

# March 15, 2010 Yingtan Social Welfare Institute Report

## 1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Yu Xiaozhen (余小贞)
- b) **Institute Vice-Directors(s):** Ms. Ai Ciping (艾茨萍) and Zhan Jianjun (占建军, also Head of Foster Care)
- c) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** since most the foster children at this Institute are older, they return only once every six months to the Institute for a physical exam.
- d) **Number of Children:** at present, the Amity Foundation sponsors 21 children for foster care, while the Institute funds over 10 children for foster care. There are about 20 children residing at the Institute itself (this number often fluctuates; most are mentally disabled or have cerebral palsy).

## 2. Overall Impression

- a) **Foster Families (Amity):** the children at the Yingtan Social Welfare Institute who are sponsored by Amity for foster care are fostered in three different areas: the city, the suburbs, and the countryside. Most are older and/or special needs children. Most children are fostered in the city, with the majority of these city foster children going to school. In the suburbs and the countryside, 20-30 minutes by car from the Institute, there are altogether 6 foster children.
- b) **Foster Families (Institute):** Most of the children funded by the Institute for foster care are in the suburbs and countryside. The majority of these are infants or toddlers, and almost all of them are healthy and normal.
- c) **Children at the Institute:** on this visit we met again with Fu Jun (府军), a former Amity scholarship child. Fu Jun has been living at the Institute for over half a year now. Being deaf and mute, it can be difficult for him to communicate with others, but he can still write and draw to express his ideas and aspirations. He is pictured in photo 1 with one of his ideas: a design for a paper-cut machine. The machine would press out decorative paper-cuts by using molds of traditional handmade paper-cuts (such as the 福 character). Although Fu Jun draws very well, the communication barriers of his condition have made it extremely difficult for him to find work. Fu Jun has not been idle while unemployed, however: he drew all the cartoon figures on the inside and outside of a new building (see photos 3 and 4). He will also take out and review his old school textbooks whenever he has time.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4

We also sponsor a 17 year old orphan (special need is congenital heart disease that required surgery) to attend culinary school to become a chef. He is in his last semester and then will be eligible for his internship at a hotel. It is so exciting to see him gaining a skill that will allow him to be independent as an adult!

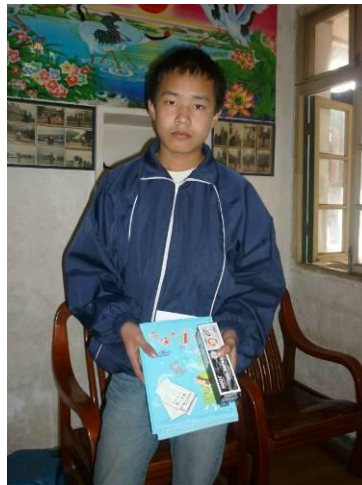


### 3. Interviews

- a) Met with 21 foster children and their foster families. Individual reports with a photo will be sent to their foster and school sponsors. You can also see photos of our foster kids below with their presents as well as a few comments from their reports.
- b) Met with 3 Amity Grandmas and one Amity doctor. Their photos and a bit about their work are at the end of the report.
- c) Delivered presents bought for children in the Project: school supplies, since most of Amity's foster children are in school, and also some snacks (see pictures below).









And a few of the comments from the foster reports include:

“He has made sizable progress since entering school. He now recognizes and can write many more characters than before. The teacher also has all students keep a daily journal, and he does this very well, recording everything he felt and experienced during the day.” (This is a deaf boy that we finally found a special education school for”)

“She earns average grades but arranges her time very well and studies hard. After school she reads books and listens to music to relax. She gets along well with her classmates and will ask them for help when she doesn’t understand something. She wants to do her best to test into a good high school.” (One of our older foster kids who has a club foot.)

“Due to his cerebral palsy, he still does not walk very steadily and tends to fall if he walks too fast. Still, he like going outside to play, and doesn’t really mind the inconvenience of being unsteady on his feet.”

“He is now in his first year of middle school, where he earns average grades and keeps up in all his classes. He likes to read and play basketball in his spare time. He is an unusually mature boy who loves to learn. He gets along very well with all his foster family and also has good relations with his classmates at school.”

“He doesn’t like to stay inside the house; he has to go outside every day to play but is able to find his way back. He can take care of himself in daily life and more or less heeds his foster mother.” (An older, mentally disabled orphan)

“She is in her second year of middle school, where she is not only keeping up in class but earning very good grades, consistently making the top 5 in her class. She gets along with and is very well liked by all of her classmates. She is cheerful, outgoing, and loves to talk. She always tells her foster mother about anything interesting which happened at school. All of her family members are very fond of her and take

great care of her.” (A ten year old with cerebral palsy)

“She can now walk by herself. She likes walking, even though she’s still a little unsteady on her feet and tends to fall down. She also likes playing outdoors and will tug on her foster mother’s hand whenever she wants to be brought outside.” (A girl with cerebral palsy who is almost three years old.)

And more information about our Hugging Grannies (the last three need a sponsor):

Grandma Yu Hongying works in the Rehabilitation where she is responsible for teaching and physically rehabilitating disabled children. In the photo below she is currently working with D. D cannot walk steadily due to an oversized head which throws her off balance. Grandma Yu often helps D practice walking, though D still doesn’t dare to walk on her own (she can only got a few steps by herself). Besides walking practice, Grandma Yu is also teaching D simple things like counting. D learns rather slowly and needs Grandma Yu to repeat things several times. Right now she can count 1 and 2.





Grandma Zhong Xiaofang rehabilitates the disabled children at the Institute and also teaches. In the photo below she is working with a little girl with Down syndrome, who cannot speak or walk. She can stand up while leaning on something, but doesn't like to. To get her to practice standing on her own, Grandma Zhong will put a toy she likes in front of her and she will stand up to get to the toy!



Grandma Zhou Meizhen rehabilitates the disabled children at the Institute and also teaches. She was teaching a little boy on the day we visited. Under Grandma Zhou's guidance this boy has learned to recognize some colors (such as red, green, and blue) and also some animals which Grandma Zhou has shown him in books. He has a somewhat poorer memory than most children his age but he only needs a little extra reminding before he remembers something. He still needs support when walking, so Grandma Zhou is also doing physical therapy with him. He is currently walking more steadily than before, and only needs to lean on something with one hand while walking.



Doctor Wang Junjie is responsible for diagnosing and treating all the children at the Institute and checks on the children in the nursery every day. Doctor Wang also treats foster children and provides medical and rehabilitation advice to foster parents.

