

Amity Outlook

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**They share the name
“Social Worker”**



愛德基金會
THE AMITY FOUNDATION

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ON THE COVER:

China is stepping into an aging society and having a large number of aging population. One of Amity's focus is elderly care. The work would require more dedication and continuous effort from us and from all walks of life.



New Dreams on the Way - Our prospects and Commitments



The international situation this year remains turbulent and domestic economy is fraught with challenges. In the face of fierce competition from other NGOs, Amity Foundation faces a series of difficulties and challenges. In spite of this, we will continue to forge ahead with our work in “six focuses”, namely, focus on administration in carrying out community construction, focus on serving to motivate social service in the churches, focus on ecumenical sharing to deepen international development, focus on advocacy to propel healthy development of the philanthropy sector, focus on innovation to promote diversified development, and focus on regulation to improve capacity building for the organization.

In terms of rural community development, as an institution devoting over 20 years to the holistic development of rural area, we will continue to engage in the research and implementation of targeted poverty alleviation work. Innovation will be encouraged in the poverty alleviation project specifically in China’s western poverty-stricken regions. Innovative approaches will be applied in rural development projects for new channels and new platforms.

In terms of urban community service, apart from continuing building up Amity International Philanthropy Valley, we plan to expand our community service network in the context of China’s aging problem. In order to explore the feasibility of elderly care service systemization and standardization, by focusing on the needs of empty nesters, we will promote home-based and community-based elderly care service and upgrade our assessment, training and service capacity. Moreover, comprehensive community service centers and

special innovation centers for people with disabilities will be established to meet the increasingly diversified demands of the society.

In terms of social welfare advocacy, we will continue to provide support for NGO development by offering all-around service in project planning, resource mobilization, project implementation and management, financial management and evaluation. Besides, Amity Foundation will, together with celebrities and nine other major foundations, found Amity Chuanyi Philanthropic Culture Fund to promote the inheritance and development of domestic philanthropic culture.

In terms of religion-based philanthropy work, Amity will continue to ensure the proper functioning of Jiangsu Christian Philanthropy Fund, to facilitate the establishment and improvement of social service network and to upgrade the work for Jiangsu Religion-based Philanthropy Training Base, so as to encourage religious groups to have more involvement in China’s social welfare undertakings and to contribute to the harmony between religions and Chinese society.

In terms of international development and communication, Amity Foundation will make its office in Africa as a base and expand its philanthropic programs in Africa to provide care and service to the local African people. Meanwhile, more work and functioning in our Geneva International Office will facilitate a platform for Chinese social organizations, connecting them with the rest of the world and allowing them to fully engage in the international realm.

In terms of innovation, Amity Foundation will implement “Internet Thinking” in close collaboration of both online and offline resources, where involvement of enterprises and volunteers would be a focus. In doing so, we hope the number of supporting groups and the recognition of Amity Foundation by the public will continuously increase.

In terms of operation and management, under the guidance of the recently-published Charity Law, Amity will improve its governing policies and rules and strengthen the management of its organization and projects to ensure cost efficiency in fund using and anticipated benefits of the projects.

In 2017, we will still remain committed to our mission and continue to forge ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Qiu Zhonghui'.

Qiu Zhonghui
Vice Executive Chair of the Board
General Secretary

They Share the Name “Social Worker”

“*What is the meaning of your life? For me it should be: Having growing heart and wisdom every day and making dedication and benefit to the world every day.*” Lin Qingxuan wrote this with all his heart and sensibility. Indeed, this sentence should also be the shared motto of the many people who have devoted themselves to public undertakings and social service.

The third Tuesday of each March is a festival for social workers - the "World Social Work Day". World Social Work Day is the annual opportunity to advocate a social work perspective in political systems that effect the wellbeing of peoples and to celebrate social work's contribution to societies. What exactly does a social worker do? What is a social worker's world like? Upon approaching the answers to these questions, you will be amazed at the light and warmth emitted from these individuals, warming hearts and improving lives.

760,000 professional social workers are working hard in urban and rural areas across China

Over the past decade, social work in China has undergone significant development: A “top-down” system has been established; the career path for professional social workers has been formalized; platforms have multiplied; and more professional services are now provided. According to People’s Daily, the total number of professional social workers in China has reached 760,000, of which more than 280,000 have been employed; there are more than 270,000 social work related professional job positions in



institutions, mass organizations, communities and civil society organizations. All of this reveals a social work service network across urban and rural areas truly taking shape.

We can see social workers everywhere, especially in rehabilitation, women and family services, child welfare, and pension services. They are embodying Amity’s core value of “helping people help themselves” and distributing love and warmth across society.

Social workers set the ground for professional services

We believe a harmonious society must have strong support from social workers, who function as a bridge between individuals, the society, and the government. In those areas and fields that government services are unable to fully cover, social workers bridge the gap and bring their light, warmth, and expertise to people in need. For this reason, the government is very grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of social workers. Li Xiaoxia, Yang Wen and Zhang Lijuan, social workers of the well-known Amity International Philanthropy Valley program, were awarded “Social Worker of the Year” by Qixia District government in 2016. The “Jollyhome – Aging Experiencing Home” established by Jollyhome Service

Center were awarded “2015-2016 Excellent Social Work” and our Jollyhome Service Center were also awarded as “Excellent Social Organization of Qixia District”. These honors and awards are recognition for Amity and its staff and continuously encourage Amity staff on the social work journey.

Amity Star Social Workers and Their Star Programs

Li Xiaoxia, an out-going girl, is already a dab hand at social work. Having dedicated herself to home-based elderly care services for four years in Qixia District and persevered in the front-line work, she has harvested much. "I feel lucky that I have been involved in so many activities, from free lunch for 30 elderly people to ‘Papa and Mama’s Canteen’ program which cost over RMB 5 million, all of these



Yang Wen (left) and Li Xiaoxia (right) were awarded “Social Worker of the Year” by Qixia District government in 2016

make me a witness for the establishment and development of our Home-based Elderly Care Service Center in Qixia District." She said, "For me, the work is not only a working experience and valuable studying process, but a great opportunity to fill my professional knowledge with social practices." Xiaoxia believes that everyone has their own meaning in this world; the world will become better as long as we try our best to explore out full potential, pulling our power together.

"My social work experience started in 2010 as an intern," said Xiaoxia, "later I worked as a full-time social worker and then a supervisor. I am always overwhelmed with gratitude ever since I entered into this field." Xiaoxia's internship was a little bit special. Due to her interest in feminism, Xiaoxia, after her graduation and upon teacher's recommendation, worked at an institution in Tianjin providing outreach to sex workers. Starting from scratch, she worked tirelessly day and night, making step-by-step progress each hour. Through her efforts, she gained the awareness and experience requisite to serving this special population. "We social workers are not saviors. What we can do is limited. But the most important thing is the process in which we communicate with those people who receive our services. We need to show all our respect and provide them with professional services."

Later, in Shenzhen, Xiaoxia's clients were largely senior citizens and middle-aged women. "They have been my momentum to carry on the work," she told us. In serving empty-nest elderly (Note: traditionally in China, adult children take care of and live with their parents. However, in modern China, many are no longer living with parents due to work or other reasons despite social service for the elderly still not being well-established, causing a certain number of elderly to live alone at home without a caretaker

of any kind. These elderly are whom we are referring to as "empty-nest elderly"), Xiaoxia always tries her best to care for and delight these elderly people. Gradually, they begin to consider her as their kin. When festivals or holidays come along, they never forget to reach out to her, no matter where she is currently working. This touches Li Xiaoxia deeply. Xiaoxia attributes the emotions and touching interactions to the day-by-day frankness and sincerity. "During that period, my favorite after-work activity was writing diaries. I wrote about my work and all the stories and sentiment between my clients and me." Xiaoxia drifted to a place of nostalgia as she spoke with us.

Although education levels in China have generally improved, domestic violence remains a problem and many women who suffer do not dare to reach out for help. In the program to advocate anti-domestic violence, Li Xiaoxia composed short plays as a way to increase public awareness, campaign against domestic violence, and inspire women to ask for help upon suffering family abuse. However, there were problems at the start, among which insufficiency of volunteers was the most urgent issue. In this case, Xiaoxia undertook enormous work pressure. She singlehandedly planned shows, displayed themes, formulated procedures, and designed promotions. Everything comes to the persistent person. Eventually, this anti-domestic violence program became a specialty of her institution and was awarded Top Ten Cases of Shenzhen Women Federation.

Since joining Amity, Li Xiaoxia has flourished and matured, both in her personality and professionalism. Towards the elderly in need, Xiaoxia and her team members extend seemingly endless patience and love to provide their professional services. In order to encourage



Yang Wen has been working in the home care service center of Amity Philanthropy Valley for three years

the public, especially young people, to care about the elderly and understand what is like to feel like an inconvenience, Xiaoxia and her team created a project called "Days of Love - Experience the Life of Being Old". Through the use of specially designed equipment, visitors experience a sample of what it is like physically to be aged. Specifically, the equipment restricts movements in order to help young people understand vicariously the physical and mental conditions of the elderly.

The star program "Papa and Mama's Canteen" focuses on the problem of consistent meals for the elderly. Being old is not only a problem of years, but a "comprehensive" problem. Apart from having difficulty in movement, some elderly even lack the ability to self-care or cook. That's the inspiration for Amity staff's establishing the "Papa and Mama's Canteen" program to provide meals for those elderly in need. Taking meals as a starting point, Xiaoxia and her team continued to explore new ways to solve even more problems. Soon, they made a breakthrough

and developed a series of services, including providing entertainment and cultural education, improving home security, implementing social activities, and more.

"A professional social worker should be need oriented, which means we should first identify and assess the needs of the elderly and then create suitable programs to match the needs. Only imagination is not practical because if then they wouldn't feel right for what you offered", Xiaoxia shared with us. "Besides innovation and techniques, More importantly, love, tolerance and a humble heart are enablers for our services. If not, your clients wouldn't feel your sincerity. I have always kept warning myself to avoid making these mistakes."

Before joining Amity Foundation, Yang Wen spent ten years in the City of Zhenjiang as a volunteer, serving single empty-nest elderly. "I believe the change of the world should be a result of small contributions from

everyone rather than big contribution from several people”, Wen explained. After joining Amity Foundation, this value continued to guide Yang Wen to serve the elderly in need. Yang Wen and her colleagues largely work in two ways: work sites and specialty projects. Work sites are regular services while specialty projects are irregular activities based on specific needs or demands from the clients. The purpose of their efforts is to meet the needs of the elderly in matters of life, security, spirit, and culture.

Further, advocacy is also an important part of Wen’s work. “Social workers are not supposed to be the only people that care for the elderly,” Wen said. “We hope all of society gets to know this vulnerable group and their difficulties and we call for more people to notice the physical and spiritual life of the elderly and to care for and lighten the elderly’s lives. That’s what we are doing.”

Common values and goals shared across Amity Foundation empower a flow of innovative ideas from our social workers. The "Days of Love - Experience the Life of Being Old" program by Amity Jolly Home Service Center was awarded the 3rd prize among 2015-2016 Nanjing Excellent Social Work Projects. Recognition and the furthering of the Amity mission is the fruit of efforts like these by Amity social workers. By wearing specially designed clothes and props, young visitors are “transformed” into elderly people so that the conditions, movements, and hopefully feelings of elderly people can be experienced by the visitors. Through this kind of experiment, the true taste of the daily life of senior people from figure, movement of limbs, sight, hearing, touching sense, etc. would arouse in the visitors more empathy and even provide them with more understanding towards those suffering cognitive disorders. Our social workers believe that the project has the potential to stimulate further construction and development of an elderly-

friendly society. Since the beginning of the project in 2013, nearly 20 large-sized outdoor-experience activities have been held, attracting over 5,000 people, including domestic students and overseas friends from all walks of life. People have shown appreciation and recognition towards the project and good social results have thus been achieved.



The "Days of Love - Experience the Life of Being Old" program by Amity Jolly Home Service Center

Press a Button and Enjoy Service at Home

“See, professional workers will come to help me. All I do is just press this button! Simple huh?” said Grandpa Wang happily while pointing to a white square machine next to his bed. Grandpa Wang lives in Tingzhu Community, Xigang Street, Qixia District of Nanjing, which is one of the communities covered by Amity projects.

“Yes that’s true. Our microwave oven broke down the other day. I tried pressing the button. You know what? A mechanist soon came to fix it after learning about the details on the phone,” added Grandpa Wang’s wife.

With the quick and constant expansion of China’s aging population, elderly people living alone are badly in need of care and concern from society as a whole. Not having family around, it is tough for them to deal with problems when faced with trouble or danger. In considering this issue, Amity Philanthropy Valley, together with Nanjing 12349 Civil Hotline, established the Qixia District Contact Center. The center caters to five kinds of elderly people, including empty-nest elderly living alone. By installing special emergency-call equipment, the joint effort provides broad services including emergency calls, consultations, and a slew of additional services in relation to meals, medical aid, shopping, transportation, entertainment, showering, emergencies, and sanitary function.

Since November 2016, the contact center has integrated resources from three 4A social organizations and 30 AAA social organizations, as well as four housekeeping and appliance-repair companies to provide 24/7 services for the elderly. This service program has expanded and is now



Care worker is providing manicuring service for the elderly

being implemented in many communities. Furthermore, the government now purchases these services for empty-nest elderly and they can enjoy the service free of charge.

Not long ago, the emergency-call system proved lifesaving. An elderly person had a heart attack at midnight and was able to use all his effort to press the button. The emergency call was connected with the contact center and his son. The contact center immediately called an ambulance and the man was saved. When an elderly person presses the button, their information appears on the contact center’s monitors instantly, alerting the staff with alarms. Knowing the caller’s, name, address, health condition, emergency contact and more, they are then able to choose the correct course of action without delay.

By providing this kind of around-the-clock help to the elderly, we are able to make a growing number of them feel loved and cared for as they enjoy the comprehensive services from our team of professional social workers.

My Ten Years' Dedication to a Dream

By Zhang Yi'e



Zhang Yi'e (fourth from the right, upper row) with her team of colleagues and volunteers

I have dedicated ten years to my job as a social worker since graduating from Nanjing Normal University in 2007 with a social work major. Confusion and fatigue are inevitable along this road, including in my traversing of it; but, these forces are unable to cause me to give up, because a dream keeps driving me forward.

I am familiar with the confusion on people's faces when they learn that I am a social worker. In the early years of my career, I used to feel depressed about the fact that few people knew about social work. I could not help asking myself, "Why did I choose this career? Why am I so passionate about this job?"

The answer lies in my four years of college life and instruction. I want to put into practice the basic principle of social work given in the textbook—helping people help themselves; I want to use my professional knowledge to

help people in need; I want to realize my original intention with the greatest sincerity. So, why do I care about whether the name of "social worker" is familiar to other people?

Ten years' dedication to the service of others has caused me to mature. The experience of being a within Amity Foundation has greatly touched me and endowed me with a great sense of achievement, thereby making me realize that I am maximizing my value of life in contributing there.

At first, my job was to offer service to adults with intellectual disability before being transferred to the department of children's services. Once during an activity, I ran into a parent of a child that I had previously served. I was going to greet him when he grabbed my hands and said, "Oh Teacher Zhang! Long time no see! We miss you so much..." I was taken aback and failed to reply for a short while because of my surprise at receiving such sincere affection in return for helping others.

The last ten years have seen vigorous development of social work in China. The government has focused on cultivating professional social workers, contributing to the professional development of this trade. The scope of potential work for social workers has also been expanded to an unprecedented level as those from colleges and universities have started to get opportunities to intern in hospitals, judicial authorities, nursing institutions for the aged, etc. Nowadays we can see more and more social workers devoting their enthusiasm in various sectors. These pleasant changes inspire us social workers to believe in the enormous potential of our social service career. We will certainly achieve our ambition of benefiting society as long as we unite in a concerted effort.

Love Is to Accept

By Ren Ying

It has been nine years since I joined Amity Home of Blessings to work as a special education teacher. During this period, I've worked hard and got the certificate of assistant social worker and the certificate of intermediate social worker, and thus realized my dream of being a professional social worker.

Amity Home of Blessings helps those mentally retarded or those with minor psychoses aged over 16. Before first meeting them I had quite some imagination and made a lot of preparations. I expected to build a harmonious relationship with them and set up mutual trust between us at the very beginning.

I still remember that day when I uneasily walked into the classroom for the first time, a tall boy suddenly stood up and stared at me: "who are you? What are you doing here?" It took me by surprise but I soon calm down. Though he spoke with a lisp, from his eyes I saw a child's frankness and innocence. I went to the boy shaking hands with him, introduced myself with a smile and asked his name gently. Feeling my kindness, he told me his name confidently. I then realized that it's not that difficult to get close to them. At that moment, I felt that I was accepted. And I appreciated from the bottom of my heart that this was an unconditional acceptance.

In the following days, we had meals together, studied together, sang and danced together, and have fun together. Gradually, I became more and more fond of their natural and real expression of themselves, which is not commonly seen in the society nowadays.



Ren Ying is talking to a trainee who graduated from Amity Home of Blessings and is working in Pizza Hut

Of course, there were always hard times. Besides our clients, we also have to communicate with their families. The highest possibility of recovery can only be reached when smooth cooperation between the families and the teachers are set up. However, sometimes, certain words and deeds of these special students and some factual problems during teaching process could cause misunderstandings of their families. As a result, we would receive inappropriate words and even deeds from the families. To be frank, I felt very frustrated whenever similar case happens.

Usually during this time, I would put myself in their shoes. It made me relieved as long as I thought of the hardship they have to go through and the pressure suffered by them. Why I choose this career? And how about all those dreams I used to have? Why should I give up? No way. Love is to accept all their good and bad. Love is to keep going and keep working hard!

Inter-religious Efforts against Poverty

In the year 2017, the five major religions of Jiangsu Province continue to jointly support the poverty alleviation efforts in Sandu County, Guizhou Province. End of March (27-29 March), a delegation of religious leaders of the five major religions, government staff and Amity Foundation representatives visited poverty alleviation projects and attended activities in the county. The delegation of 20 people was led by Mr. Li Guohua, Deputy Director of Jiangsu Religious Affairs Bureau.

The joint efforts of the religious communities are a response to the call of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and of the Chinese government to eradicate poverty. After a joint assessment in 2014, the

religious communities of Jiangsu Province got actively involved in poverty alleviation in Sandu since 2015.

On March 28, the five major religious groups and the Amity Foundation donated a total of RMB 10 million to support the engineering and construction work of The Fourth Kindergarten of Sandu County, the school building of Niuchang Primary School, the school building of Lalan Primary School and the dining hall of Liangqiao Primary School, and project development and implementation work of other community development projects.

From March 24 to 30, the Amity Mobile Medical Team, consisting of nine medical professionals, went to Sandu Shui Ethnic Autonomous County in Guizhou Province



The delegation is visiting villages in Sandu County



Launch of an online health diagnosis platform for remote regions without access to proper health care

and provided one-week free healthcare service for disadvantaged people in local communities. During the event, the team also provided on-site guidance for medical staff from the local hospital, the People's Hospital of Sandu County.

The team members were expert and medical doctors in orthopedics, gastroenterology, general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, otorhinolaryngology, pediatrics and cardiovascular from six widely recognized hospitals in Nanjing and Zhenjiang.

Apart from free medical care, team members also provided suggestions to improve local medical conditions. Doctors from the team found that the number of patients with high blood pressure was close to 10% of the total



Opening ceremony of The Fourth Kindergarten of Sandu County

population, mostly caused by high sodium intake, which required proper guidance to adjust local eating habits. Moreover, drug provision needed to be improved to match frequently-occurring diseases and common diseases found among local people. At the same time, education on health

knowledge is necessary for disease prevention and control among local people. Lastly, further trainings are to be provided for primary-level doctors to improve diagnosing and medical treatment skills.



Free healthcare for one of Lalan's communities



The delegation is visiting projects that provide free healthcare for disadvantaged people in local communities

Amity healthcare program

The Amity healthcare program is one of the most important projects of Amity Foundation. Aiming to solve the problems of lacking medical treatment and medicine in underdeveloped areas, Amity raised funds from both home and abroad over years to develop various projects on health, including village doctor trainings, village clinics constructions, medicine provision, mobile medical care, purchase of medical vehicles, community-based health promotion, HIV/AIDS prevention and community rehabilitation. Over the years, Amity has established cooperation with local health departments in dozens of provinces, trained more than 16,000 village doctors and 6,000 town doctors, supported building more than 750 village clinics, completed more than 30 large-sized healthcare and HIV prevention projects and donated 4 medical vehicles for mobile healthcare to hospitals in Qinghai, Tibet and Gansu Provinces. So far, the positive influence of the projects has been impressive. Most of these trained village doctors are still active in rural healthcare work and the leading person and representative of them – Doctor Li Chunyan from Congjiang County of Guizhou Province, who graduated from the Amity training program - won the award for Top 10 Characters in Touching China 2005.

To improve the situation that poor areas usually lack proper medical treatment and medicine, Amity Foundation formed the Amity Mobile Medical Team in the early 1990s, which usually comprises professionals from well-known hospitals across the country. The team goes to Hunan, Jiangxi, Shandong, Shaanxi, Jiangsu and other provinces on a regular basis to provide free health clinic. With certain help from local hospitals, the free medical consultation, diagnosis and treatment provided by Amity Mobile Medical Team have received wide welcome and sound effects among disadvantaged people.

Amity's Second Board Meeting of the Third Board Held in Nanjing



More than 20 people attended Amity's second Board Meeting of the Third Board

Amity Foundation's Third Board met for the second time in Nanjing on the afternoon of 15 April, 2017. Over 20 people took part, including Mr. Zhao Long, Amity Foundation's consultant and former deputy director of the Jiangsu Provincial National People's Congress, Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, Amity Foundation's Deputy Board Chairman cum General Secretary, members of the Third Board of Directors, members of the Board of Supervisors and other relevant Amity staff. The Board passed Amity Foundation's 2016 Annual Report and Financial Report, as well as its 2017 Annual Plan and Financial Budget. After due consideration, it passed Amity Foundation's application to be a recognized charity organization and amended the Articles of Association of the Amity Foundation, in order to



General Secretary Qiu Zhonghui reviews Amity's work in 2016 and plans for the future

meet the new legal requirements for foundations in China. In addition, the meeting also decided about the establishment of an assets management committee and other important matters.

General Secretary Qiu Zhonghui presented Amity's



Group photo of Amity Foundation's Third Board in front of Amity's headquarters in Nanjing

2016 Annual Report and its Annual Plan for 2017. Along with all the hard work of the entire Amity staff, Amity's income reached in 235 million, the highest in Amity's history with a record-breaking RMB 130 million from online donations in 2016. General Secretary Qiu gave a detailed description of some of Amity's main projects, including rural community development, urban community services, brand promotion, resource development, support of the third sector and advocacy. Furthermore, he outlined Amity's unique development through the three areas: internationalization, religious charity and community enterprises.

General Secretary Qiu emphasized that Amity promotes the healthy development of non-profit institutions in accordance with laws and regulations, the development of standardization and professionalization of NGO-management and Amity's three philanthropic principles of transparency, professionalism and virtue. These methods have proven to be effective in practice. In 2017, Amity will continue to steadily advance in each of the six main areas of work compliant with its strategic framework: a focus on governance to promote community development, social services through

churches, to intensify the process of international cooperation, to focus on the healthy development of the third sector, leveraging creativity to facilitate diversification in development, and improving institutional capacity building in accordance with the regulatory framework. The Board held a lively discussion on Amity's 2016 Annual Report and Financial Report, as well as the 2017's Annual Plan and Financial Budget. They highly commended Amity's exceptional performance in 2016, along with suggestions for Amity's main focuses of work and development philosophies in 2017.

The Board members felt that Amity is a role model among NGOs in China in the fields of overall restructuring of the institution, public service advocacy and international development. At the same time, Amity is implementing actual projects, thus being a model NGOs, both in China and overseas. The Boards hopes that Amity can continue to strengthen peoples' capacity building and develop talents for the sector. Furthermore, the Board expressed the opinion that Amity can play a unique role as a non-government organization in China's 'One Belt One Road' initiative. By building a strong social foundation of social engagement, strengthening international responsibility and promoting religious groups to participate in philanthropy, Amity can facilitate sustainable development through faith based traditions and resources, and capitalize on the rapid expansion of the internet. And its uniqueness to innovate, consolidate and enhance cooperative areas and platforms. With increased support from the public, Amity's project promotion should be accompanied by sharing the valuable vision and professional etiquette gained in the last three decades. This would bring out the sophistication of the Amity brand and thereby gaining further popular support.

U.S. Consul General Visits Amity Bakery



Amity Bakery staff is showing Hanscom Smith Amity Bakery product line.

On March 22, 2017, Mr. Hanscom Smith, the Consul General at the United States Consulate General in Shanghai visited the Amity Bakery in Nanjing. Amity's General Secretary Mr. Qiu Zhonghui accompanied Mr. Hanscom Smith to an Amity Bakery outlet and training base in Nanjing. Together they participated in Service-Learning Training activities.

During the training activities, Mr. Hanscom Smith shared an oat cookie recipe from his hometown to the Amity Bakery. Amity staff were really delighted to receive such cookie recipe with original taste and flavor.

Amity aims to serve as a platform for advocacy and for raising awareness on issues of underprivileged people. Therefore, Amity Bakery promotes youth employment and provides hope, equal participation and a dignified life for the mentally challenged people and their families. The Amity Bakery bridges those families and the wider society by promoting



Hanscom Smith and Amity management staff are meeting at the Amity Bakery.



Hanscom Smith is making cookies with General Secretary Mr. Qiu and Amity Bakery staff.

integration and understanding.

Furthermore, Mr. Qiu explained the Consul General more aspects of Amity's work, including Amity's internationalization, the development of social organizations in China and Amity's efforts in disaster relief cooperation.

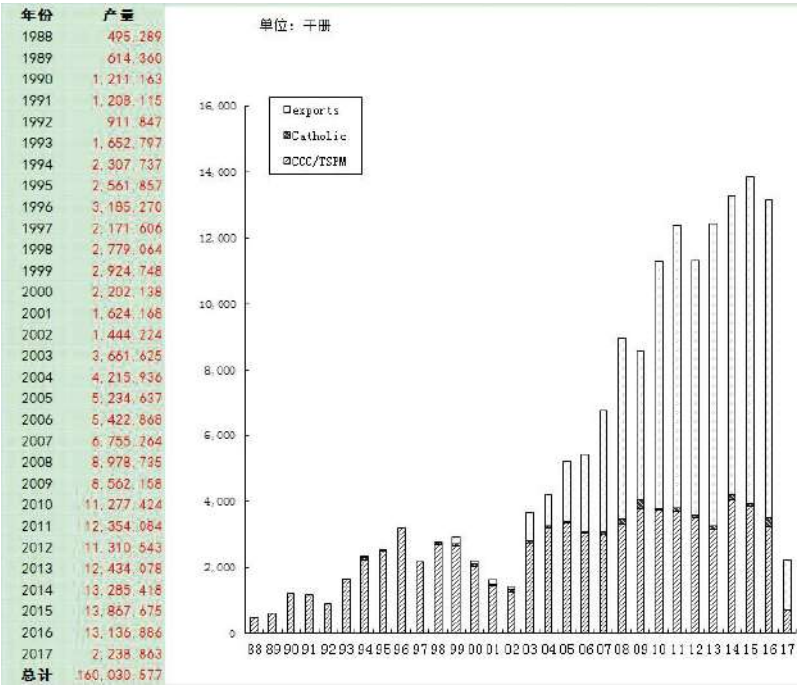
Last but not least, Mr. Qiu presented Mr. Hanscom Smith a copy of Amity's 30th Anniversary Bible and the Amity Bakery staff received cooking books as return presents from the American guests.

Short Film "The Fountain of Life"

Amity Printing Company celebrated its 30 years anniversary and also celebrated printing of its 150 millionth Bible on 8 November, 2016. In the year of 2016, owing to the diligent work of the staff, Amity Printing Company, Amity Printing produced 21.2 million hard cover books, of which 13.14 million were Bibles. More than 3.52 million Bibles were produced for the Chinese Christians and over 9.62 million Bibles for export. In March 2017, the Amity Printing Company printed its 160th million Bible.

To celebrate Amity Printing's latest milestones we feature the short film "The Fountain of Life", dedicated to all those who contribute to the Amity Bible Printing Ministry. The story is about three generations of a Christian family in China and gives a glance how the country and spreading the gospel has changed through different historic times in China.

To watch the film, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfHKNsnnLI>.



Amity Printing Company's Bible production by year



Screenshot of "The Fountain of Life"

Amity Teams Up to Support Orphans in Guangdong



As part of the Amity's Rural Orphan Fostering Project, Amity Foundation and Guangdong Orphan Support and Education Society signed a cooperation agreement to fund 2,000 orphans in poverty-stricken areas in Guangdong Province over the next three years. Associate Secretary General of Amity He Wen and Associate Secretary General of Guangdong Orphan Support and Education Society Ge Xiaohong signed the agreement on behalf of the two organizations.

In 2002, the Amity Foundation started the rural orphans fostering project, to support orphans in poverty-stricken areas by providing grants for basic living expenses, including medical treatment as well as education. In 2008, the Tencent Foundation teamed up with Amity and jointly started to raise funds online for this project. Up to March 2017, more than 128 million Yuan was raised to support those children in need. The orphans are mainly distributed in more than 330 counties in Jiangsu, Henan, Shandong, Guizhou, Yunnan, Sichuan, Ningxia, Guangxi and Chongqing Province. Up to now, Amity has helped more than 24,000 orphans up to now.

Although Guangdong province is on the forefront of economic development in China, due to the uneven development of rural and urban areas, there are regions in northern Guangdong where people are still living in poverty. Especially for orphans who lack the love of parents, life is difficult and many of them drop out of school. "I am happy Amity Foundation and the Orphan Education Society in Guangdong are working together and I hope we will be able to help more children who are in need and will give them the equal opportunity of education, and healthy grow-up and raise awareness within the larger society with the aim to nurture social volunteers who serve the public," says He Wen. According to statistics, Orphan Education Society in Guangdong has provided support for 24,346 students since 2004.

By providing visits and camps, Amity supports the psychological well-being of the orphans and ensures that the help is received. Therefore, the Amity Foundation is cooperating with local grassroots NGOs sharing the same holistic vision as Amity and as it is stated in the Sustainable Development Goals: No one is left behind.

Overseas Volunteers Attend Amity Winter Conference



From January 9 to January 14, the Winter Conference of Amity's International Exchange and Education Division took place in Zhangjiajie, Hunan Province. Once a year Amity's overseas volunteers and long-term teachers gather to exchange and share their experiences of their service in China. About 40 people from six countries of Amity's various exchange programs attended the conference. Besides workshops for Amity's overseas volunteers, the conference also organized a workshop for Amity's Chinese local partners to enhance the well-being and placement of the overseas volunteers.

On the first day the staff of Amity's International Exchange and Education Division gave presentations about the department's latest developments. Over the last years, the department could extend its activities and programs. Meanwhile the number of programs has increased to eight and the exchange goes not only from north to south, but also vice versa and south-south exchange. In 2016, Amity's international education programs benefitted more than 8,000 people directly.



The volunteers introducing their work (up) and preparing for teaching sessions at a village school in Yongshun County (down).

The Pfrang international program is recognized and supported from an increasing number of people in China. The Pfrang Association was founded in 2000, after the tragedy of the Pfrang family being murdered by burglars. The Association encourages people to support impoverished children to receive education. In 2016, 17 schools with 308 students participated in the program. Olivia, a staffer who accompanied the program over the past years shared her experiences of the program: "Money is one thing, but it is not the most important. We have no power to change the overall



Volunteers teaching English at a village school supported by Amity.

situation of lacking education in underdeveloped areas. But we can make small steps. We give hope. It is so touching."

During the conference, groups of overseas volunteers gave presentations about their placements, their work and shared experiences. One YAP volunteer said: "You can really see, it is so difficult for the people to receive good education. Most students come from the countryside." Furthermore, the volunteers received training for their future work and prepared teaching sessions for students of a mountain school that was built and supported by the Amity Foundation. During exposure trips the participants learned more about Hunan Province and Amity's development projects in the region.

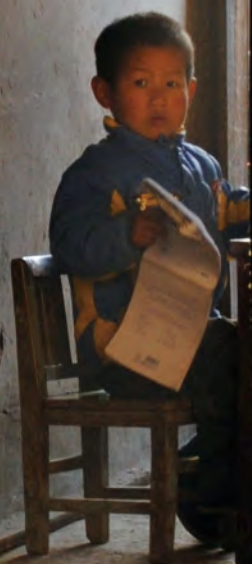
After the conference Amity's YAP participants held the mid-term seminar of their volunteering service. To experience more about the YAP volunteers and their volunteering service in China you can watch the two videos Volunteering in China I (<https://youtu.be/n1pWcdRK558>) and Volunteering in China II (<https://youtu.be/DpxWp0IT0Zs>), presented by a local TV station in Yumen.



Reflections and Suggestions on Social Work for Children in Difficult Circumstances

By Zhou Liting, Qiu Min and Wei Guosheng

Insights



Undoubtedly, the level of minors protection represents the level of civilization of a country; also, it is a key factor to measure the development potential of a country. Children in difficult circumstances, due to physically challenged body conditions, special family structure or unfair social treatment, suffer more in their body, spirit and mind than other children. Now, social workers, with the value of equality, caring and self-value fulfillment, get involved in the protection work for children in difficult circumstances, struggling for better living conditions for these children. We conducted an in-depth research based on the results of the social work provided by the Minor Protection Center of Qixia District of Nanjing. The purpose of the research is to discover how social work can have professional intervention in the difficult circumstances those children have been trapped in and to think about what are the implications for our work of minors protection.

The concept of "children in difficult circumstances" and its social and legal background

As early as 1989, 188 countries unanimously adopted the Convention on the rights of child in the UN General Assembly, which provided dozens of rights for children, including right to live, right to develop, right to be protected and right to be part of a family, culture and social life.

As one of the contracting countries, China passed the Law of the People's Republic of China on the protection of minors (hereinafter referred to as the "Protection Law") in the meeting of National People's Congress held in 1991. It marked an initial formation of China's juvenile safety network.

In 2013, the Ministry of Civil Affairs issued the Notice on Trial Work for Social Protection of Minors, which clearly pointed out that the government aims "to help those children in difficult circumstances and their families to solve problems in life, guardianship, education and development, to explore a system for social protection of minors, to eliminate minors-begging and other injurious acts and to ensure the healthy growth of minors".

In December 2014, the Supreme Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of Public Security jointly issued the Opinions on Treatment of Infringement upon the Rights of Minors by Guardians in accordance with Laws, which established an intervention system for monitoring. Although the two documents laid certain foundation for minors protection, they provide no specific responsible bodies for the protection, which leads to lack of support for victims in infringement cases.

As a result, quite a few local government authorities began to set up their own minors protection rules. The city of Nanjing is just the case.



Nanjing's efforts and progress in minors protection work

Nanjing municipal government issued the Implementation Plan for Social Protection of Minors in Nanjing in July 2014, which provided that Nanjing Civil Affairs Bureau shall guide the work for social protection of minors. Later, the Homeless Minors Protection Center of Nanjing was renamed as Minors Protection Center and its authority to protect was expanded.

In August 2015, the Rules for Protection of Minors in Nanjing (Draft) was discussed and later approved by the Standing Committee of the Jiangsu Provincial People's Congress in December. This Rules is the very first local regulation across the country focusing on minors protection work. In February 2016, Nanjing municipal government further issued an implementation opinion, which emphasized the involvement of social organization.

In 2015, Qixia government introduced a professional social organization, the Amity Foundation, to establish Qixia District Minors Protection Center (the "District Center"), aiming to provide professional and proper social service for minors within the district and set up a special platform for the running of minors protection.

The District Center then conducted a survey and

assessment on children in difficult circumstances within the district. Results showed that problems focused on i) lack of guardianship, ii) lack of family support and iii) lack of parental education and parenting counseling. Now, from the work that the District Center has done, we can see that the protection of children in difficult circumstances involves discovery, identification, reporting, assessment, review, support and supervision, where professional social work can play an important role. Amity's social work often provides suggestions and guidance for local government to formulate and improve its policies and implementation measures on minors protection and allows a better connection between government and local civil society organizations, which in turn benefit the improvement of the District Center.

Professional social work requires strong involvement from the administrative authorities

The services in connection with children in difficult circumstances are not independent and requires supports and assistance from all walks of life. In terms of government authorities, involvement from the existing administrative system is highly necessary for support of social work of the District Center. However, the administrative authorities is only able to solve problems on administration and deployment. Detailed implementation work like designing, planning, formulation, implementation and other are still something for the social organization to be concerned with.

Family ecology is the emphasis of intervention work

Family, the first school for every human being, is an incubator for minors to become socialized. As we all know, family relation and structure have significant influence over the personality of a person and is a key factor in his/her development. From the results of the survey and assessment done by the District Center, among

154 children in difficult circumstances, total number of minors with problems such as lack of guardianship, alienated family relation, lack of parenting education and incomplete family function accounted for more than 85% of the respondents. We believe, although other social supports are very necessary, family still plays the key role in the growth of a minor, which has to be the key emphasis of Amity's involvement. It still remains to be investigated and discussed that how professional social workers can intervene in the growth of children in difficult circumstances from the perspective of family.

Demand-oriented service is a must

We are living in a diversified modern society, where potential risks are everywhere. This results in various reasons for certain groups of minors to get in difficulties. It is discovered that problems and demands remain different depending on the specific type of children in difficult circumstances. We found in the investigation that although Nanjing municipal government issued an implementation opinion on classified security system in February 2016, the existing service provision system still involves no classification, which leads to chaos in the provision process.

Professionalism is to be improved

On the one hand, with the continuous change of social environment, reasons for children in difficult circumstances vary. If we keep relying on the existing professional system, inefficient service provision would be inevitable. On the other hand, social work itself just starts its way in China, its development and localization will promote the development of professionalism, which, in turn, may provide technical solution for the protection of children in difficult circumstances and thus secure the professionalism of social work and social service providers.

In order to upgrade our social services for children in difficult circumstances and in order to attract the whole society and professional social workers to be more involved in the service so as to exchange experience and practice, we made the following suggestions:

● Introduce and cultivate professional organizations

Social work organization, a body that is able to gather more resources than an individual, is in a proper position to enhance children's social function and mitigate government's problem of lacking human resources. And the newly-added job position of "supervisor" is another effort to further the development of social work in order to ensure the professional status of social workers in the intervention protection of minors.

● Leverage on social work organizations' advantage on assessment

Assessment from professional social service providers represents fairness and justice from a third party, which contributes to the establishment of security system of justice in society. After the related donations has been distributed to the people in need, how can we get to know the living status of those children that received donations, whether relevant funds have been used to the children, only spot check is not enough. We believe regular supervision should be implemented and it would be even better if a third professional party is introduced to ensure a complete mechanism for the work.

● Increase social support from the perspective of family ecosystem

1) Identification. It is necessary to increase

professional social workers' capability in identifying the structure of the targets' family and identifying those problems lying in the family systems. 2) Intervention. Based on the specific family system, social workers shall formulate a detailed family intervention scheme, especially on "joint family therapy" and "structured family therapy" and explore a suitable way to apply the scheme to the service. 3) Review. After any intervention therapy, social workers shall review the process and find out any issues arising from the process and refer to the guidance or help from family therapy experts.

- **Improve the professional ability of social workers and social organizations**

In order to increase the confidence of social workers and improve their service skills, it is necessary to include more on-the-job training and give courses and seminars on professional skills. We encourage social workers to accumulate experience in providing services for children in difficult circumstances and try to find out specific rules and solutions as reference materials to guide other social workers.

- **Classified implementation and targeted support**

Based on the needs of different groups of minors, we shall make progress by steps, set up standards by classes and ensure full compliance. Government authorities and social forces, when conducting minors protection, shall maximize the rights and interests of minors.



Dance to A Wonderful Life

Always, we revel in the beautiful performances of dancers on the stage. Have you ever imagined, everyone can show her shining figure on the stage of life? Amity Foundation believes that given a suitable platform, the great potential in all women can be triggered, so that they may be able to live a wonderful life of their own.



"I'm getting to like expressing my ideas."

Li Hulan, from Minliang Village, Menglai Town, Cangyuan County of Yunnan Province, is a well-known activist among the villagers. She took the lead in Microfinance Project initiated by Amity Foundation. She was also one of the first group of women who joined the Cangyuan County Rural Development Association. Years of active involvement in all kinds of activities organized by the association have improved her practice and capability to a significant extent.

In 2011, Hulan, as a representative of Menglai Town Project Area, participated in the project seminar held by Amity in Inner Mongolia. Apart from studying hard during the meeting, Hulan displayed her special expertise by integrating elements of folk songs of the Wa ethnic group into activities. Her innovation won her bursts of applause from the participants.

"In the past, I even felt embarrassed to talk with strangers, let alone to sing a song for others. After a few years of being part of the association, I have changed and I can see my improvement. Now I like to express my ideas. I do hope that through a variety of occasions and opportunities, those who have not been to Washan can know more about the Wa ethnic group and our culture through the songs and dances. As one of the Wa ethnic group, I feel obliged to contribute to the publicity, and it is the right thing to do."

Beautiful village doctor

During the Village Doctor Training Program initiated by Amity Foundation, a rural doctor named Lei Xuezhen impressed everybody. Xuezhen's career as a village doctor started from April 20, 1998 in Xian'e Village. To our surprise, she went to the city of Shijiazhuang to learn traditional Chinese medicine, all at her own cost, to improve medical expertise. Further, her hard work has been recognized and highly commented by the villagers and the local government. Besides working as a doctor, she also enthusiastically joined in Amity's biogas establishment and the toilet improvement project. She visited the villages and households introducing and explaining the importance of the project. Through all her efforts, villagers

were convinced and began to accept those transformation, even take the initiative to ask for the establishment and improvement. So far, over 60 families have set up their own biogas system and rebuilt their toilets.

Over the past 17 years, Amity Foundation Village Doctor Training Program trained 16,022 rural doctors in total, among whom one third were women.

The breeding story of a post-80's young lady

"Oh you cannot imagine all those twists and turns in looking for a job in the big city," said Tang Rong. "After that, I suddenly realized that it is never easy to settle down in the city. I need to resign to return to my hometown and do something there." Tang Rong, a girl born during the 1980s, is a villager from Mawan Village, Shitan Town, Langzhong City, Sichuan Province. Following her graduation from secondary school, she moved to a big city to look for a job. Like she told us, she finally returned to her hometown and started her own business. "All roads lead to Rome," she said. "why can't I use farming and breeding to get out of poverty?"

"I don't have too much money to start and I didn't go to college," Tang Rong added. "After thinking twice, I chose duck breeding as my start point. Low cost, short cycle, large output, stable market and significant sales potential." Tang Rong, after careful research, finally decided to introduce a new variety called "Yuanyang Duck", which boasts a broad prospect. When she learned that the Well-being Development Association was set up by Amity Foundation to help women in Shitan Town, she applied to join in the association and was elected as the first vice president due to her outstanding capabilities. Talking about her dream, she hopes that women in rural area will be more independent and brave and share each other's experience through the platform of Shitan Town Women Association. She believes that people, especially women in rural area, also have the right to achieve their value in life.

The Shitan Town Women Well-being Development Association is a women organization established by local women with the support of Amity Foundation. The target of the association is to enhance social status of women in the rural areas by improving their well-being awareness and standard and fostering their development capability.

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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.