

# RuiJin Social Welfare Institute Report

*Visit by Peggy Gurrad*

June 2013



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Director: Director Li  
Vice Director: Vice Director Liu  
Number  
Of Children: 42 children, most with disabilities, and all living in foster homes.

### How to donate:

- blue “donate now” button at [www.altrusa.info](http://www.altrusa.info),
- Paypal to [peggy@gurrad.com](mailto:peggy@gurrad.com)
- mail a check to:

Altrusa International of  
Longview-Kelso Foundation  
Attn: Peggy Gurrad  
PO Box 1354  
Longview, WA 98632

## OVERALL IMPRESSION

We met with Vice Director Liu who gave us a welcome and an introduction to the Ruijin SWI. Vice Director Liu has been in charge of the Children’s Department for more than 10 years.

Director Li had come to lunch with us but then had a meeting in the afternoon. Director Li is new, he came in about Jan 2012, the same time the new building was finished.

The Ruijin SWI was established in 1988. The old, smaller, orphanage is in a different location. The new facility has six buildings and is quite large. It is the second largest SWI in Jiangxi province (Nanchang SWI is the largest). It could hold 200 children living at the institute. Initially when they moved to the new buildings they brought all the children back from foster care but after two months they returned them to the foster homes because they could see that life in an institution is not as good for the child. His explanation of this is that “In the SWI there are just 4 caregivers for 20 children but in the foster home the child has one on one attention and a family environment that is “like home”. They have a mom and dad and other relatives.” This fits with Amity’s concept that “every child has the right to a loving family” and Vice Director Liu says he agrees.



GROUP PHOTO:

Zhou Qiaolin (Amity), Guo Ruijuan (Altrusa Hugging Granny), Yang Feng (Altrusa Hugging Granny), Li Xiangyang (Director), Liu Yang (Vice Director), Zhuo Bo (Amity), Peggy Gurrad, Megan Arnett (Peggy’s daughter), Mimi (friend of Megan)

[peggy@gurrad.com](mailto:peggy@gurrad.com)

[www.altrusa.info](http://www.altrusa.info)

[www.facebook.com/JiangxiChinaOrphanAid](http://www.facebook.com/JiangxiChinaOrphanAid)

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## Nutrition Concerns

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Vice Director Liu has been in charge of the Children's Department for more than 10 years and he feels the most important concern currently is nutrition. He wants to try improved nutrition for at least three months and see if we can documents results. He feels most of the children are lacking calcium .

The SWI provides the formula to the foster families. He says no sugar is added and the formula is not diluted with rice water. If the child seems hungry he encourages them to add an extra scoop and then they will give extra packs of formula. For the special needs children, or those that are too thin, he would like to give a more expensive brand of formula. One has different levels of quality with the best quality being the most expensive. Apparently the higher quality ones have more nutrients such as calcium and zinc.

Ruijin SWI has been working with Amity Foundation for about 16 years. More than 100 children have benefitted from the support for foster care, school tuitions and medical aid and most of these were then adopted abroad. Some of the projects have been sponsored by Altrusa Foundation and some by One World in the UK. Altrusa had been down to just one sponsored foster child but recently added five new children. Since One World has not been able to send funds recently the vice director has asked if we can help support even more foster children.

It is hard for them to find foster families, especially in the city among the more well off families. Most of their foster families are from outside the city and are poorer. Some of the foster families have just one foster child but most foster two children because the stipend is too low for just one child. The monthly stipend paid to the foster family for each child ranges from 600 -900 RMB per month depending on the age of the child. Altrusa currently provides 200 RMB per month of this stipend (although this may soon go to 300 per month) and the orphanage pays the rest of the stipend.

Currently the Ruijin SWI has 42 children, most with disabilities, and all of them are living in foster homes. Since 2010, The Civil Affairs gives the SWI 1000RMB per month per child. Before that the monthly allowance was very little and the support came mostly from the adoption fees. But now that adoptions have decreased significantly it's difficult for them to pay for everything.





# RuiJin Social Welfare Institute Report

*Bringing Children in for Weighing & Measuring*

June 2013



Foster mothers brought in 17 of the 18 children RuiJin SWI would like improved nutrition for.



They were brought to the Conference room where they were weighed and measured.



"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." Dr. Leo Buscaglia (1924-1998);



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*Bringing Children in for Weighing & Measuring*

June 2013



"I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."

William Penn (1644-1718);





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*Photos of former RuiJin kids ...*

June 2013



Vice Director Lui showing photos  
sent from families of  
RuiJin children  
adopted internationally.

