

Ji'an Social Welfare Institute Report

December 15, 2011

1. General Information

- a) **Institute Director:** Mr. Liu (刘院长), formerly of the Elderly Division
- b) **Institute Deputy Directors:** Mei Yongsheng currently also head of the Amity Foster Care Project at Ji'an (formerly managing director of different bureau); Division employee: Zeng Qinghua.
- c) **Physical Exams:** Institute workers visit foster families on the 15th and 30th of every month to administer vaccinations to foster children who need them. They also give a physical check-up to every foster child on the 30th.
- d) **Number of Children:** the Ji'an Social Welfare Institute has a total of 60 children, of which Amity sponsors 8 and the Institute funds 3. Of the 60 children there are over 10 infants, and about 40 older children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities—reside at the Institute itself.

2. **Overall Impression:** Ji'an welfare Institute is now partly managed by Amity's Deputy Director, Mei Yongsheng. Halfway through the year he formally started to manage Amity's Foster and Grandma Program. Deputy Director Mei went to every foster home during this round of visits. Another worker in the Division, Zeng Qinghua, became responsible for Amity's workers, and later he will be responsible for Amity's Foster Program. Because Mr. Zeng has just accepted this position, he is still learning about the role and duties involved, but we believe that by cooperating and working, Mr. Zeng will quickly become familiar with the work process and be able to serve the children of the program extremely well.

3. Content of the Visit:

- a) We visited the eight foster children. The individual report on each child, with more details, will be sent to their sponsor but photos of the foster children are included below. We do need a new sponsor for one of them.
- b) We visited the five Grandmas ("Hugging Grannies") and their photos and information is included below.

Our Sponsored Foster Children



This 17 month old boy (one looking at the camera) is in need of a sponsor for his foster care. The cost is \$34 per month. Please email peggy@gurrad.com if you would be willing to be his sponsor.



15 month old girl in the same foster home.



19 month old girl described as “lively and mischievous”



Ten year old girl with dwarfism now reported to be
“at the head of her class”.



Five month old girl



15 month old girl who is “a little shy and a bit bashful in front of
strangers but in her foster home she is an active toddler”



Two month old girl



Five year old boy who had heart surgery
who "loves his preschool class"

Our "Hugging Grannies"



Grandma Guo Yuanlian, a retired doctor, teaches the Institute children and rehabilitates those with disabilities. Grandma Guo teams up with other grandmas and they find effective interventions for different disabilities. In the photo above Grandma Guo is hugging a disabled child. The child's left ear is closed, and her right ear cannot hear anything. When she came to the Institute her body was very weak; she was skinny and her reactions were slow and she had lazy eyes and had little expression on her face. Grandma Guo was very attentive, massaged her arms and legs; paid attention to her and spoke with her, and the two developed a close relationship. Grandma Guo says that the biggest improvement is that the child is now very expressive and can use eye expressions to communicate with others. When she and Grandma Guo talk she sometimes smiles, and she is very attached to Grandma Guo. When she is at Grandma Guo's side she smiles and asks to be held by Grandma Guo. In the coming days, Grandma Guo will care for her as all along and help with her therapy plan so that all aspects of the child's life will improve.



Grandma Luo Julian (also a retired doctor) teaches the Institute children and rehabilitates those with disabilities. Grandma Luo teams up with the other grandmas to continually learn how better to rehabilitate the children, so their knowledge continues to grow. On the day of the visit, Grandma Luo was teaching a child with cerebral palsy how to write characters. Because it is difficult for children with cerebral palsy to move their hands, he could only use his left hand to write. Under Grandma Luo's guidance he was learning to write basic new characters. Grandma Luo is helping him learn more and he can write more and more characters more and more neatly. For him this is not an easy task, but with Grandma Luo's help and her encouragement, his interest in studying has picked up. To make sure he is not only writing and recognizing characters, Grandma Luo also gives him some entertaining activities to help him. The kids who learn this way combining play and learning find joy in knowledge!



Grandma Cai Cihua teaches the Institute children and rehabilitates those with disabilities. Because there are many disabled children at the Institute, the grandmas are familiar with many different conditions. On the day of the visit, Grandma Cai was helping this little boy with therapy. He is about 5 or 6 years old and when he first came to the Institute his legs were quite weak and he couldn't stand so the grandmas massaged him and helped him with therapy every day. After a short period of time, his legs now have strength and with a back support he can stand, though not for a very long time. The grandmas are at his side encouraging him every day. Under Grandma Cai's guidance he stands for longer and longer. Grandma Cai's next plan for when he can stand steadily is to help him practice walking. She believes that he will be able to exercise well and reach the desired goal!



Grandma Liu Yuedi (above), a retired social welfare institute nurse, now knows well what her job entails but she doesn't stop learning. If anything comes up she doesn't hesitate to ask other grandmas for advice. Although Grandma Liu generally does fine feeding and caring for children, she still continues to learn from other grandmas about rehabilitation – for example, how to use effective exercises. The other grandmas patiently help her, and slowly Grandma Liu is becoming part of the children's rehab team. Grandma Liu is a very compassionate, patient person. In the photo above she is helping a child with therapy. Every day Grandma Liu helps children with therapy for a while. At the very beginning this child did not dare to walk but now with Grandma Liu's support can walk quite well. In another short amount of time of therapy the same child will be walking independently. We and Liu Grandma hope that day will soon arrive!



Grandma Zhou Guilian teaches the Institute children and rehabilitates those with disabilities. In the photo above Grandma Zhou helps a child with physical therapy. Since working with Grandma Zhou, the child's therapy has progressed and the two have grown close. When JJ looks at Grandma Zhou he smiles a special smile that he doesn't give the other grandmas. JJ is over a year old and Grandma Zhou has been helping him all along with therapy. At the beginning she supported him under the arms to stand; now he can walk on his own. Although he's learned to walk, it's a relatively new skill so he walks slowly, but Grandma Zhou is very patient and the exercise progresses one by one. After a little exercise, JJ listens to Grandma Zhou who leads him with a steady rhythm of steps, and his own steps speed up. Grandma Zhou watches him walk and is very happy for him and believes his therapy development plan will help him walk even faster. Everyone is looking forward to seeing this!