

# Pingxiang Social Welfare Institute



## February 18, 2011 Report

### 1. General Information

- a) **Institute Directors:** Zhong Hui (钟惠) and Chen (陈书记),  
Vice-Director of the Pingxiang Civil Affairs Bureau
- b) **Institute Vice-Directors:** Ouyang Ming (欧阳明), Vice-Director Xie (谢院长), and Vice-Director Shi (施院长)
- c) **Head of the Children's Division:** Chen Xin (陈欣)
- d) **Head of Amity Foster Care:** Chen Xin visits and interviews foster families once every month. She keeps records of these visits.
- e) **Number of Children:** the Institute is responsible for over 50 children, among whom Amity sponsors 12 for foster care, while the Institute sponsors more than 10. Most of the approximately 30 children who reside at the Institute itself have cerebral palsy or a cognitive disability.
- f) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** foster children are given monthly physical exams in their foster homes, and brought at regular intervals to the nearest epidemic prevention center for vaccinations.

### 2. Overall Impression

There are currently only a few children at the Pingxiang Social Welfare Institute in Anyuan District. The great majority of them have some form of disability.

### 3. Interviews

- a) Met with 2 Amity Grandmas: Luo Xinping (罗新萍) and Hu Guilan (胡桂兰). Grandma Hu Guilan is replacing Grandma Yueling, who had to leave the program in February due to issues at home. We were unable to see Dr. Liu Zhiwen (刘志文), as she was on break.

Grandma **Hu Guilan** replaced Grandma Huang Yueling in February of this year. As the former Director of the Institute's Children Department, Grandma Hu was already familiar with the work of the Amity Grandmas and with the Institute children themselves, so it came as no surprise that she slid effortlessly into her new role. On the day we saw her, Grandma Hu was helping DX use her walker to practice walking. Grandma Hu was very good about giving frequent encouragement, and DX seemed to be enjoying herself. Since beginning therapy with Grandma Hu, DX appears much more relaxed and can go for much longer when walking. During breaks, Grandma Hu would sit and talk with DX, or sometimes accompany her while she played with the other children.



Grandma **Luo Xinping** is responsible for teaching the older children with disabilities at the Institute. On the day we saw her, Grandma Luo was taking advantage of the fine weather and playing games out in the Institute courtyard with her more physically mobile students. For those students who could not comprehend oral instructions, Grandma Luo would take their hands and lead them through the game.



Grandma **Liu Zhiwen** is responsible for rehabilitating the Institute's children with disabilities, and also for looking after them from day to day. As Grandma Liu had called off work the day we went to Pingxiang, we were unable to see her during this visit. The Institute tells us that Grandma Liu is great with the children, and always very patient in caring for them, playing with them, and rehabilitating them. She is still working with little AX. AX has made progress thanks to therapy with Grandma Liu: he now has much finer motor control in his hands, can sit up on his own, and stand while leaning against something.



- b) Met with 12 foster children and their foster families. Here are some of the reportings.



Lively, outgoing AX likes to play outside and seek out other children with whom to play. At home, she is always dancing or singing for her foster family members. Her whole foster family adores her for the laughter she brings into the house. AX's verbal abilities are continuing to improve, seen in how she can now accurately voice her own thoughts and needs—for example, she can alert the adults when she needs to use the restroom. Her foster family ensures that she has structure in her life. She has a good appetite and sleeps soundly.



HX is still living happily in her foster home with a family who loves her. Her foster grandmother and grandfather especially dote on her and understand her needs. HX can still only vocalize two-syllable forms

of address ('granny' or 'grandpa'); she relies on body language to communicate about anything else. Her foster grandma and grandpa are continuing to help HX practice walking whenever they have time. Their methods are simple (one of them holds HX up while she takes her steps) but effective, as can be seen in how HX can now walk more steadily over a longer distance. HX is entirely reliant upon adults for her daily needs. She can let her foster family members know when she needs to use the restroom. She sleeps soundly.



HX is attending a new school this semester. The school is located far enough from her foster home that she will need to board there and come home just on the weekends. On the day we saw her at the Institute, she was packing up and getting ready to set off. She is confident that she will adjust quickly to her new environs. She is excited to see her new school and meet all her new classmates.





AX, now one year old, is growing up healthy and strong. She can walk if held up, responds quickly to her name, and can make noises which sound like “mama” and “papa”. She likes places with lots of noise and people, so her foster mother takes her for a walk outside every day. She has a good appetite. She eats three meals a day—250ml-300ml of milk, accompanied by rice, rice porridge, or noodles. She is currently being toilet trained. She sleeps well.



AX is an adorably chubby baby who is developing well on all fronts. She responds to her name, babbles to herself, and laughs when you play with her. She can stand if supported under the arms and reach out to grab things she wants. She especially likes colorful toys which make noise. She also likes watching the TV.



AX's foster family is providing her with a structured, stable life and caring for her very well. She still does not have great physical mobility, but she is in good health and rarely gets sick. She also feels very close to her foster family, seeming to be at her happiest when she is near them. She still cannot understand when adults speak to her, and can only say words like "momma", "papa", and "auntie". She uses body language to communicate about anything else. She is entirely dependent on adults for her daily needs: she must be fed at mealtimes and taken periodically to the restroom. She sleeps soundly.

The information in this case report is from the Pingxiang Orphanage in Jiangxi Province.

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