

Shanggao Social Welfare Institute Report: June 15, 2012

1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Leng Weiming (冷伟明)
- b) **Institute Vice-Director:** Vice-Director Zhang (female, also head of the Foster Care Division)
- c) **Head of Amity Foster Care:** Grandma Li Xinxiu (interviews all foster care families and writes follow up reports)
- d) **Number of Children:** There are more than 30 children, 10 of whom are in foster care sponsored by Altrusa and about 13 are in foster care sponsored by Holt.
- e) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** Children return to the Institute each month for a physical exam and go to the nearest medical clinics for vaccinations.

2. Overall Impression

All of the children from Shanggao Social Institute in foster homes are in homes that already have experience raising foster children. The foster homes are all very good and the workers at the social institute as well as the Altrusa/Amity Grandmothers check in regularly to see the living situation. If there are problems, they quickly find a way to resolve the issue. The foster homes and social workers have good communication and this helps the children's development and physical care.

3. Interviews

- a) Met with 2 Grandmas (see below)
- b) Met with 10 foster children and their families. A few are pictured below but their individual report with photo will be sent to their sponsor.

Our "Hugging Grannies"

Grandma Ding and Grandma Li work together and they communicate about all their work together to understand each child's situation and help with all the children's development. In the photo below on the left Grandma Ding helps a one-year-old exercise each day. Initially this child had very weak legs and could not walk even when she is supported under her armpits. So Grandma Ding helps massage her legs first and lets her legs warm up slowly and then they work together and the little girl stands up and slowly walks. Now, the little girl can walk with support under her armpits and is very happy exercising with Grandma Ding, walking all over!



Grandmother Li often visits the foster families. She recently visited the foster family of this little boy (above photo on the right) who has congenital heart disease and was just recently placed with the foster family. Grandmother Li reminded the foster mother to meet his needs quickly and avoid extensive crying. She said that when the hot summer comes around, the baby needs to stay in cool places and drink more water. At first he seemed to have a hard time adapting to his new family but gradually has adjusted to the environment and remains healthy. Grandmother Li will keep contact with his foster family to follow his improvement.

A Few of our Sponsored Foster Children

Under her foster mother's care, SY's life is very good and she can understand what her mother says better than before. She gets along well with her classmates and they all help each other out. She listens well to teachers, can clean up after herself, and comes home right after class is out.



Because of SM's congenital heart disease, when he cries his body becomes purple, so his foster mother rubs him and comforts him when he cries to help him calm down. He loves to look around at everything in sight and search for where sound comes from. He sleeps well and his life is slowly becoming regular.



When M arrived at her foster home, she was very small and her health was not very good. Under the care of her mother, she's quite healthy and her physical development has improved. She has a good appetite and has 7 – 8 servings of 150 ml of milk a day. She sleeps soundly.



Our Sponsored Student

PX is a now a junior at Shanggao High School and likes to sing and do fun activities. During school, she doesn't feel intense pressure toward her final exams, but rather feels it's the same as regularly studying, just with a few added pieces. Once she's in her studying mode, getting good grades is no problem, it's as usual for her. When she gets out of class, she goes back to the social institute. PX is interested in going to college and is especially interested in economics and might go to a specialty economics college. She listens to people she is close to at the institute and asks them for advice before making decisions.

