

# September 17, 2011 Yingtan Social Welfare Institute Report

## 1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Yu Xiaozhen (余小贞)
- b) **Institute Co-Vice Director, Head of the Amity Foster Care Project:**  
Zhan Jianjun (占建军)
- c) **Institute Co-Vice Director:** Ai Ciping (艾茨萍)
- d) **Physical Exam and Vaccination Protocols:** Most of Yingtan's foster children are older, so they return to the Institute for check-ups once every six months.
- e) **Number of Children:** Amity currently sponsors 13 children for foster care, while the Institute sponsors 10 children. Approximately 40 children reside at the Institute itself, with the majority of them having cerebral palsy or a cognitive disability (this number often fluctuates).

## 2. Overall Impression

The Yingtan Social Welfare Institute (the Institute) still houses many disabled children. Of the older boys, some of them are able to take care of themselves while others still have difficulties doing so. At the SWI, there is a nurse who can help these children take care of their everyday needs.

At the SWI, we saw the children who had moved back into the Institute. These are older children and either their foster family was no longer about to foster them or because of their schooling. Their photos are shown at the end of this report.

## 3. Interviews

- a) Met with 4 Amity Grandmas (one is a doctor in the orphanage clinic)



Grandma Yu Hongying works mainly in the Institute's rehab room, doing rehabilitation with and educating the Institute children with disabilities. In the picture above, she is holding a very small child who has not been at the Institute for very long. Her health is not strong but Grandma Yu is very attached to her and cares for her. Every day, Grandma Yu holds the child and talks to her and even tickles her too! Sometimes, the child appears agitated or uncomfortable, so Grandma Yu will take her temperature. If she is running a fever, Grandma Yu helps her cool down and brings her to the hospital wing for treatment if necessary.



Grandma Zhou Meizhen works mainly in the Institute's rehab room, doing rehabilitation with and educating Institute children with disabilities. Every day Grandma Zhou plays with this child who cannot speak named HH. HH is new to the Institute and is very shy. He often used to stand in a corner by himself and did not

play with the other children. The grandmas observed this situation and tried to approach and play with him but he was initially unresponsive. Grandma Zhou persisted by continuing to engage him in fun games. Eventually HH opened up and now enjoys playing with the grandmas and has even begun to play more with the other children. He still cannot speak but he understands what people say to him. When the grandmas play with him, they talk to him and encourage him to use gestures to communicate. Although he has yet to utter a single word, the grandmas hope that talking to and encouraging him will help his language development.



Doctor Wang Junjie is responsible for diagnosing and treating all of the Institute's children and elderly residents. Recently, the weather has been changing frequently, causing the children to get sick more easily. Because of this, Doctor Wang makes rounds in the ward twice a day to monitor her patients. She is familiar with all of her patients' health conditions and helps them accordingly. In the picture above Doctor Wang is treating two children who have caught colds. One of them is also suffering from diarrhoea. After examining and diagnosing them, Doctor Wang gave them medicine and injections to cure their sicknesses. On the day of this visit, the children were feeling much better and their health conditions had improved significantly. Doctor Wang plays with them and tickles them, making the children laugh and squirm!



Grandma Zhong Xiaofang is mainly responsible for rehabilitating and educating the Institute's children with disabilities. In the picture above Grandma Zhong is helping this little girl learn to walk. She can already walk a few short steps but cannot walk for long distances yet. Grandma Zhong always helps her exercise and practice to make her stronger so that she is able to walk farther. This girl particularly enjoys Grandma Zhong tempting her with snacks and other small foods to get her to walk farther. When she sees the food she will walk all over the place to try and get it! Grandma Zhong also brings her outside to walk. They bring a few of her favorite toys and find an open grassy area to practice on. These exercises have helped her enormously. Now she can walk farther distances by herself and her steadiness when she walks has also improved.

- b)** Met with 13 foster children and their foster families. Their individual reports (with photo) will be sent to their foster sponsor. Here are a few of the children:



Eight year old girl with developmental delay. She is slowly learning how to communicate better with others due to the efforts of her foster mother and grandmother.



High school girl who “gets along well with her classmates and is active in the school community.”



12 year old boy with cerebral palsy. “His foster family loves and cares about him very much. They know he loves to eat duck and often buy it for him to eat. They also make sure that their house is stocked with his favorite snacks.”

Here are the older children who have returned to the orphanage from foster care:



The Institute is very close to his school so it is more convenient for him to live there. He returns to the Institute everyday when he is finished with school.



His foster grandmother is not able to take care of him anymore, so he now lives at the Institute but still is in touch with his foster family. He often misses his grandmother, but she comes to see him at the Institute when she can.





She is in her second year at the teacher's training college. In total, she will study for five years there (three years in the vocational school and two years in the college). She boards at the school and often stays in her dorm on campus. On the weekends or during the holidays, she will go back to her foster family and sometimes goes back to the orphanage to take care of the younger children and play games with them.



He has returned to the Institute because his foster family was no longer about to continue fostering. He has now been at the Institute for a few months and has adjusted to life there. He enjoys playing with the other children and overall leads a stable, normal life.