

## September 18, 2010 Shanggao City Social Welfare Institute

### Report from Ms. Luo (Amity Foundation)

#### 1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Leng Weiming (冷伟明)
- b) **Institute Vice-Director:** Vice-Director Huang (黄院长)
- c) **Head of Amity Foster Care Project:** Amity Grandma Li Xinzhen keeps records of her monthly visits to the Institute's foster families, and reports any unusual circumstances to her supervisor.
- d) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** foster children are brought back to the Institute once a month for physical check-ups. They are vaccinated at the disease control centers nearest to their foster homes.
- e) **Number of Children:** the Institute is responsible for over 30 children, among which Amity sponsors 10 for foster care. 20 of the children are also sponsored for infant formula by Holt.

#### 2. Overall Impression

- a) **The Institute:** my overall impression of the Shanggao Social Welfare Institute was a positive one. Not only are all of the Institute's children now in loving foster homes, but the case management workers at Shanggao are also all quite responsible and professional. They make regular monthly visits to all foster families to check up on the children. They also notify the foster mother immediately after observing anything out of place in a child—for example, physical or verbal developmental delay—and work with her to address the issue.
- b) **Foster Children:** the Shanggao Institute's foster families are all very loving, but one in particular left a deep impression on me during this site visit. The foster mother of this family is a big-hearted woman who loves kids, as evidenced by the photos of the many children she's fostered over the years on her wall (see pictures below). This foster mother had mounted and labeled each picture with care, and she could recount each one of their stories with striking affection and enthusiasm (most of them had ended up being adopted).





8 year old with developmental disability, in kindergarten

- b) **Amity Grandmas:** met with one Amity Grandma. We were unable to meet with Grandma Liu; the Institute provided a recent picture of her.



Li Xinzhen (a retired kindergarten teacher)

Grandmother Li is mainly responsible for the Amity projects and visiting foster families, which include Amity project reports and coordination. Grandmother Li has given me very good impression for her carefulness and seriousness, each foster family is very familiar with Grandmother Li, also being glad to welcome Li's visits. They will tell her all the special things about their child's growth and development and Grandma Li always shows patience and makes records. Then she analyzes all the information to find where the problems are and then she will give each family feedback. She provides guidance for caring for the children, encourages them and helps them to feel certain achievement. Grandmother Li has made tireless efforts for the children in the foster families, for those children's better care and education of the family.



Grandmother Liu Lianxiu (a retired orphanage nurse)

Grandmother Liu Lianxiu is mainly responsible for providing foster families the guidance of caring and rehab. She sometimes visits the foster families with Grandmother Li Xinzhen, they measure the height and weight for children every month. Grandmother Liu also gives me a good impression, she works carefully and seriously. She helps children with some limbs deformities such as club foot, hand deformity, weakness of legs...all need intervention and the sooner, the better, even though these are not very severe deformities. They need correct and effective interventions. This work shows the meaning and worth of Grandmother Liu's efforts. Because of her hard work and the foster family's cooperation, many children have made much progress. One girl who has a bent left wrist and club left foot, has had several months of grandmother Liu's ongoing massage and exercise. The girl now has rehabilitated very well, her left foot is almost normal and the left wrist is getting better and better. Liu has given the children and the family much more hope and support! We know that Grandmother Liu is very dedicated to the children's rehabilitation.