

Ruijin Social Welfare Institute Report: August 2011

1. General Information

- a) **Institute Directors:** Director Liu (刘院长)
- b) **Institute Vice-Director:** Li Xiangyang (李向阳)
- c) **Head of the Children's Division:** Liu Ting (刘婷)
- d) **Head of Amity Foster Care:** Yang Feng (杨峰) and Guo Ruijuan (郭瑞娟) make unscheduled visits to the Institute's foster families.
- e) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** foster children are brought back to the Institute once a month for physical exams and to Ruijin's epidemic prevention center for regular vaccinations.
- f) **Number of Children:** the Institute sponsors over 40 children for foster care. 14 of the Institute's other children are staying at the Shanghai Guangci Social Welfare Institute.

2. Overall Impression

The Ruijin Social Welfare Institute (SWI) is in charge of many children who have been placed in foster care. The foster families are spread out over the city, suburbs, and rural districts. All of the families are loving and kind and have many years of experience taking care of foster children. The foster children in turn bring joy to the families. Each SWI staff member (including two grandmas) is still responsible for visiting the foster families to check on the children and note their development, living situation, etc.

3. Interviews

Met with Amity Grandmas Guo Ruijuan (郭瑞娟) and Yang Feng (杨峰).



Grandma Yang Feng (pictured above) is mainly in charge of visiting foster families and administering monthly physical exams to the children. When she visits the families, Grandma Yang advises them on physical therapy routines and exercises. The photograph shows two children who live in the same foster family. These children both have cerebral palsy and it is difficult for them to move about as they do not have good motor control and they cannot feed themselves. Their foster family attends to all of their needs with patience and kindness.

Grandma Yang has visited this family many times already and is familiar with the children's situation and development. She helps them with their physical therapy and exercises and works to improve their overall strength. The child in the green shirt can grab an object to walk and has even started walking by himself though his progress is unsteady. Each time Grandma Yang visits, both she and the family help the child learn to walk by himself and he is getting better with each step. With practice, Grandma Yang and his family hope that his physical strength will develop and he will be able to do other activities more easily.



Grandma Guo Ruijuan (above) is also responsible for visiting foster families and administering the monthly physical exams to the children. When they make their visits, both Grandma Guo and Grandma Yang are familiar with each child's situation. They know the stage of the children's development, the progress each child is making, etc.

The photograph shows a child with Down's syndrome. His physical development is not on par with normal children his own age, however his family and Grandma Guo take good care of him. Every time she goes to visit the family, Grandma Guo and his family help him with his leg exercises (he cannot stand up by himself). Although he has not had much improvement in his legs, the family is continuing his leg exercises and is hopeful that they will improve in the future. Apart from his physical problems, his language abilities are quite good and each time Grandma Guo visits, they talk together and she tickles him! Recently, the child had a fever and was in the hospital for a few days. Grandma Guo is familiar with this situation and will be monitoring him closely as he recovers.

Met with 10 foster children and their foster families.

One of these is the three year old girl pictured below who was born prematurely and initially malnourished. Now she is thriving in her foster home and her report says: She is not only loved by her whole family, but her neighbors also like her very much. Her linguistic capabilities are strong and she can converse with others easily. When she speaks with others, the things she says always make them laugh! Her foster family has three white pet rabbits that she enjoys playing with, even when their paws sometimes scratch her. She can take care of her every day needs, such as putting on her own clothes, shoes, eating meals, and using the bathroom. In September, Aolin started kindergarten and her family hopes that she adjusts well to the new environment and makes new friends.

