

# Amity Outlook

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**Do Hiking, Do Charity**

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## Do Hiking, Do Charity



On December 27, 2014, Hiking for Charity organized for the first time by Amity Foundation marked an amazing success. Supported by local government, media and businesses, the event attracted more than two thousand hikers and volunteers with a whopping grand total of over RMB 300,000 raised for orphans in need of help.

According to statistics, there are more than 615,000 orphans in China, one third of which are in urgent need of help. Initiated in 2002, Amity's rural orphan fostering project has supported more than 13,000 orphans. As the New Year is approaching, many orphans will suffer a harsh winter. To keep the children who have lost their parents away from thin and molding quilts and frostbitten hands, Amity launched the





Warm New Year project, which provides a package of a quilt, a quilt cover, a hat, a scarf and a pair of gloves to each of over a thousand orphans in mountainous areas of Yunnan and Guizhou provinces.

As a fundraising event for Amity's Warm New Year project, Hiking for Charity calls participating hikers to do charity for the orphans while measuring the length of the ancient city wall of Nanjing with their feet.



# Amity Holds the International Workshop on Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation

*By Theresa Carino*

Close to 100 participants gathered at the first international relief workshop organized by the Amity Foundation in Nanjing from October 30th to November 2, 2014 on the theme “Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation in Asia: Best practices and new challenges.” In his opening remarks, Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, General Secretary and Vice-president of Amity Foundation, mentioned that since the devastating 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, many more Chinese NGOs are now engaged in emergency relief and rehabilitation work. There is growing recognition of the need for more psycho-social support for disaster-hit communities and for environmental preservation in the face of climate change. There are also new challenges such as the concentration of relief funds among a few NGOs and the lack of coordination among responders resulting in uneven distribution and wastage of resources. The international workshop provided a platform to address these and other urgent issues among government, business and NGOs.

Representing the ACT Alliance was Jeroen Jurriens from ICCO Cooperation who urged NGO participation in monitoring the efficacy of the Hyogo Framework. ACT Alliance, with members from 140 countries, will continue to advocate for more effective government action especially since a new framework will be discussed in Sendai (Japan) in 2015. Socorro Reyes, a consultant for UN Women was emphatic about the need for gender sensitivity in DRR and relief work. Representing government, academe, business and NGOs, participants came from China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Japan, the Netherlands and Germany. International and Asian NGOs included the ACT Alliance International, CASA (India), CCDB (Bangladesh), NCCP (Philippines) and Kaisa (Chinese-Filipino Youth Organization). Chinese Foundations that were present included the China Charity Foundation, Narada Foundation, China Youth Foundation, China Poverty Alleviation Foundation, the Red Cross

Foundation and Tencent Foundation. Also present were members of local churches from different provinces and Jinde Charities.

The meeting saw the sharing of best practices in disaster risk reduction (DRR) education, emergency response and post-disaster reconstruction in various Asian countries that had seen a rise in destructive floods, typhoons, earthquakes and volcanic explosions in recent months. Speakers emphasized the urgency of responding to the needs especially of vulnerable populations, such as women, the elderly and the disabled, and to include DRR in rehabilitation and development work. Researchers and social workers highlighted the importance of respect and sensitivity towards local culture and the need for incorporating religious and cultural practices in strengthening community resilience.

NGOs agreed that continuous professionalization of their services was



essential and harnessing the expertise of professional volunteers was a cost-effective way of expanding their capacities. There was a strong presence of Chinese media (especially new media) at the meeting showing huge interest in the experience of other Asian countries in DRR and rehabilitation work. Refreshing ideas were presented by young IT professionals and business sector individuals on “mapping” and other services that would help eliminate duplication and overlap among relief agencies during humanitarian emergencies.

The meeting ended on a high and optimistic note. It had touched on the multiple dimensions of DRR, relief and rehabilitation work and had made a breakthrough in promoting the need for greater multi-sectoral collaboration in China and in the Asian region.

Sponsors of the international workshop included the United Methodist Church (USA), American Baptist Church, Mission One World (Germany), Narada Foundation, China Charity Foundation, China Youth Foundation, Tencent Foundation and the China Poverty Foundation.

## Love Does Not Forget

On November 7 and 8, 2014, the Amity Foundation organized an international symposium on eldercare services and cognitive disorders in Nanjing under the name 'Love Does Not Forget'. More than 240 participants from over 30 local and international institutions, who work in this area of concern, attended the two-day conference.

Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, Vice Board Chair and General Secretary of the Amity Foundation, shared that China would face the world's largest number of patients with cognitive disorders by 2020 according to estimates. As a result of the size of China's aging population, the demands for professional care and services for the elderly and patients with cognitive disorders are increasing dramatically. But currently available services cannot meet the demands. Mr. Qiu outlined that the aging society would be a long-term focus and concern of Amity's work. Furthermore, he appealed to the world community to jointly work on solutions and advancements.

Mr. Gu Chuanyong, Deputy Director of



Jiangsu Provincial Bureau of Religious Affairs, noted that Chinese efforts in meeting the elderly's needs were still lacking when compared to services being offered abroad. He emphasized the important role of the religious community in contributing to the development of the third sector.

Mr. Wang Jinhua, Director of the Social Work Department of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China, emphasized in his speech that respect and care for the elderly were deeply rooted in Chinese

traditions. Caring for the elderly is not only the bound duty of families, but of the whole society. Therefore, the capacities for elderly services have to be strengthened and a comprehensive system has to be developed to meet the needs of China's aging society. Mr. Wang remarked that this seminar was an opportunity to learn from international best practices and share and exchange practical achievements. He hoped that the conference would help develop a new and innovative model for social services in China.



On the second day experts from Hong Kong and Taiwan held workshops to share innovative and practical training. During the conference awards were presented to winners of Amity's Home for the Elderly's micro movie competition. .

Participants to the symposium came from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain and Australia. The conference was co-organized by several institutions from Nanjing who are working in this field. Amity acknowledges with appreciations all partners who provided funding for this conference: Bread for the World, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Association, the Church of Scotland and Jiangsu Christian Fund.

## Autism Diagnoses on the Rise in China



The 5th Amity Foundation International Symposium on Autism was held in Nanjing during October 11-15, 2014. The symposium was attended by professionals from China's special education and health sectors, along with experts from the United States, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and practitioners from 22 local non-profit organizations involved in rehabilitating children with autism.

In his speech, Mr. Oui Zhonghui, General Secretary of the Amity Foundation, noted that autism diagnoses had been increasing in the last decade. In 2005, the data from an American survey showed that one of every 166 children was born with autism; by 2012, that ratio had increased to one of every 88 children. Data analysis on children with autism conducted by Beijing Normal University showed that currently more than 1.5 million people in China suffered from autism. Furthermore, many obstacles still exist for developing



countries such as China to assist affected people and their families. Organizations providing support and training for affected people lack high expertise. The mainstream of society has not been aware of the situation of autism. Particular rehabilitation is still unavailable.

Mr. Qiu emphasized the importance of collaboration and cooperation of the three sectors, namely the government, business and non-profit sectors. Specifically, he urged the government to fund and purchase services of non-governmental organizations. The third sector should work towards corporate and business support in an effort to help provide high quality services. Families affected by autism can be integrated and included through collaborations, resource sharing, and expertise exchanges. Through the symposium, Amity hoped to set up a more open, innovative and specialized platform to better Chinese children's well being and facilitate the public's awareness of autism.

The symposium was attended by international guests and many from local organizations. Mr. Jan-Erik from the Finnish Missionary Society (FELM), a long-term partner of Amity and a strong supporter of Amity's social development efforts for underprivileged children and the co-organizer of the symposium, remarked the necessity of the symposium. He hoped



that advocacy would endure at all levels. He also looked forward to rehabilitation methods and international exchanges that promote the development of society being friendly advanced towards people with disabilities.

Over the first two days, local and international autism experts gave presentations on the latest research and of autism and methodology of rehabilitation. New diagnostic and prognostic concepts across the spectrum of neurological disorders were introduced and methods such as art therapy and ways to improve self-control of students with autism were discussed. Scholars and experts on the field of special education and rehabilitation also shared their expertise, experiences



and research results of their work. During the second part of the symposium, the latest and approved practical rehabilitation methods were taught and trained.

In 2007, the Amity Foundation established the Amity Children Development Center in Nanjing. The Center rehabilitates children with autism, provides training and group activities for affected families, and advocates for the underprivileged children.

## Interfaith Dialogue for Social Development in China

A training program for faith-based social development organizations was launched in Nanjing on July 1. The purpose was to further streamline the good work that has been done by religious organizations in Jiangsu Province, to improve the quality of services offered by such organizations, and to facilitate the development of the organizations.

The training was organized by the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of Jiangsu Province, Jiangsu Religious Affairs Bureau (RAB) and the Amity Foundation. Eighty religious leaders from Buddhist, Taoist, Moslem, Catholic and Protestant organizations participated in the training. At the opening ceremony, Mr. Li Guohua, Vice-Director of Jiangsu RAB, summarized the current state of the development of religious charitable organizations in Jiangsu. He said that religious charitable organizations had significantly benefited society and brought credit to their religions, all the while actively contributing to the economic and social development of Jiangsu. He concluded his speech by expressing the hope that this training



would be a real turning point for participants as they work together and advance their religious charitable work in Jiangsu.

The workshop ran over four days. As a platform for different religions to exchange about their social service efforts, the workshop provided participants both first-hand know-how and opportunities to experience and to get involved in a broad range of charitable activities. The third sector is more and more encouraged by the Chinese government to participate and contribute to the social development of China. Faith-based organizations (FBOs) are playing an important role in this development. The Amity Foundation is fostering this development, by passing its expertise and best practices not only



to the church, but also to other religious communities in China. The workshop has been recognized as a milestone event in terms of advocating for social development work, cooperation and mutual understanding among religions in Jiangsu Province of China.

## Being Prepared for the Amity Summer English Program

*By Martin Lachmann*

Amity's Education and International Exchange Division aims to contribute to educational development in China and to promote cultural exchange between Chinese youth and those from overseas, while bridging the gap in education opportunities between eastern and western areas of China. The projects of the Education and International Exchange Division give priority to less-developed areas, in particular, to minority regions.

Initiated in 1989, the Amity Summer English Program (SEP) invites English speakers to volunteer in training Chinese teachers of English in less-developed parts of China for a short term of four weeks. More than 1,000 volunteers from USA, UK, Canada and Germany have been working as Amity SEP teachers, while enjoying the experience of seeing the real China and building a bridge of friendship and understanding.



A group picture of participants to the workshop for Amity's local partner institutions hosting the SEP teachers

In order to guarantee the best and most convenient stay for the overseas participants of Amity's annual Summer English Program (SEP), a workshop is held every year in Nanjing. Amity invites local partner institutions, which host the SEP teachers, to this workshop. The attendees, which are responsible for coordinating Amity SEP teachers' stay in local areas, discuss and get briefed about important issues and organizational affairs of the SEP.

Many long-term Amity SEP host schools shared their experiences, and Lynn Yarbrough, a retired long-term Amity

teacher in China, gave a lecture. She gave advice about the best ways how to host the foreign volunteers, some of their likely questions and behaviors, as well as their teaching methods. By running this workshop, Amity helps overseas teachers and Chinese education institutions get the most out of their SEP experience. The sharing helps avoid cultural misunderstandings in advance, and in the course of years the workshop has proven to be an important forum for the hosts. Moreover, the exchange of new ideas and concepts between the host schools is always a fruitful dialogue, which boosts educational training in mainland China.

When I attended the workshop in early summer this year, I spoke with local partners of Amity and learned more about their experiences and their visions for teaching English in China.

### **Peer to Peer – a new approach on training Chinese English teachers**

Lisa (Niu Tingting) is a manager of administration in her school in Bengbu, Anhui Province. She works for an English teacher's training program that is part of the city's education bureau. She is participating in Amity's Summer English Program for the second time. The SEP primarily targets the writing, speaking and listening skills of Chinese English teachers. The first year, in 2013, 75 local trainees of her English Teaching Training School who were English teachers in China, participated in the SEP. But Lisa saw the need to set up another, more intensive program that is specialized to focus on the teaching methods, teaching theory and a way to organize teaching English in a more effective way.

To reach this goal, Lisa pushed to set up a peer-to peer program and gained the support of the Friends of Church of China (FCC). The FCC is a long-term



Ms. Lynn Yarbrough, Summer English Program Coordinator, lecturing at the workshop

partner of Amity's education division which, since 1992, recruits and sends English teachers to China. The FCC sent three professional and experienced English teachers to China in May 2014. They taught professional teaching skills to primary, middle and high school teachers and intensified this approach by implementing and introducing established teaching methods. In Lisa's opinion, this is a more sustainable approach to train Chinese English teachers and to equip them with new and evaluated teaching skills. For the future Lisa hopes that this peer-to-peer teaching program can be extended and enlarged. But she even dreams of an entire new program, where trainees are taught new ways of English teaching - on a more

regular, structured and evaluated basis.

Talking about the difference of working with either Amity volunteers or with hired professionals, Lisa mentioned one of the benefits about cooperating with Amity is that the Chinese teachers experience a different lifestyle. She emphasized that the atmosphere is open, full of discussion and enthusiasm. "It is unique", Lisa said. "The work with Amity Summer English Program teachers is special, because it is not only about teaching English but also about cultural exchange. We have fresh teachers and fresh methods. The teachers have different backgrounds. The last time we had a history teacher and so we could discuss and learn more about history."

**“We are still in the need of good English teachers and good teaching materials.”**

Wang Lei, Director of Foreign Affairs Office of Qilu Normal University in Shandong Province, is a veteran among Amity’s local partners. He has been cooperating with Amity’s international exchange division and teaching programs for 16 years. This long-term collaboration led to close ties and friendship between his university and Amity. His experience, knowledge and judgment of the situation about teaching English in China make him an expert in this field.

Mr. Wang remarked, “For me, the main focus of Amity is Love. Amity brings people together and unconditionally helps all Chinese people who are needy. When Amity was introduced to my university 16 years ago, I soon realized that their engagement and contribution was great. I felt very deeply that Amity is so diligent, patient and thorough and that they really care.”

In 1996, Wang Lei’s university participated in the SEP for the first time. His university had 6 teachers out of 120 SEP overseas participants who were

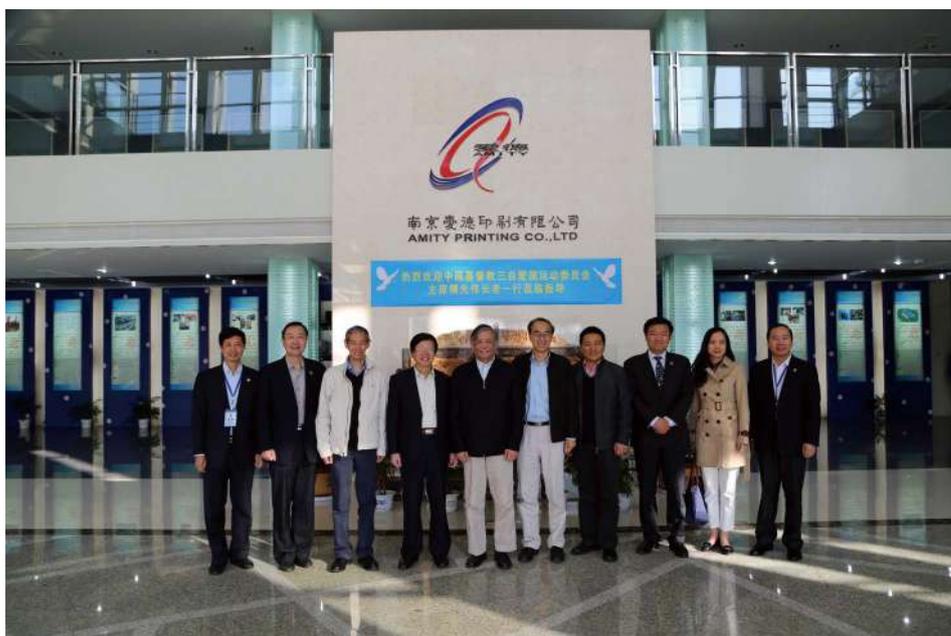
coming to Shandong Province. They all came from the United States and all of them were women. Two years later in 1998 the numbers of participants increased dramatically. The participants arrived by night train and Wang Lei was the only person in charge to picking up at the train station. When 62 foreign teachers got off the train, it was much more than he expected and he did not have enough cars to transport them. Early in that morning, the Director-General of Shandong Provincial Department of Education received them with a welcome speech at the train station. Nowadays, it is much more difficult to recruit volunteers for Amity’s exchange programs.

According to Wang Lei, the main problem is the lack of knowledge of foreigners about China. Most of them only know the famous and big cities like Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Qingdao or Hong Kong. They don’t know about the less developed areas. Not so many foreigners come to those regions and local English teachers don’t have the opportunities to communicate with native speakers. The students learn English from teachers who rarely have talked to native speakers. Their accents and pronunciations are especially poor. As a result, students learn incorrect pronunciations. That is why good English teachers and good English teaching materials are still in need.



Mr. Wang Lei from Shandong Province making a presentation at the workshop

## Elder Fu Xianwei Visits Amity



On November 4th, 2014, a delegation led by Elder Fu Xianwei, Chairman of the Three-self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China (TSPM), visited the Amity Foundation and the Amity Printing Company in Nanjing. Along with Elder Fu in the delegation were Rev. Shan Weixiang, Vice-chairman of the China Christian Council (CCC), and Mr. Kua Wee-seng, director of China Desk, the United Bible Societies and Ministries in China.

The delegation led by Elder Fu Xianwei first visited the Amity Printing Company and received warm welcome by Mr. Qiu

Zhonghui, the General Secretary of the Amity Foundation. Elder Fu expressed his appreciation for the high quality of the bibles, particularly those printed in Braille.

Thereafter, the delegation visited the Amity Foundation headquarters and had discussions with Amity staff. In his speech Elder Fu recalled the intimate and very special relationship between CCC/TSPM and Amity, which is rooted in Bishop K. H. Ting, the former leader of Chinese Christians and the founder of the Amity Foundation.

Elder Fu also articulated his appreciation and recognition of Amity's work in providing various social services in China. He said that the two organizations should intensify their cooperation and work together to explore more approaches of diaconal ministries in China. Remarking that the Amity Foundation provided very good training opportunities for churches in China, especially for diaconal personnel, Elder Fu gave his gratitude for the work Amity has done for the churches so far and hoped that Amity would contribute even more to social development of China in the future.

# Going Green Together

Amity works with local churches to promote environmental protection

On September 28, Amity and the church of Jiangsu Province staged a carnival in the city of Xuzhou. The carnival was well-attended.

By jointly setting up the Jiangsu Christian Fund in 2009, Amity and the church of Jiangsu Province worked together to promote charity efforts and raise the public's awareness of environment protection. Since 2010 various carnivals have been organized. Local churches are usually the hosts of the events. During the carnivals there were musical and dancing performances. Guests of honor gave speeches to advocate environmental approaches, such as the use of low-carbon products.

At the event in Xuzhou, local partner congregations set up booths for selling second-hand clothes and other items in order to raise money for charity and promote the idea of reusability. Various informational flyers and brochures were given out. Boards informed participants about the necessity of environment



protection and the idea of "integrity of creation". A local TV station was on-site and reported about the event. The money raised would be used for church-related projects in the local communities.



## Playing Duets Again

By Hugh Anderson

The elderly woman sat erect in her wheelchair as it was being pushed to the visitors lounge of the Shanghai nursing home. Though frail in body, her mind was alert as she conversed with her two sons who accompanied her. At 96 years old, she has personally experienced much of the tumultuous times of 20th century Chinese history. Her name is Hong Changyu. We were the visitors waiting in the lounge.

Hong Changyu is the widow of the Rev. Zhu Shaotang. Both were co-workers with Teena's grandparents during their mission work in China. They first met Oswald & Irene Goulter, Teena's grandparents, in the 1920's. Coming from a home with an alcoholic father, Zhu Shaotang found a friend in Oswald Goulter who became a surrogate father. Oswald introduced him to a loving, heavenly Father. They worked side by side at the agricultural station in Hefei. Hong Changyu worked with Irene who taught her to play the piano. Their children were playmates with the Goulter's children. Impressed with Zhu's commitment to God, Oswald helped Zhu attend Nanjing Theological Seminary. His theological education, like everything else in China, was interrupted by the Second World War. When the war was over, it was



Five generations

Zhu who walked to Shanghai to bring an emaciated Oswald back home to Hefei from his internment in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. When the Communists took control of the government, Zhu became the director of the agricultural project with Oswald being classified as advisor. Finally, in 1951, the Goulter's reluctantly left China. Oswald and Rev. Zhu would never see each other again. Mrs. Hong was able to see Irene one last time when, along with her sons, she traveled to the United States. Irene was in a nursing home in California. During that last visit together, the two old friends played duets together on the piano.

As we sat in the Shanghai nursing home, sipping tea and sharing stories, we were impressed with the way God has worked in the lives of God's children. There is a book written about Oswald and Irene Goulter titled *Scattered Seeds*. The seeds that were scattered through their ministry in China have taken root and grown into vibrant plants that are producing their own seeds.

Rev. Zhu continued his ministry in Hefei until the Cultural Revolution when he was sent to the countryside for "re-education." When the practice of religion was once again permitted in China, Rev. Zhu became president of Hefei Theological Seminary, training the religious leaders of tomorrow. The library in that seminary is named after Oswald & Irene Goulter. Rev. Zhu also served as the provincial representative of the Amity Foundation which was the first Christian NGO in China. Mrs. Hong served as teacher and nurse in addition to raising her children. One son became a conductor of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. Another followed his father into the ordained ministry and currently serves as the Area Executive for East Asia and the Pacific, Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ.

Oswald, returning to the United States, taught mission studies at Phillips University in Oklahoma until his retirement. Irene continued to tell the story of the need for mission involvement.

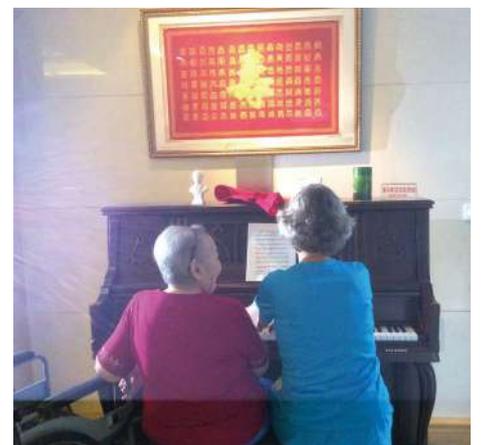
That involvement continued in the lives of their children and their grand-children. Their eldest granddaughter, listening to their stories of mission service in China, felt called to serve in China as well.

Now here was Teena and her husband,

Hugh, sitting in the Shanghai nursing home listening to the memories of Mrs. Hong and her two sons. We are in China sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Amity Foundation. We are teaching English at Chifeng College in Inner Mongolia. With us on our visit is

our son James. James is teaching fourth grade at the Shanghai American School. Unbeknownst to James when he applied for that teaching position, this was the school that his grandmother and her sisters attended in the 1930's. He teaches at the Pudong campus which is the site of the Japanese internment camp where his great-grandfather was held during World War II. James and his wife, Sun Feng-Yi, brought along their ten month old son. Mrs. Hong played with the grandchild of the grandchild of her best friend Irene in the visitors lounge of that Shanghai nursing home. In that scene of the two interacting, five generations of Christian faith were encapsulated.

Before we ended our visit, there was one more thing that we had to do. In the lounge was a piano. Mrs. Hong and Teena sat side by side on the bench and played duets of several Christian hymns.



Hong Changyu and Teena Anderson playing the piano

## Important Notice to Readers

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The Amity Foundation is an independent Chinese voluntary organization founded in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians to promote education, social services, health, rural development, environmental protection, disaster relief, and poverty reduction in the underdeveloped areas of China. Amity projects have benefited more than ten million people both at home and abroad.

The Amity Foundation has more than 80 full-time staffers at its Nanjing headquarters. Hundreds of volunteers work with Amity all over China. The Amity Foundation receives funds from partners abroad as well as in Hong Kong and mainland China.