

Pingxiang Social Welfare Institute

Amity Report, January 2019



Altrusa International of Longview-Kelso Foundation
working together with Amity Foundation in China

PINGXIANG SWI STAFF & FACTS

Director: Yao Fumin

Institute Vice Directors
Shi Yongmei

Amity Liason:
Xiao Su (who visits the
foster families)

Total Number of
Children : ~ 50

Adoptions: none since
August 2018

Email:
pxfly0799@163.com

Address:
Pingxiang Children's
Orphanage
Pingxiang
China
337000

Altrusa Foundation, working together with Amity Foundation in China, is providing foster care support for five children. The orphanage supports roughly 50 children, about 35 of whom are living in the institute. Altrusa also supports three Hugging Grannies to enrich these childrens' lives.

The rehab building will be built on 30 acres else in Pingxiang. Construction has begun on the new rehab building, and the plans calls for completion in March 2019.

The focus will be on upbringing, education, and rehabilitation. The child will live in family pods with foster parents, with about 4-6 children per apartment. They hope to hire rehabilitation therapists and invite students to intern at the Institute. Similarly, the hope is to partner with special education schools to house special education classes at the welfare house.



From left: Director Yao; Director Shi; Amity reps
Ms. Lu; Su Lina.

New Facilities



Clockwise from above: sensory training room; rehabilitation room; special education room; intelligence inspiring room.



An Innovative Plan

Recently, the welfare home decided to start three special-needs foster children at a nearby kindergarten together. The children would have companions, which would deepen the emotions between them, and facilitate the unified care and management of the welfare home. They live in the welfare home and go to school from Monday to Friday, and return to the foster family on weekends. Here's how this innovative approach has worked for each child.

A.Z., six, is blind. He adapted slowly to kindergarten, but with the care and companionship of the teacher, he became familiar with the new environment and has learned new social skills. Sometimes, the teacher lets more capable children help him. In these interactions, A.Z. can be friendly with others, and other children are willing to help him. Now he can hold other children's hands and willingly go outside.



This has worked well for four-year-old A.Y. Before, she went to the kindergarten near her foster family. Because A.Y. relied so much on her foster father, she didn't interact with other people as long as the foster father was there. The foster father also dotes on her, and every time she cried, the foster father would take her home. Although she still relies on her foster father, when she comes to kindergarten in the morning, she no longer cries. She is happy to walk into kindergarten hand in hand with other children. When she sees strangers, she laughs, looks at people, invites people to hold her, and plays with other children.



A.J. is also four, and has Down Syndrome. Since starting at kindergarten, his personality is more lively, more active, and more curious. He prefers outdoor activities, and can walk around unconstrained under the guidance and attention of teachers. Inside, A.J. can sit quietly, listen, also understand simple instructions.

Hugging Grannies

All three of our Hugging Grannies help daily to improve each child's physical, cognitive, and social skills. Here's a few recent examples:

- Grandma Liu has been helping a child with cerebral palsy. The child's right side is inflexible and weak, and he is unable to grasp objects with his right hand. Every day, Grandma Liu will claps her hands and sing songs with him to encourage him to move his right hand. She massages him every day to relax his joints and muscles, and encourages him to stand up as straight as possible. Now he is able to hold a railing with his right hand and stand unsupported for awhile.
- Grandma Liang Rong accompanied a "brain-constricted child" to train in the activity room. The child cannot speak yet. When the child first came, she did not respond to hearing her name called, nor listen to instructions. She couldn't sit quietly or focus on a task. Very slowly she has improved and begun learning and trusting due to Grandma Liang.
- Grandma Liu worked with a child with cerebral palsy to recognize pictures. The child's body was stiff, his hands and feet were not flexible, his arms were not easy to bend, and his hands could not grasp objects reliably. "Where is the banana?" asks Grandma Liu. The child finds pictures of bananas in several pictures and stretches out his arm to point to them, making an "ah" sound with his mouth. This game works on cognitive, physical, and speech skills simultaneously.



From left, back row: Grandmother Liu Xinping, Grandmother Liang Rong, Amity rep Ms. Lu, and Grandmother Liu Fengjuan, with three friends.

Three ways to donate.

CHECK. Mail to:

Altrusa Foundation
Attn: Peggy Gurrad
PO Box 1354
Longview, WA 98632

ONLINE donations at

www.altrusa2.info

PAYPAL donations: go to

PayPal.com and use peggy@gurrad.com to take you to the Altrusa account. Please add 3% to cover fees, or choose the "gift" option under the "Personal" tab.