

Yichun Social Welfare Institute Visit

July 27, 2012

Institute Director: Wang Shengli (male)

Institute Secretary: Pan Jinxiu, (female)

Care Director: Chen Xi

Children's Ward Director: Yuan Weixiang (female)

Amity Foster Care Director: Huang Juan

A new director and secretary came to the Yichun Institute in February from the Bureau of Civil Affairs (where Yuan Weixiang is also from) and all the workers have adapted well. Director Wang Shengli oversees all Institute operations and understands all aspects of the children's needs, working as hard as possible to help care for each child. Having seen the lives of children in foster homes, the warm feelings and relationships with the families, and the nurturing of the children's lives, Director Wang fully supports the Amity Foster Care Program.

The number of children at Yichun City's Yuanzhou District Social Welfare Institute Center has increased overall. There are now over 60 children and most are special needs and handicapped. Seven of these children are in Amity Foster Care. Our three Hugging Grannies help meet the needs of the children that remain in the orphanage.

New Requests

We have found schools for some of our Yichun special needs foster children! In the past the schools have turned them down due to their handicaps but Amity has found a school that will accept five of our children into preschool or kindergarten. We need \$166 for each child for the 2012-13 school year.

Because the number of handicapped children at the Institute is quite large, the Institute has asked us for two new Hugging Grannies. Unfortunately we don't have ongoing support for the three Grannies we already have (and also need sponsors for school support) so we won't be able to grant this request until there is more interest in helping the Yichun children.

Visits and Photos

While at Yichun Amity staff person Ms Luo met with our three Hugging Grannies and visited the seven foster children and their families. An individual report with a photo will be sent to each child's foster sponsor (and also to school sponsors once we find some). But here is a brief bit about the five that need a school sponsor followed by photos and information about our three "Hugging Grannies":



This foster child has cerebral palsy and recently started preschool. He listens well in class and happily sings along with teachers and dances and loves playing with small cars.



This five year old girl with cerebral palsy just switched foster homes, and her new foster family loves her dearly. She has started at preschool and gets along with all her friends there and her teachers are all fond of her. Her language abilities are very good, including her vocabulary and sentences. Whenever she learns something at school, she goes home and tells her grandma. As for walking, she is quite steady and is improving quickly. Using her right hand she can grab things although her grip is not very strong.



This almost three year old girl (on the left) with a cleft lip and palate loves preschool and plays happily with her friends there. The teachers all love her and she listens enthusiastically in class. Even though her speech is not clear because of her cleft lip, she loves to learn songs and every time she learns a new song she comes home and shares it with her family. Her three year old foster sister with a hemangioma also loves to sing and dance at school and most of all, playing games with her friends.



This six year old girl has a congenital cataract of the left eye and is deaf in one ear. She is very protective of her younger foster sister. She likes to draw and carries a drawing pad with her often.



Grandma Peng Xiaolian does physical therapy with the handicapped children. Here she plays a ball game with them where they are learning to count while playing and also exercising their hands and arms.

Grandma Huang Ruilian gives special attention to a little girl who had arrived at the orphanage fairly recently and initially was weak and in poor health. With this extra love and care she is stronger and also very attached to her "Granny".



Yi Fenglan has been one of our Hugging Grannies for about ten months now. In this time, she has developed close relationships with the children and they call her Grandma Yi. Here she is working with a child that has cerebral palsy. She does massage and physical therapy and this little boy can now hold up his head, roll over, reach for toys and kick more strongly.