonderful place for this girl, with this special need, to be to blossom into an independent adult!

I will be sending an e-mail out today to those of you that sponsored one of our other Nanchang school kids last year to see if you want to sponsor again this year. The cost for these younger children will be \$166 for the year. If last year's sponsors aren't able to continue then we may need some new sponsors for these children. And we do need a sponsor (\$166/yr) for this girl:



Her last report says: She is a sweet, polite girl who heeds her foster mother, helps with simple housework, and takes the initiative to say hello to others. She is enjoying and doing well at preschool, where she has learned to recognize a few characters (she can't add or subtract yet, though). She gets along well with the other children in her class. This ten year old girl is attending kindergarten this year so has some developmental delay in addition to her cerebral palsy.

Please consider helping one of these Nanchang orphans! We have 14 Jiangxi children currently without a foster sponsor and if sponsors can't be found we're going to have to start cutting back on the number of children we sponsor in foster care. And this year we have a record number of students going on to higher education at higher tuitions. This is so critical for these orphans so that they can become independent and not be institutionalized their entire lives. I want us to be able to sponsor any of these kids that have been willing to work hard enough in school to be able to go on past the compulsory middle school education but I need your help to do it!

If you'd like to donate by check it should be made out to Altrusa Foundation (tax deductible in the US) and mailed to me at:

Altrusa Foundation
Attention: Peggy Gurrad
P.O. Box 1354
Longview, WA 98632

You can donate through PayPal.com. But unless you send it as a "gift" there are fees with PayPal also so please consider adding about 3% for US donations and 4% of those from outside the US. If you can send it as a "gift" then the fees will be charged to you and not taken out of your donation. Click on the "personal" tab instead of the "purchase" tab which is right below where you type in the dollar amount and then choose the gift option. Using my peggy@gurrad.com e-mail address will take you to the Altrusa International of Longview-Kelso Foundation account. If you'd like to set up a monthly donation through PayPal for foster care (or I can send you one in any amount if you'd like to donate monthly for schooling) here is the link for that:

\$35.32 per month (\$34 after fees) to sponsor a child in foster care
https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=HLBEBBYJGL2P2

Or if you want to use a credit card you can donate online at www.networkforgood.org but they do charge 4.75% fee so if you could agree to pay that during the donation process it would mean the full amount needed would get to us. They give you an option of setting up a recurring donation monthly, quarterly or yearly if you're interested in that. Search for Altrusa International and then choose the one in Longview, WA with the above address (MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE CORRECT ADDRESS including the correct PO Box which is 1354, THERE IS ANOTHER ALTRUSA IN LONGVIEW AND THEY ALSO HAVE A PO BOX ADDRESS!).

I hope to hear back from you. And to those of you that have already been so generous over the years, thank you again!

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