

# *Shangrao Social Welfare Institute*

## *Amity Report - April 2011*

**Foster care** families were visited in the Shangrao area this April. Although many of the children have significant special care needs, they were generally found to be doing well, both physically and emotionally. All of the children appear to have increasingly strong bonds with their foster mothers and nearly all children in foster care are showing improvement in their self-help skills. The special needs of many Shangrao foster children are being met with an impressive amount of support from their foster families. The families are continually helping their foster children become as independent and engaged as possible.

In total, there are approximately 60 children under the care of the Shangrao Social Welfare Institute. Amity provides 30 foster care sponsorships and the Institute provides foster care for an additional 20. At any given time, approximately 10 children live at the Institute.

**Tuition** sponsorships are provided to 4 children at the Shangrao orphanage. One student is currently in middle school and the other three receive special school services to accommodate their needs.

Here are some highlights from the most recent visit.

RS was in poor health due to malnutrition when she first came to the orphanage. With her foster mother's attentive care, however, she is in much better health today. She is babbling and very attached to her foster mother. RS enjoys the outdoors and laughs when others play with her. She cries only when hungry or tired - like all 5 month old babies!



RY has glaucoma and is currently attending kindergarten. She loves to teach her foster sister the games she has learned in school. RY is taking care of herself at an age-appropriate level and is able to do helpful chores around the house.

RJ is in her second year of middle school and is a strong student. Through her hard work, she is ranked among the top 5 students in her class. Her foster mother describes her as mature and able to organize her own tasks and schedule. She has several good friends at school with whom she plays and studies.



**Hugging Grannies** play an important role in the daily lives of children living at the Shangrao orphanage. So many needs - from hugs to education to physical therapy - are taken care of in a Granny's day! In Shangrao, there are currently 3 Grannies, a nursing assistant and a tutor providing these daily services.

**\*Special Note\*** Two of the women working with the Shangrao children are former residents of the orphanage themselves. They have grown up to become exactly what we hope for all children - responsible, capable adults making valuable contributions to their community. It is a pleasure to highlight their accomplishments in this report.

RX is a former resident of Shangrao SWI and now works everyday tutoring children with special learning needs. RX also works with a few older children on self-help skills. She is a patient teacher, working one step at a time, gently encouraging each child toward further independence. The photo included here is an older one - on the day of the visit, RX, was in labor with her first child!



Ms. RX  
Special Education Tutor



Ms. RM  
Nursing Assistant

RM is a former resident of Shangrao SWI and is now responsible for administering medication to both children and elderly residents of the Institute. RM is shown here with a young resident of Shangrao who was withdrawn and not speaking to anyone when she first arrived. RM took the time to make a connection with this little girl, who is now speaking both Mandarin and the local Shangrao dialect. RM continues to be an advocate for this little girl.



Grandma CL



Grandma WJ



Grandma MS

These three Grannies are a daily, attentive presence in the lives of children at Shangrao SWI. They dedicate themselves to providing skilled care for children who have special feeding and mobility needs. Many children benefit from the Grannies' massages and strengthening exercises which help improve mobility in those with cerebral palsy and other ailments that impair their ability to stand and walk independently. Some of the Grannies' work includes special feedings for children with cleft palates. Any child returning from a hospital stay and needing a period of care and convalescence is tended to by the Grannies. Each of these women work 5 days a week at Shangrao SWI and make a daily habit of connecting, comforting, encouraging and improving the lives of Shangrao's children.