

Pingxiang Social Welfare Institute

July 30, 2012

Institute Director: Zhong Shihui (new, female)

Institute Vice-Directors: Ou Yangming, Director Xie, Director Shi

Children's Ward Director: Chen Xin

Pingxiang Social Welfare Institute has a new director as of June of this year, Director Zhong Shihui. Although there is a new director, Chen Xin is still responsible for the Amity program. Each month Chen Xin visits and interviews each foster family. And each month the families bring their foster children to the nearest clinic for a physical exam and any necessary vaccinations.

The Institute currently has over 50 children, 12 of whom are in the Amity/Altrusa foster care program. The Institute pays for another 10 children to be in foster care and there are 5 children sponsored by a Chinese sponsor in Dongguan in Guangdong Province. About 30 of the children in the Institute are disabled (cerebral palsy, low IQ, etc). Nurses and Institute workers care for the children, as well as the Amity/Altrusa "Hugging Grannies" who help with physical therapy and language development. The Grannies also play games with the kids, bringing everyone great joy.

Amity staff person Ms. Luo met with our three Grannies: Luo Xinping, Hu Guilan, and Huang Yueling who are pictured below. She also met with our 12 foster children and their families. A report on each child, which includes a photo, will be sent to their sponsor.

The two 4 year olds (below photos) with Down's Syndrome need a sponsor to pay for their kindergarten (\$166 each for the year) so they can stay in their foster care homes and go to the kindergarten nearby.



And this ten year old girl needs a sponsor for her primary school (also \$166 for the year).



Her report says "She is an open and kind young girl who often talks with friends about everything she's interested in. Now on summer break, she is very happy and everyday does some homework, and then goes out to play – sometimes outside, sometimes in the house. Either way, she is extremely happy. In September when she starts school she'll be in 5th grade. Leping still has positive self-study habits and listens well in class, and always gets her homework in on time."



The above Granny, Luo Xinping, was previously a preschool teacher. She teaches the older disabled children cognitive skills and also helps teach singing. Grandma Luo's warm enthusiasm helps the children learn to sing together and even though they are learning important cognitive skills, the children only know that they are singing happily with Grandma Luo. And she helps children with rehabilitation exercises. In the first photo she is singing with the children and in the second is doing rehab exercises with one of them. With Grandma Luo's encouragement this child has made steady progress and can now use a railing to steady herself and walk up and down stairs. She can also use a cane and walk on her own.



Grandma Hu Guilin, the retired “Children’s Ward Director”, works together with the other two grandmas, bringing joy to the children as they help them with rehabilitation. On the day of the visit, Grandma Hu was helping this boy, supporting him while he practiced walking. When he is unwilling to stand Grandma uses play to encourage him. This time, Grandma Hu used a ball to get him to stand. Every time Zihui kicked the ball, he smiled happily. During this process, Zihui not only is exercising, but he is also finding happiness!



Above is Grandma Yueling Huang, previously a Social Welfare Institute special education teacher, is responsible for the rehabilitation and daily care of disabled children. On the day of our visit, Grandma Huang was doing physical therapy with this little girl with cerebral. She often plays with Grandma Huang and while they play Grandma Huang calls her name or uses a noisy toy to help the

little girl find her way to the noise. While exercising she lies on a mat and Grandma Huang uses toys to get her to lift her head, stretch out her hands, and make rolling movements, getting her to exercise muscles in her back and waist. Grandma Huang also massages her legs and gets the little girl to lift her legs and move around.



This older orphan needs support to start nursing school. The cost for this first year will \$557 and could be shared among several sponsors. It would be so wonderful to see her with the ability to get a job and live independently!