

# Shangrao Social Welfare Institute Report: October 20, 2011

## 1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Zhu Liying
- b) **Institute Vice-Director:** Vice-Director Zhang, Vice-Director Wang
- c) **Amity Program Director:** Mao Lizhen
- d) **Number of Children:** Totally more than 60 children, in whom Amity sponsors 30 children, orphanage supports more than 20 are in foster homes, and about 13 live in the Institute.
- e) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** Every month, the Institute directors, staff, and nurses go visit the foster children and bring baby formula to the children who need it. The staffs give them physical exams and vaccinations during these visits.

## 2. Overall Impression

The number of disabled children, in particular those with serious disabilities, in the Shangrao, Xinzhou District Social Welfare Institute is still substantial. For example, the Institute is responsible for children with Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome, mental retardation, blindness, congenital heart disease, cleft lip and palate, etc. Of all the children connected to the Institute, about 1/3 of them have Cerebral Palsy, most of whom are in foster homes. The foster homes are mostly located in the countryside and are simple accommodations, but the families are very caring and loving towards the children. Their warmth and kindness gives these children a better life!

## 3. Interviews

- a) Met with three grandmas and one nurse. The other nurse Rao Meixian was on leave so we did not have a chance to meet with her. The picture of her was provided by the orphanage.



Grandma Miao is responsible for the physical therapy, education, and general care of the disabled children at the Institute. She is currently helping this little girl to do physical therapy and recovery exercises. She lives in a foster home and her health

condition is not very strong. She is physically underdeveloped compared to average children her age and cannot engage in many physical activities. Before, she could not take many steps or even sit steadily without relying on an object. To make her stronger, Grandma Miao helps her with recovery and exercises. After some time, she can now stand up by herself, but still relies on an object to sit steadily. Thanks to Grandma Miao's help, her physical strength is much better than before and she has improved significantly in her physical activities. Grandma Miao also teaches her foster family to do these exercises with her in her foster home.



Grandma Wang is also responsible for the general care, physical therapy, and education of the disabled children in the orphanage. She is currently helping girl who is about eight months old and has heart disease and from birth, her health condition has not been very good. Grandma Wang helped raise her and improve her health so that she recently was able to undergo surgery. During her hospital stay for the surgery, Grandma Wang stayed by her side and made sure she was okay. Thankfully, the surgery has proved successful. After twenty days her health has improved enormously. She has returned to the orphanage where Grandma Wang still cares for her. They have a special relationship and love each other very much. Whenever this girl sees Grandma Wang, she gets very excited and is happy to be in her arms!



Grandma Chen Liping is responsible for the disabled children's physical therapy, general care, and education. She is currently caring for and feeding this ten months old boy with congenital heart disease. His health condition was very poor, but thanks

to the grandmas, his condition improved and he was able to undergo heart surgery in Shanghai in August of this year. During his hospital stay for the surgery, Grandma Chen stayed by his side to make sure he was okay. His health has now improved slowly but surely and he has developed a special relationship with Grandma Chen. He likes it when Grandma Chen talks to him and tickles him. He is now a much happier and healthier child than before!



Because Rao XH was busy taking care of her children and family, she resigned from her nursing duties at the orphanage. Now, Nurse Xu Yan has taken over the primary nursing role and responsibilities. Her main task is examining and caring for the elderly and children in the hospital ward and administering the necessary medicines and vaccinations. Nurse Xu has a very gentle and warm personality and is a skilled nurse. She loves children and works hard at her job. When she is not busy, she visits the children and plays games with them! Recently, the weather has been changing, so more children have mild illnesses and Nurse Xu has had more work to do. Despite the workload, Nurse Xu is kind and gives love and care to all the people in her ward!

- b) Interviewed thirty children at their foster homes. Their individual report (with photo) will be sent to their foster sponsor. Photos of a few of our foster kids are below:



Above is a three month old girl born premature with fragile health and poor feeding, required hospitalization but has just recently been placed in a foster home which she can benefit from the individualized attention.



An almost 3 year old blind boy who is described as “lively” and loves to play outdoors.



Five year old boy with cerebral palsy who “is still unsteady when he walks but he loves doing walking exercises and is not afraid of falling down.”



An eight year old girl with Down's Syndrome who is described as "a happy child who everyone adores. She is very gregarious and loves to play with her friends."



Six month old girl born premature and initially malnourished now thrives in her foster home.



Eleven year old boy with cerebral palsy and a foster mom that "is very attentive to his needs".