

# **Sept. 2009 Pingxiang City Anyuan District Social Welfare Institution Trip Report**

## **1. Basic Information:**

- ( 1 ) Institution Director:** Zhong Hui (钟惠)
- ( 2 ) Institution Vice-Director:** Mr. Dai (戴院长)
- ( 3 ) Head of the Children's Department:** Chen Xin (陈欣)
- ( 4 ) Head of the Amity Foster Care Project:** Chen Xin interviews and reports on the foster families of Amity-sponsored orphans once a month.
- ( 5 ) Number of Children:** The Institution is responsible for over 70 children in all, of these about 30 are in foster care. Amity/Altrusa sponsors 12 of them for foster care. About 40 children live at the Institution itself, most of whom suffer from cerebral palsy or mental disability.
- ( 6 ) Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** Foster children sponsored by Amity/Altrusa return to the Institution once a month for physical exams. They visit the nearest disease prevention station at regular intervals for vaccinations.

## **2. Interviews:**

- 1、 Amity Grandmas:** met and interviewed 3 Amity Grandmas: Liu Zhiwen (刘志文), Huang Yueling (黄月玲), and Luo Xinping (罗新萍)



Luo Xinping gives singing lessons to the disabled children at the Institution. She is also responsible for developing the cognitive abilities of the older disabled children. Grandma Luo was a kindergarten teacher before coming to teach at the Institution; however, she finds that teaching disabled children differs drastically from her previous teaching experience. She says that teaching at the Institution demands much more patience and compassion, as her current students tend to be a little slower to catch on. We observed that she patiently repeats instructions and explanations to her students in the classroom. She also frequently praises and encourages the better students. The children all like Grandma Luo; they especially enjoy her singing lessons.



Liu Zhiwen partners with Huang Yueling to rehabilitate the Institution's disabled children and oversee their daily lives. Liu Zhiwen is currently rehabilitating the girl in the photo above. Her left foot is twisted inwards and her right foot is twisted outwards. She used to be unable to walk. After several months of therapy with Grandma Liu, she can now walk by herself while leaning on something; she can also walk if led by the hand. She walks considerably faster than before when led by the hand. She is also very cooperative in therapy.



Huang Yueling partners with Liu Zhiwen to rehabilitate the Institution's disabled children and oversee their daily lives. When we visited, Grandma Huang was doing therapy with an 8-year-old boy with cerebral palsy who had come to the Institution just three or four months ago. When he arrived, he couldn't walk even while leaning on something or being led by the hand. After several months of practice with Grandma Huang, he can now walk while leaning on something or while being led by the hand, though he still doesn't dare to walk more than a few steps on his own.

In the picture above, this boy is climbing a set of practice stairs. He is still scared of stairs and is often uncooperative when the Grandmas urge him to climb them. The Grandmas often have to coax him into cooperating: one will lure him forward with a toy he particularly likes, while the other will support him from behind and gently urge him to walk forward. He freezes up with every step, but will laugh and reach forward as soon as he sees the toy in front of him. Once he finishes descending the stairs, he will turn to his Grandmas and giggle happily.

2、 **Foster Families:** met and interviewed 12 children and their foster families. Their individual reports (with a photo) will be sent to their sponsor.

### 3. Other Information:

The Institution has found someone to provide the pushcarts for which they applied back in April. There are five pushcarts for the disabled children in all. (see photos below)



Photo 1

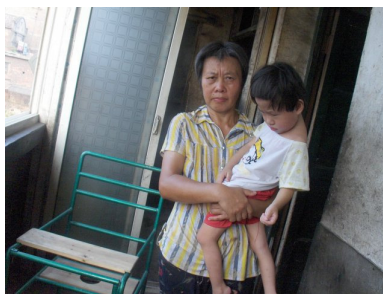


Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5