

YICHUN SOCIAL WELFARE INSTITUTE REPORT

January 12, 2012

GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Institute Director:</i>	Deng Weiping
<i>Institute Vice-Director:</i>	Hu Xianyu
<i>Amity Foster Care Director:</i>	Huang Juan
<i>Number of Children:</i>	There are roughly 30 children at the Institute, 10 of whom are placed in foster homes through the Institute, 7 of whom are placed in foster homes through the Altrusa Foundation.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

Many of the children in the Yichun Social Welfare Institute center are disabled, most with Cerebral Palsy, congenital heart disease, cleft lip, etc. (children pictured below). The caregivers at the Institute care for these children. Currently, each caregiver cares for three children on a regular basis. Thanks to their meticulous care, most of the children have seen improvement in their physical capabilities. Aside from the foster homes that Altrusa sponsors, the Institute also has about ten children placed in other homes as well. The Altrusa/Amity foster families are the same as before and they continue to love and care for the orphans as if they were their own and provide them with a comfortable life.



INTERVIEWS

Met with 3 Amity Grandmas (Grandma Xie left in September 2011 and was replaced by Grandma Yi)

Met with 7 foster children and their families.



SOME OF THE CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE



Every time we visit YJL, she always greets us with a smile and calls us auntie or uncle. Because it is not convenient for her to stand, she more often than not is sitting. She still loves watching cartoons at home and when her foster mother has free time, she teaches YJL how to write simple words in pinyin and other basic knowledge. YJL now remembers many more words than before, for example she knows her name and can answer her foster mother's questions when they are practicing together.



On previous visits, YKF was a little shy around us and did not like to talk in front of strangers in general. Now, he happily talks with all sorts of people and is lively at home as well. He is a friendly child and loves playing with his younger foster brother.

YKF's speaking ability has not changed much; he can still say a few simple words and phrases. At home he often speaks with his foster mother and tells her everything. His walking is steadier than previously, but sometimes he stumbles a little. His mother always helps him practice walking and encourages him.



YQN can walk by herself quite steadily and her language capabilities have improved significantly as well. She can now say "granny", "grandpa", and can say simple phrases such as "I want", "eat", etc. If she wants to say something else, she can use gestures to communicate her meaning. Sometimes she is a little shy around strangers and gets scared in new environments, but as soon as someone picks her up and puts her at ease, she is much better.

YQN can feed herself and is not a picky eater. She eats one bowl of rice each meal and sleeps peacefully at night.



This time when we saw YAQ, the color in her face was much better and she looked healthy and happy. She has spirit and a great attitude even though she needs adults to take care of all of her daily needs. She cannot talk, but enjoys watching television and laughing at the funny cartoons. If her mother holds her hands, YAQ can walk forward for a period of time and can even walk a few steps without help. She cannot feed herself at mealtimes, but can unwrap and eat small snacks. She needs help using the bathroom and sleeps soundly at night.

YICHUN HUGGING GRANNIES

HUANG RUILIAN

Grandma Huang Ruilian is responsible for caring for the children at the institute. On this visit, she was playing with YKS who recently underwent surgery for Cerebral Palsy so she has been staying at the institute recovering and recuperating. After she is finished with this process, she will return back to her foster home. YKS cannot walk along the floor but can sit on a stool. Grandma Huang is responsible for caring for her basic needs, for example bringing her to the activities room the play, organizing games for her and the other children, feeding her at mealtimes, helping her use the bathroom, etc. Grandma Huang is enthusiastic about helping YKS and hopes that she will make a speedy recovery from her surgery.



PENG XIAOLIAN

Grandma Peng Xiaolian is responsible for caring for the children at the institute, especially for children with severe disabilities in their limbs and motor function. Because the weather has recently been cold outside, she often brings them to the activities room to exercise. In the morning, lots of children go to this room to play and in the afternoon, the older ones go to the classrooms to learn some basic knowledge from the teachers at the institute. On most days, Grandma Peng plays with the children, especially with building blocks. She encourages them to use their imaginations when playing and in no time at all, they are having fun!



YI FENGLAN

Grandma Yi Fenglan has replaced Grandma Xie Fuxiu, who retired in September of last year. Grandma Yi is a very warm person, loves all of the children, and gets along very well with the other two Grandmas as well. Even though she has not been a Grandma for very long, she is very knowledgeable in rehabilitation and recovery methods and under instruction from the other Grandmas, she is learning even more exercises to help the disabled children at the Institute. Every day, Grandma Yi works with a child named YQY on rehabilitation. In a short amount of time, YQY's motor coordination and limb control has improved significantly, and he also likes and trusts Grandma Yi a lot. They often work on his flexibility and muscle tension as well. Additionally, Grandma Yi is teaching him simple phrases such as "granny", "older sister", and some simple greetings, although his pronunciation is not always clear.

