

XinYu Social Welfare Institute Report

Visit by Peggy Gurrad

June 2013



GENERAL INFORMATION

Director: Director Song
Vice Director: Vice Director Liu
Vice Director Li
Number
Of Children: 128 children

How to donate:

- blue “donate now” button at www.altrusa.info,
- Paypal to peggy@gurrad.com
- mail a check to:

Altrusa International of
Longview-Kelso Foundation
Attn: Peggy Gurrad
PO Box 1354
Longview, WA 98632

OVERALL IMPRESSION

The SWI cares for both children and the elderly.

They have 128 children and most are disabled. 80-85 live in the orphanage. A little more than 10 live in foster care. Six, mostly teenagers, have mental illness and live in a psychiatric institution. Some others are at the Nanchang & Beijing SWI rehab centers. Others live at school such as the one Altrusa sponsors to go to Nanchang school for the blind.



Vice Director Li has been at XinYu SWI for a long time. She will retire next year and would like to be a Hugging Granny.

She is in charge of adoption affairs.



Vice Director Liu has also been at XinYu SWI for a long time and will retire this December. She too would like to volunteer as a Hugging Granny.

She is the contact person for the Amity projects

peggy@gurrad.com

www.altrusa.info

www.facebook.com/JiangxiChinaOrphanAid

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The two children below will be adopted to the US soon (XinYu's first 2 international adoptions for 2013). They were in the admin meeting room with the vice directors when we met. The cutie with brown trim on her top, sitting on the lap of Vice Director Ms Liu, has hepatitis B, and the other cutie in the polka dot dress, has some developmental delay.

Congratulations to their new families!



"The law of love could be best understood and learned through little children"

... Mahatma Gandhi



Above and below: An adorable little girl (dwarfism) having fun blowing bubbles with Megan (Peggy's daughter)

"Where there is love there is life."

... Mahatma Gandhi



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Visiting a Special Education School

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A visit to the Special Education school where Altrusa sponsors four kids to attend



We first met adorable YFX (pink shirt, yellow pants), as well as the principal of the school.



Here is the handsome YJH.



YLL and YZT in the deaf classroom



A view of the Special Education school through the gate



A visit to the deaf classroom where we met YLL (yellow shirt) and YZT (older, back row in striped shirt). YZT also has some cognitive impairment and can't remember new things and so the principal of the school isn't sure that he can be trained to be independent.

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2nd Floor Baby Rooms

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This sweetie is one of the 'heart babies' who will go to Beijing for surgery.



In the hall outside one of the 2nd floor baby rooms, Mimi (friend of Peggy's daughter Megan) visits with some cute toddlers.



Dir Song holding an adorable little one with mild heart disease which does not require surgery.



This little one has deformities of the fingers and appears to have some form of mental retardation.



A little one who was treated for "lockjaw" (possibly related somehow to the umbilical cord) and recovered. Megan held her much of the time. She was not able to hold her head up except very briefly.

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Foster Parents

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Dr. Peggy Gurrad, the Chairman of International Projects for the Longview-Kelso chapter of Altrusa International, began collecting donations for Amity orphanage assistance projects, with a focus on bringing aid to 24 orphanages in the Jiangxi Province of China, in December of 1998. Dr. Gurrad acts as a volunteer liaison and coordinator between worldwide donors and the Amity Foundation in China.

Currently, efforts are being focused on 24 orphanages in the Jiangxi province. Altrusa contributors are sponsoring 180 school tuitions for orphans, 279 children in foster care. We've brought our staff of Hugging Grannies up to a total of 53, to provide additional nurturing care for infants and pre-school activities for the children who remain in the orphanages.

Another major focus of our organization is to bring life-saving surgeries, physical rehabilitation equipment, badly needed medical aid, vitamins, warm clothes, bedding, equipment, toys and learning materials to the children in these orphanages.

YFX (also shown on the Special Education page) was picked up by her foster mom (who has fostered her since she was a baby) and then walked home for lunch. Dir Song said foster families are quite hard to find for these disabled children (orphanage pays a stipend of 600 yuan of the 1100 they receive from the government and the rest is needed for school. Clothes, medical care, etc).



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Special Ed / Rehab Rooms & Hugging Grannies

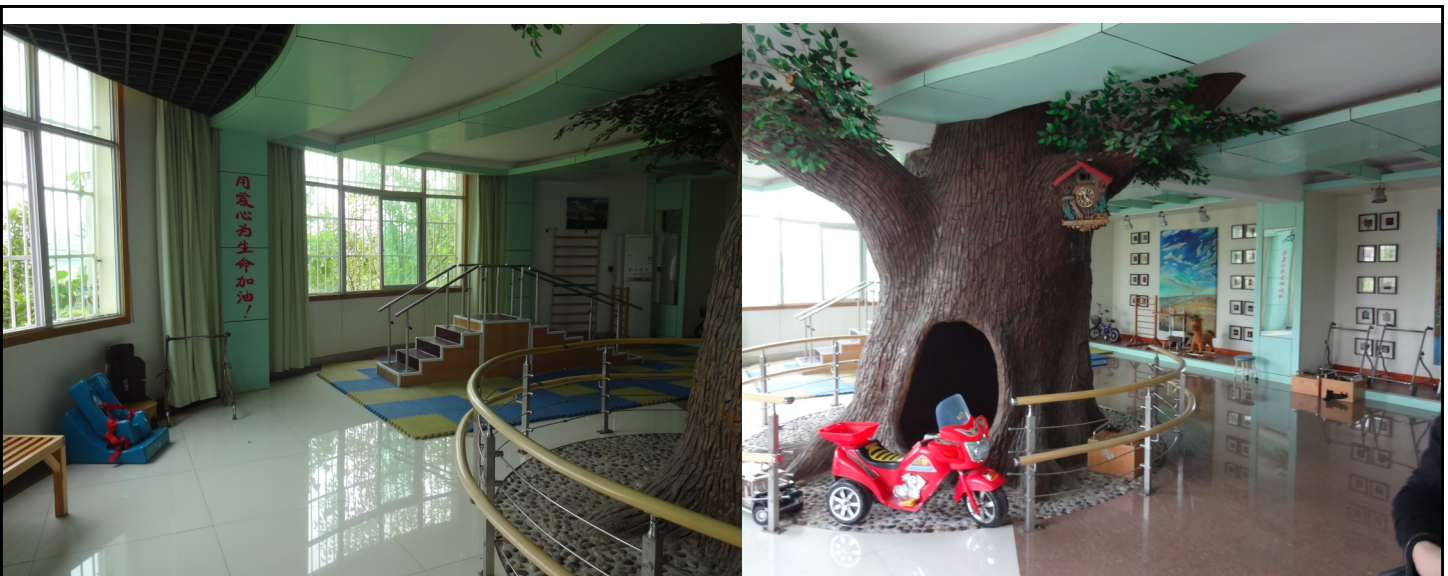
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Here we visited the special ed classroom. They have a few exercise books stacked on the podium but otherwise no evidence of books or paper to write on.

After hearing an explanation of Amity's programs, Dir Song asked for 10 Hugging Grannies "because their staff is limited and to help in the special ed classroom". There is also a children's activity room with rehab equipment that the children go to in the afternoon where a Granny could help there.

We told her we'd like to start with two in December when Ms. Liu retires and it would be her plus one other. The 3rd person would need to be a retired professional such as a teacher or nurse to avoid the Grannies being unpaid caregivers (free help) for the orphanage, something which has happened in the past.



The children's activity room with rehab equipment