

# YiChun Social Welfare Institute Report

*Visit by Peggy Gurrad*

June 2013



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Director: Wang Shengli

Vice Director: Ms. Yuan

Number

Of Children: 68 children

## How to donate:

- blue “donate now” button at [www.altrusa.info](http://www.altrusa.info),
- Paypal to [peggy@gurrad.com](mailto:peggy@gurrad.com)
- mail a check to:

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

## OVERALL IMPRESSION

68 children are currently in care at YiChun SWI, most of whom are disabled, many with cerebral palsy. There are some that are new arrivals whose diagnosis/disability is not yet known so they will go to the Nanchang children's Hospital to be diagnosed which is required. This will also help YiChun staff know what the child needs for treatment as the hospital staff develops an individual treatment plan for each child.

With so many children in the orphanages being disabled it appears the provincial government is going to invest some resources in their care. At the moment there are two rehab centers in orphanages in Jiangxi which are financed by the national level of the Civil Affairs Ministry. These are in the Nanchang SWI and the Shangrao CWI. Children from other orphanages come to these centers, sometimes for a few months, for rehab. However, the provincial level Civil Affairs Ministry will now open four new rehab centers in Jiangxi province which will be at Yichun, Ruijin, Ji'an and Jiujiang. The one at Yichun will open in three years.



## GROUP PHOTO:

Zhou Qiaolin (Amity), Mimi (Megan's friend), Megan (Peggy's daughter), Peggy Gurrad (Altrusa), Ms. Luo (Amity), Director Wang, Zhou Bo (Amity), Vice director Yuan

[peggy@gurrad.com](mailto:peggy@gurrad.com)

[www.altrusa.info](http://www.altrusa.info)

[www.facebook.com/JiangxiChinaOrphanAid](http://www.facebook.com/JiangxiChinaOrphanAid)

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*Future Rehab Centre at YiChun*

June 2013

In addition to the rehab center, Yichun will also establish a preschool classroom for special ed children. Yichun SWI will build a new building which will have the rehab center for the children and an activity center for the elderly at a cost will be 6 million RMB for the building and equipment.

The future focus is rehab and education for the special needs children. Director Wang is very interested in attending Amity's yearly training/teaching conference on rehab, special ed and management. Vice Dir Yuan attended last year but Dir Wang was just starting his new position as director and wasn't able to. It is 4 days long and held in Nanjing. Last year two experts from the US did the teaching. Because of the cooperation (for treatment plans) with the Nanchang Children's hospital, Dir Wang's attention to the special needs children and because of his cooperation with Amity, Yichun was chosen to be one of the rehab centers. Even though the rehab center won't open for three years, Dr. Wang hopes to recruit some technical/professional staff (like nurses, teachers, therapists) that can also start training some of his current orphanage staff.

The director and his administrative staff are under a lot of pressure and responsibility and are working long hours. For example they had activities with members of the community for Children's Day (Saturday, June 1st) on Saturday and then are spending the next day (Sunday) with the Amity/Altrusa team visit.





# YiChun Social Welfare Institute Report

*Some of the children Director Wang would like to start in our Nutrition Program*

June 2013



Director Wang is interested in working with us to improve the nutritional status of some of the children, and as such, most of our visit involved meeting the children he wanted to place in the nutrition program, and getting their information and also their height, weight, and arm circumference (as a measure of malnutrition). Initially they said they had 12 babies/children they wanted to place in the program (9 in the orphanage and 3 in the hospital but then asked about a 10<sup>th</sup> baby at the orphanage as well). During our visit with the babies and children the Director was frequently holding this baby (left) and even feeding her a bottle. He was worried she sounded a little congested and indeed we could hear congestion when listening to the lungs with our stethoscope so he took the baby with us to the hospital for IV antibiotics when we visited the babies there who needed help with nutrition.



Peggy's daughter Megan checks the arm circumference on this 6 month old girl with hyper-thyroidism (being treated with medication) who was quite thin.



This two year old girl with mild hydrocephalus (not needing surgery) and a few other special needs was also quite short for her age and not yet walking without support.



A cutie getting their height checked

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10 month old girl born prematurely and has some upper limb deformities. She is very low for height and weight when plotted on the growth chart.



Two year old girl with cerebral palsy is less than the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile for height and weight and quite thin.



21 month old girl with hydrocephalus, epilepsy and one weak leg who is small for her age and not able to stand without assistance.

Darling five month old boy with cleft lip and palate who is also very short and thin.

“Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food”

... Hippocrates

Chinese formula that the children are currently receiving which will be replaced with Nestle formula



Measuring the arm circumference of a 19 month old boy with hydrocephalus who is even thinner than the others.





# YiChun Social Welfare Institute Report

*Zhegan Friendship Hospital*

June 2013



YAB, 5-15-12, lung infection & has been hospitalized for almost one year entire time that has been under care of SWI with 10,000RMB

## **Zhegan Friendship Hospital**

The orphanage has a room assigned to them for their children (sign says “intensive care” over door). Children are there for “lack of nutrition” and/or getting IV anti-biotics for “fever” and one baby with heart disease that is very thin and too weak for surgery. Medical expenses are paid by the government but the orphanage budget must pay for food and formula. Doctors from this hospital come to the orphanage on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”  
... Margaret Mead



YQF, 2-17-13, deformed hands (left thumb with no bone and right thumb missing), “always weak and sick”





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*Zhengan Friendship Hospital*

June 2013



“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” ... Leo Buscaglia

