

April 29, 2010 Visit to the Yingtan Orphanage

Zhou Bo from Amity Foundation's Nanjing office traveled to Jiangxi province in April 2010 to meet with Ms. Luo, our Jiangxi coordinator. Zhou Bo discussed the current situation of the orphanages with Ms. Luo and signed an agreement with Ms. Luo to extend the project for one more year, with Ms. Luo continuing as the local coordinator. The agreement also detailed and clarified the duties and responsibilities of each side. The two of them then visited four of the Jiangxi orphanages together. At each orphanage they talked with the orphanage directors and other people in charge to acquire a better understanding of the present state of affairs at each orphanage. They discussed and assessed the improvements at each orphanage, observed the working conditions of the Amity Grandmas Project ("Hugging Grannies") and visited several foster care families. Yingtan was one of the four orphanages visited.

Yingtan Orphanage currently has three Amity Grandmas and one doctor. The three Amity Grandmas see to the daily care of the disabled children, and also help them through rehabilitation exercises in the activity room (see pictures). The doctor assists with medical care at the orphanage clinic.



In the orphanage we met this boy, a graduate from Nanchang Qiyin School for the Deaf. He has not been able to find a job, but he is still interested in art. He showed me some of his work, such as paintings, paper cuts, and his blueprint for a special paper cut machine. He has finished decorating the new children's building with murals.



This boy is attending the Nanchang New Oriental Culinary School and was proud to show us the dragon he had carved out of carrots and radishes. I heard from the orphanage director that he had carved the dragon in one night when he heard I would come to visit Yingtan in order to express his great appreciation for the sponsors and all the people who have helped him along his way. Although he is a bit shy, we are very glad to see how he has improved and how much effort he has put into his studies. We sincerely hope that he will be able to find a job after graduation and have a good future.



This is a boy with Down's syndrome who is living in a foster family. He is currently interested in playing cards. When the neighbors are playing the cards in the yard he always sits behind them to watch. But he doesn't know how to play yet, he just likes to shuffle the cards.

These two children live in the same foster family which looks very harmonious. One is an active boy who likes playing outside even though he doesn't walk very steadily. The girl is mentally disabled; she can understand a few everyday expressions and say some simple 2-3 word phrases. They can do most of their activities of daily living independently and even help within the family.



Comments about Yingtan:

The new children's building has been completed but cannot yet be occupied due to a lack of funds for equipment. Director Yu said that the foster children would remain in their current foster families after the move into new building. Most of the children under our sponsorship are older children; some of them are will be going into society soon. One quit middle school last semester and would like to attend a technical school next semester. Three others are now in middle school; their foster families are paying extra attention to guiding these children's psychological development. Thanks to these foster families for their patience and love!