

11/10/2009 Yihuang County Social Welfare Institution

Interview Report

1. Basic Information

- a) **Institution Director:** Mr. Liu Wenjian (刘文建)
- b) **Institution Vice-Director:** Ms. Yu (余院长), primarily responsible for the Children's Department.
- c) **Number of Children:** the Institution is responsible for a total of 103 children, among whom 80 live in foster homes (most of these are disabled or have cerebral palsy). 23 children live at the Institution itself (mostly healthy children and children with severe cerebral palsy; only a few otherwise disabled children).

2. Overall Impression

Chief Director Liu oversees all of the Yihuang County Social Welfare Institution. Ms. Yu is the vice-director mainly responsible for affairs of the Children's Department. There is also Vice-Director Chen, primarily in charge of the Senior Citizens Department. This Institution has many younger children between 1-5 years old. The Institution does all that it can to place its children with foster families, the majority of whom live in the countryside. Those children with severe cerebral palsy are kept at the Institution for physical therapy. The Institution also has its own clinic. The Children's Department is responsible for interviewing all foster families once a month, and also for delivering powdered infant formula to the foster families.

3. Interview - Scholarship recipient Huang Run



HR is now in fifth grade at Yihuang Special Education School, which she has attended since first grade. Like standard schools, Yihuang Special Education School runs for nine years but is separated into two groups: students in grade 2 and below attend

class together, and students in grade 3 and above attend class together. Teachers assign different material and homework for each grade.

HR has always done well in school. The teachers all like her and she gets on well with her classmates. Her grades are in the upper-middle of her class, she writes her characters neatly, and listens attentively in class. She is a mature girl who can take care of herself and also helps to take care of the children at the Institution when she returns for holidays.

HR is not completely deaf; she still has some residual hearing in both her ears. The Institution and her school pooled money last year to fit her with a hearing aid, and now she can hear people when they talk to her as long as they speak up a bit. She can now also say a few simple words, though her enunciation is unclear. Of course, she can use sign language to communicate. HR likes to dance and is also particularly good at weaving crafts. The basket on the table (left photograph) is her handiwork. She has woven a total of two so far, one of which she sent to her 'mother' (a caregiver) at the Institution.

4. Application for Aid

The Yihuang County Social Welfare Institution shelters a relatively large number of children, but does not receive financial aid from any charitable organization at this time. Chief Director Liu very much wishes to find outside sponsorship of foster care for the Institution's children.