

Peggy looks back to the beginning, and ahead to the next challenges.



Jiangxi China Orphan Aid

Altrusa International of Longview-Kelso Foundation

working together with Amity Foundation in China

December 2014 Quarterly Report: Foster Children



It was late in 1998 when Peggy began this adventure with Altrusa and Amity. She knew that other adoptive families wanted to give back to the area in China from which their children came, and she wanted a way to help them do that.

Sixteen years later, she's still going strong. It's been rewarding, she says, and also challenging. "We've had some kids, even disabled kids, stay in the same foster home for years. And some of our first sponsors are still with us, still supporting the same child. That's amazing." Through the years, Peggy has watched children grow into lives apart from the orphanage, graduating from school, finding work, getting married. In one case, a child we supported for many years, including nursing school, now works for us as a Hugging Granny.

What she remembers most is visiting orphanages in which the staff lined up the children on potty seats, where they remained all day. Living there, she says, there's nothing to motivate the children. If they go to school, they are stigmatized for being orphans; they often drop out. Compared to their single-child peers, who have two parents and four grandparents, these children have little stimulation or support.



Now, many of those children are in foster families out in the community. They are loved. They see people go to school and work. They learn to handle money. They have peer friendships and experience all the parts of life that motivate them to work hard at school and want more for their lives than sitting in an institution.



The children who aren't lucky enough to go to foster families are still supported by the presence of the Hugging Grannies at the orphanages; they get individual attention, support, and love. "Those are the things I really feel good about," says Peggy.

And the challenges? They're on both sides of the ocean. In China, orphanage staff have more and more difficulty finding foster families, especially as the class of foster grandmothers fades. The subsidies are too low for young families to want to take on a child. "It used to be we would

contribute 200 yuan, and the orphanage would make up the rest," Peggy explains. "Now the orphanage has had to increase the subsidy to 1000 yuan, so we have increased our contribution to 300." The difficulty finding families persists, though.

On this side of the ocean, of course we've had our own economic challenges. Increasing the subsidy raises the U.S. foster contribution to \$54 a month, which is too much for some people. Many people are content to share the same child with another donor, but some find that less inviting.

"So our numbers in China are dwindling because they can't find families, and our numbers here are dwindling because of the economy. I'd say our number one need is broadening our reach to new people."



You Can Help

Help us broaden our reach

We all have networks: schools, work places, churches, sports teams.

Can you organize your child's classroom or your basketball team to sponsor a child together? Can you gather five emails of people willing to learn about our work, and send the emails to us?

Help us find foster families

Right now we have about ten children who need U.S. sponsors in order to be fostered. A few are highlighted below. Can you help us find people to join us? Can you share your generosity and enthusiasm with your friends and invite them to join you in it?



Three children at the Jingdezhen orphanage need sponsoring. This little girl has cerebral palsy. She is so excited to go to school that she pulls her foster mother by the hand all the way there. She especially loves music. Her co-sponsorship requires \$36 per month.



This girl at the Fuzhou institute is blind. She's familiar enough with her surroundings now, she's to play outside by herself. She isn't able to speak intelligibly and needs help with all daily activities. She needs a second sponsor at \$27 per month.



R. is six, and is cognitively impaired. We need \$36 per month to keep her in foster care, where she gets the constant supervision she requires, along with the love and stimulation lacking in the orphanage. Three other children at Shangrao also need support.

[Click here to visit our website](#)

[Click here to donate online](#)

or mail your check to:

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

At PayPal.com,
use peggy@gurrad.com to take you to the Altrusa account
(Please add 3% to cover fees, or choose the
" I'm sending money to family or friends " option)

Want to see more?

[Click here to visit our archive of visit reports.](#)

Copyright © 20XX. All Rights Reserved.

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to peggy@gurrad.com by peggy@altrusa.info |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Altrusa International Foundation of Longview-Kelso | PO Box 1354 | Longview | WA | 98632