



# Jiangxi China Orphan Aid

*Altrusa International of Longview-Kelso Foundation*

*working together with Amity Foundation in China*

## YEAR-END SUMMARY

Number of orphanages  
we are assisting: 19

Number of children we  
keep in foster care: 138

Number of children we  
support educationally: 65

Number of Hugging  
Grannies we support: 38

Number of children we  
support nutritionally: 14



Peggy with staff at the  
Hengfeng orphanage.

## 2015 in Review from Peggy Gurrad

It's been quite a year for this grass-roots orphan relief effort. Challenging economic realities make it difficult for us to provide the level of care we'd like to, and *we're grateful to each one of you* who continue to prioritize our project amongst the many that clamor for your attention and financial support.

In these pages, you'll find updates on each of our programs. I hope you feel as good about them as I do.

Of course, we hope you'll be moved to support these kids as much as you can.

Many of you reading this already do. If that's the case, we'd like to

- Thank you again and
- Remind you of the other huge gift you have to give us: your social networks.



We're all so well connected, right across the globe. If you can share your positive experience and trust of our program with even a few of your networks, your friends and acquaintances are much more likely to consider supporting us.

Word of mouth is the most powerful way to help us grow.

Please remember that we are a 501c3 organization,  
so donations are tax-deductible for our U.S. supporters.

## Foster Children and Educational Support

Currently, we keep 138 children out of institutional life and in foster homes. This is down from our all-time high of over 200. Foster care instead of institutionalized care makes a huge difference, because the love and attention support normal development and attachment. Being in the community—seeing what life is like outside the orphanage—gives kids a reason to want to go to school and do well and make a life for themselves.

Once they have that dream, we need to be able to pay for their schooling. The government only provides education to the 8th grade, and sometimes not even that for disabled children who need special schooling. This year, we were thrilled to find a good special education program in Shangrao but of course it's expensive.

One of my favorite things is seeing our orphans graduate from vocational school or college. Twenty four year old C.H. (at left) is from the Jiujiang orphanage and has both legs disabled from polio. This year, she will graduate a four-year college with a degree in animation design, and she just passed an exam for post-graduate school. She reports:

*"Considering the four years in university, I feel so fulfilled, except I didn't fall in love with someone.... I felt much appreciation for you and all the people who have helped me these years and gave me the chance to enter the college. Thank you very much again!"*

C.H. is not the only story like that; whenever I hear about our kids graduating from university or vocational schools, getting jobs, getting married, and starting their own families, I am amazed and grateful at what we've been able to do to help them.



Of course, there's a steady stream of new children needing our help.

Below are three children from Nanchang for whom the orphanage has asked our support. To put a child in foster care costs \$54 U.S. each month. Partial support is welcome if you can't do the whole thing; we take all donations and form a crazy quilt of support. We have sponsors that do \$18, \$27, \$36 or \$54 a month.

H.L., mentally retarded



H.K., mentally retarded



H.T., cerebral palsy



## Our Hugging Grannies

Our 38 Hugging Grannies are a great way to leverage our support, because each of them touch many more children daily, providing personal, ongoing encouragement and affection and being an advocate for each child's development and highest good.

In November, 17 of our 38 Grannies were able to attend *The Capacity Building and Experience Exchange Meeting of the Amity Grandma Project* in Fuzhou, Fujian Province.

There were two speakers. Mrs. Hu Yan, a special education expert from Suzhou Bo Ai School, taught the grandmas how to communicate with the children with games. Mrs. Zhu Hongmei is a pediatrician at the Nanjing Social Children's Welfare Institute. She spoke about the development of children, child health care and prevention, and treatment of common diseases.

Grandmas from different orphanages shared their challenges, experiences, and thoughts and offered each other encouragement. From Amity Foundation staff person: "We could all feel their love for the children and their enthusiasm for the work."

Since 1991, Amity grandmas have provided not only physical and emotional care for the children, but also rehabilitation training and special education for children in need. At the same time, grandmas also assist in staff training and development at the Welfare Institutes.

As one grandma said in her speech at the meeting, "To see the children with a bright smile, to see their little progress in the rehabilitation training, even if it is hard and tired, it is worth to be done."



Eighteen participants from Jiangxi attended the Grandma Conference, from Ganzhou, Ruijin, Jiujiang, Yingtan, Shanggao, Shangrao, Yichun, and Jian orphanages.

## Our Nutritional Program

If I had a magic wand, I would wave it over our nutritional support program. These malnourished infants and toddlers tug at our heartstrings, definitely; but this is also an important place to intervene for long-lasting impacts.

Early malnutrition has devastating, enduring consequences throughout a lifetime. It impedes behavioral and cognitive development and educability, undermining future work possibilities and the quality of an entire lifespan.

It effects their ability to learn, communicate, socialize, and adapt to new environments and people—important skills for Chinese orphans. Good nutrition is the first line of defense against numerous childhood diseases, which can leave their mark on a child for life; of course, many of our kids are already victims of disease. In the area of cognitive development, the body uses limited nutrition first to survive, then to grow, and, if any is still available, last to learn.



When you make it possible for us to target malnourished babies and children, a supply of high quality infant formula, high protein foods and iron supplements can turn a dismal proposition into one of hope. With simple supplies and such a relatively tiny investment, we can help an orphan develop more of the cognitive and social skills he or she desperately need to be able to relate to people and find life satisfying—not just for their childhood, but their whole lives.

### Three ways to donate... and it's tax-deductible.

#### CHECK. Mail to:

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

#### ONLINE donations:

click [here](#) or go to:  
[www.altrusa.info](http://www.altrusa.info)

#### PAYPAL donations: go to

PayPal.com and use  
[peggy@gurrad.com](mailto: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.