

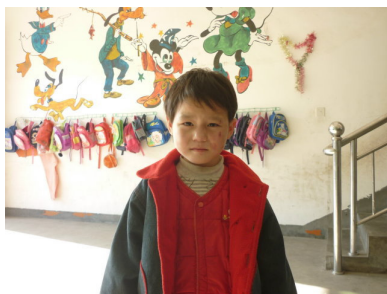
Altrusa Foundation of Longview-Kelso (in the US) continues to work together with Amity Foundation in China to help the orphans in Jiangxi province, with a special emphasis on foster care, “Hugging Grannies” and schooling. Due to the current economy we’ve lost sponsors so if you or anyone you know can help we’d love to hear from you! Please do not post any of the photos of the children below at websites but feel free to pass them on to others that might be interested in helping (but ask that they keep the photos confidential as well). And these photos cannot be used for adoption purposes such as identifying a child you’d like to adopt.

Amity’s report from their July visits focused on some of the foster children and the huge difference foster care has made in their lives. One of these is “a lovely girl from Ganzhou who likes singing opera very much.” When Amity staff went to visit her and her foster family the neighbors all gathered and she sang one of her operas for everyone. She has quite a reputation in the neighborhood for her singing skills. Her foster grandmother has taught her opera and she practices every evening after her homework done. She is also interested in learning to dance so her foster mother has asked if we could pay for her to have dancing lessons. How different her life is compared to what it would have been like if she were living in an institution!



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We have many more children in foster care who are also benefitting greatly but we need to make sure they can stay in their foster homes. Here are some of our children that need a new sponsor (PLEASE E-MAIL ME IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR ONE OF THEM!):



This 5 year old girl from Jingdezhen has made wonderful progress in her foster home. A year ago she had just been in foster care for a few months and could only speak a few words. She would not play with other children except her older foster. Six months later she was attending kindergarten and participating in activities like singing, dancing and morning exercises. Now a recent report says gets along great with her classmates at kindergarten and is “a helpful friend as well as a willing playmate” and that “as part of her newfound sociality she talks much more”.



This 12 year old girl from Ganzhou has a “loving foster mother who does everything she can to take care of this girl and help her with her studies.” Over time the Amity staff have noted her increasing maturity. She now has self discipline to do her homework and she also helps around the home without being asked.



Another Jingdezhen foster child making great progress, this five year old girl was previously held back in kindergarten, wouldn't count aloud and did not have age appropriate self help skills. Now her most recent report says "She is an exuberant girl who loves playing with her friends at kindergarten and always laughs the loudest in any group of children. She is also considerate of others, always the first to help a classmate who has tripped or hug a classmate who is crying. She still is not the fastest learner but she can now count from 1 to 30, read out loud with her teacher, and follow along on songs and dances."



This teenage girl from Nanchang has some cognitive disability and her most recent report says, "She is a pleasant, well-behaved girl who listens to her foster mother at home and her teachers at school. She has made a certain degree of improvement in her self-help skills, so that she can now basically do all her own things for herself, as well as help her foster mother with cleaning the house. She is extremely talkative with people she knows but won't talk with strangers. At school she is doing well in language arts but struggles with math."



This nine year old Nanchang girl also has some developmental delay. Her foster mom patiently goes over things again and again and she is making progress towards age appropriate independent functioning. Her verbal abilities have also improved and she is described as "a social girl who likes playing games with the other kids in the apartment complex". What a wonderful place for this girl, with this special need, to be to blossom into an independent adult!



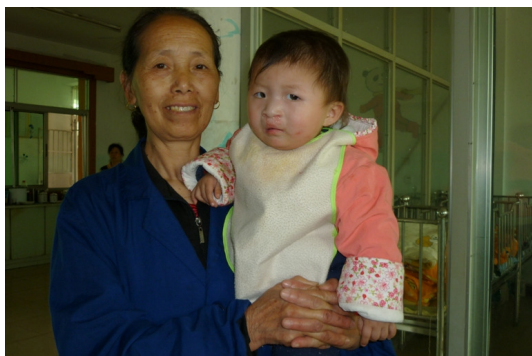
When this 4 year old Shangrao boy with cerebral palsy first arrived in his foster home he was not able to walk but is now able to due to the regular practice with his foster family. He can also understand others better now and say a few words.



This 12 year old Shangrao boy also has cerebral palsy. His foster mother sets aside time each day to teach him to read and write. His report says "he loves his foster mother very much and helps around the house with whatever he can. And he always helps her very carefully down the stairs.



This 2 year old Shangrao boy was initially thought to be blind but it's not realized he has enough vision to navigate around obstacles. He "loves going outside to play, especially where there are other children whose games he can join".



One year old Shangrao girl with cleft lip and palate (some surgery done). She can mimic gestures like waving hello, babble to herself, and say simple words.



4 year old boy from Fuzhou/Linchuan with cerebral palsy. He requires a lot of care from his devoted foster mother. He is slow to improve but is much more responsive with his foster mother than with others.



One year old girl from Fuzhou/Linchuan with a cleft lip and palate. Her recent report says "she is growing into a cute, chubby little baby who breaks quickly into laughter whenever you play with her. She likes being taken out to places with lots of hustle and bustle. She can now sit up straight, reach out to grab things she wants, and eat by herself. Her cognitive development is also on track; she babbles to herself and performs actions such as clapping her hands when prompted.

There are sponsors we're not hearing back from at the Yingtan and Pingxiang orphanages so it's likely we'll need some new sponsors for children at these orphanage.

And the Ganzhou orphanage has asked us if we can start five new special needs children in foster care but we can only do this if we find enough new sponsors for the above children in addition to the new ones. Please let me know if you can sponsor one of these kids! The cost is \$34 per month and you can donate monthly, half-yearly or yearly. E-mail me at peggy@gurrad.com for more details on how to donate.

And then there are the children who aren't fortunate enough to have a foster family and our Hugging Grannies are there for those children. To the right is Granny Qi who works in the toddler room at the Ganzhou. She is especially concerned about three of the children with congenital heart disease and watches their health closely.

And below is Granny Zhou who works with the disabled children. This little girl was excited to show Amity staff the wonderful progress she has made due to the devotion of



Granny Zhou. The Grannies think of these orphans as their own grandchildren. They love spending time with the children and speak proudly of each child's accomplishments.



Although the Grannies are volunteers they do receive a monthly stipend. Amity is increasing the stipend so the cost is currently \$100 per month for each Granny. Because of this increase we are badly in need of more support. I've visited orphanages before and after they had Grannies and the difference is huge. I hope that we can find enough interest in this program to continue with all of our current Grannies. Donations of any amount would help and could be one time or recurring. Let me know if you'd like more information on how to make a recurring donation or how to donate online.

If you'd like to donate by check for either foster care or Hugging Grannies the check should be sent to:

Altrusa Foundation of Longview-Kelso
Attn: Peggy Gurrad
P.O. Box 1354
Longview, WA 98632

Just include a note or a few words on the memo line letting us know if there is a specific project, child or Granny you'd like it to be allocated to.

And please make note of our new website address which is www.altrusa.info. I know a lot of the information there is old but we do post reports of Amity's visits to each of the orphanages and we hope to do a more extensive update this fall.

To those of you that have already been so generous with your support thank you so much! And we'd love to have you send this message on to anyone you know that might be interested in helping.

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