

# Amity Outlook

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Amity,  
way for  
amiable ladies





# Contents

## Time with the General Secretary

02 Social work and social organizations in China

## Cover Story

04 Amity, way for amiable ladies

## Figure

13 Great love from her

18 Holding up half the sky

## Vision

21 Young social workers' challenge

## Amity News

27 Amity and churches in Gansu establish fund for social needs

28 Luzhou Church and Amity set up joint fund for the needy

29 Winter Conference of Amity's international exchange programs

31 Relief for people affected by the Taiwan earthquake

32 Warm Winter Sun for E-action children

33 Diakonie Germany visits Amity



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#### ON THE COVER:

From January 12th to 13th, 2018, Amity organized “E-action Warm Sun” winter visit to Amity project site in Tengchong, Yunnan Province. Sponsors visited these “E-action Children” to get to know their needs and conditions, and to bring them encouragement and warmth.





## Social work and social organizations in China

**S**ocial work, in a broader sense, is the general term for all service and activities that are guided by altruistic values, based on scientific knowledge, and using scientific methods to help people.

Professions and fields of China's social work have gradually recovered after the Reform and Opening-up. Various social organizations and institutions have emerged. Social work and social organizations in China appear special as:

- Unlike service providers in Hong Kong, Taiwan and other parts of the world, who usually incorporate their specialty of social work in various services they provide,

social work in mainland China often exists in the form of independent organizations or institutions (such as social work centers)

- Chinese social organizations are social work organizations in one way as they do engage in social development work, but are not fully social work organizations in the other sense as the latter has more or less specific fields, target group, scope of service etc while Chinese social organizations are only engaged in some elements; and

- In the past, philanthropic projects carried out by social organizations in China often highlighted results

and outputs. Today, with the development of society, current philanthropic projects are paying more attention on processes and sustained impact, which reflects more of "helping people help themselves" in social work.

From Amity's practice, I divide relationship between today's social organization and social work in China into two types:

1.Social organization includes social work in its philanthropic projects. For example, Amity NGO Development Center, in addition to its other work, carries out trainings on social work, providing support and service for the capacity building of social workers, while Amity International Philanthropy Valley Care Home directly provides professional social service to our clients. Social work helps promote the development of our philanthropic projects and the achievement of our goals.

2.The concept and value of social work has been embedded in the philanthropic projects of social organizations. For instance, Amity community development projects, whether rural or urban, have adhered to a participatory and people-oriented development. Spurring endogenous awareness and intends of the individuals and effecting community-based consultation mechanism have been the bases of Amity's operation.

Therefore, I conclude the relationship between social organization and social work in China as "inclusive and co-prosperous". Social work plays an important role in social governance through linking government, social organizations and enterprises to respond to

social needs. Although some social problems cannot be completely solved through social work, yet tension could be eased. This ease of tension is beneficial to personal development, community harmony, social progress, and national stability. Coordinated community development centered around governance is one of the six strategic outlines of Amity.

Regarding the future of social work, hot issues, focuses and difficulties in social development (e.g. for the current Chinese society, the elderly service and the integration of new and old citizens in the process of urbanization) should always be the emphasis of social work. Social workers should be wherever social problems are found.

With the individualization and diversification of the needs of our people, social work is taking a bigger stake in China's social development. In my opinion, its professionalism will be prominent, this group will be more functioning and social workers will receive more recognition from the public.

In this regard, in embracing the new era and new opportunities, let's get to know a group of social workers to experience their journey.



Qiu Zhonghui  
Chair of the Board and General Secretary  
Amity Foundation



## Amity, way for amiable ladies

In over 30 years of social service, Amity has been devoted to all kinds of service. In recent years, in addition to its own projects, Amity has been committed to assisting social organizations by coordinating resources, to plant love in society.

In Amity's cooperative network, we met a number of female leaders from social organizations. Their social service may start from some special moments or inherently from the family they grew up in. However, they have one thing in common. That is, they cultivate love seeds until blossom, from one area to every corner they can reach.

Let's come to know these ladies.



## Name card

Name: Zhang Manzhu

Organization: Azure Studio

Ms. Zhang comes from Taipei. In 1999, she was assigned to work in Shanghai by her employer. In 2009, Ms. Zhang, after retiring from her work, met a friend and her child with autism in a reading club.

Poor self-management ability, unwillingness to communicate with others, being isolated from the outside world... Ms. Zhang saw the difficulties, burdens and disorders that a person with autism can bring to his/her family. They are not easy. Ms. Zhang came up with the idea of helping people with mental disabilities by teaching them skills. She believes that those families will become happy seeing the growth.

“In what way can I help them?” Ms. Zhang never stopped thinking about this until a large social event she participated in inspired her. In that event, teachers used moulds to produce handmade soaps, which were environmentally healthy. “Why not teach them to make soap?” Ms. Zhang was delighted by the idea.

That’s how Azure Studio was created.

This is a bright and clean place for students between the ages of 20 and 40 who have mental disability (mostly autism, Down's syndrome and intellectual disability). They are given a beautiful name: the Azure Angels.

In addition to making handmade soaps, the studio also offered a series of culture class: painting, music, Chinese studies, picture books, baking, drama... These help dig out the potential of "Azure Angels" step by step and improve their physical coordination. Most students enjoy better flexibility, confidence and sense of accomplishment during the course of learning.



△ Product of Azure Studio

At first, only five "Azure Angels" joined the program. In fact, their parents were not optimistic about improvement. However, Ms. Zhang and her team didn't give up. Over the past 10 years, they tutored more than 200 "Azure Angels", of whom 3 students were admitted to special education colleges and 7 students found jobs in the society. The studio cooperated with nearly 20 colleges, universities and special education institutions to establish production and study partnership and volunteer development plan. Almost ten thousand people attended workshops held by the studio accumulatively.

Love from Azure Studio has been distributed to more and more people in the public.

"Xiaoyu is 24 years old. Usually It takes him three months to remember a person's name." Said Ms. Zhang to us.

"When he first came here, I would introduce myself every day. However, he always forgot me the next day.

"Three months later, Xiaoyu can remember my name. And a few years passed, now he can remember all procedures in making a soap, and is able to do it independently. It's not easy but he made it. Xiaoyu is a lovely boy. He likes smiling. Everybody will be amused by him whenever seeing him."

"Aqiang is 32 years old," Ms. Zhang told us another story. "He is a shy kid, but he works very hard and always has the patience to get things done. He told me that 'when fixing a soap, we'd fix it until it is polished - Slowly, you know, not in a hurry.'

"Patience is what they have but what we lack... I deeply believe that one can convey emotions into objects. Every handmade object contains the feelings and body temperature of its producer and that's why every soap is pure and beautiful just like its maker."



△ Azure volunteers

**In 2016, Azure Studio joined hands with Amity Way fundraising team to launch a crowdfunding project for these special soap makers. Later, a total of RMB 104562.71 was raised to support part of the operating cost for two studios based in Shanghai.**

Ms. Zhang could have enjoyed her relaxed days after retirement, but she chose to continue working on helping needy people. "I am not alone," said Ms. Zhang. "The respect and support from my family are the motivation for me to keep going whenever I experience hardship and helplessness.

When we asked Ms. Zhang to talk about the future of Azure Studio, Ms. Zhang told us, "we plan to initiate an 'Angel Growth Plan' for Azure Angels, especially to give lectures to the families on parent-child relation and marriage. We hope these families will embrace the true meaning of life together with their children. I wish more volunteers will join us to create a brighter future for the Azure Angels by giving love and warmth to them."

Source / Gao Mei





## Name card

**Name:** Cai Lei

**Organization:** Guancheng  
Hui Ethnic Qishua Welfare  
Kindergarten in Zhengzhou

**I**n 1989, a special encounter changed the life of Cai Lei, a young female teacher who won various honors for early childhood education in Henan Province.

One day in a summer vacation, Cai Lei saw a young couple who tried to enroll in the kindergarten for their little girl with Down Syndrome. “Please,” implored the mother. “Please accept our child!” However, they were rejected politely. Helplessly, with tears and extreme sadness they left and the little girl shouted ambiguously, “mom, I want to...go to school...”

At that moment, Cai Lei was deeply moved. She had a dream then: If it is possible, I will help kindergartens to take children with special needs.

In 1996, Cai Lei, as the head of Zhengzhou Paper Bag Factory Kindergarten, began to admit children with special needs to her kindergarten at a ratio of 1:8. It was a pioneering move on preschool inclusive education. In the early 90s of last century, there was no kindergarten

exercising inclusive education in China mainland; while a limited number of organizations that are willing and able to accept children with special needs all adopted a closed and isolated education model that separated them from ordinary children and society.

Cai Lei had her own plan. She contemplated to place special children and ordinary children together step by step, to provide a normal education environment for children with special needs, and to promote mutual acceptance, mutual understanding and care. This is absolutely beyond the imagination of people in those days.

At the beginning of the trial, many parents of ordinary children couldn't understand. They feared their children would be fooled or lose learning ability when being with these special children all days. Cai Lei tried to explain at her best while continuing her trial. Unfortunately, as a result, these parents drop their children out of Cai Lei's kindergarten.

By early 1998, the number of children in the kindergarten dropped from 118 to 31. Cai Lei's kindergarten was close to be shut down.

Cai Lei had to discuss with her husband. They sold their self-owned apartment located in the downtown at a low price. The proceeds were used to maintain the normal operation of the kindergarten.

Due to the economic difficulties, the kindergarten lacked staff and had extremely poor conditions. Cai Lei's working hour extended to 6:00am - 10:00pm, which exhausted her. "I was tired, too tired," she recalled her old days. "When my new-born daughter was just one month old, I had to take her to live in the dormitory of kindergarten to facilitate my work. When she was five months old, I was too busy that I had no choice but to send her to my sister's in another county. When my baby came back to me at 2 years old, she could not recognize me." Said Cai Lei with tears in her eyes.

Although Cai Lei and her kindergarten were poor, they offered care for two kids with special education needs free of charge. Facing other's confusion and doubts, Cai Lei said with a smile: "These children are poor enough, and their parents are difficult too. I want to help as much as I can."

After eight years of hard work and perseverance, in 2004, inclusive education advocated by Cai Lei's kindergarten was finally recognized by parents and the society. Parents of ordinary children again enrolled their children in the kindergartens...

With practice, Cai Lei realized that for inclusive education

theoretical guidance and technical support is a must in addition to love. She raised funds and sent teachers for training and study, which resulted in a strong team of inclusive education teachers. For some knowledge that was unable to be obtained in books or on internet, Cai Lei proposed a kindergarten-based research to collect experience. Through experiments in classes, Cai Lei and other teachers summarized a set of programs for class attendance, inclusive games, and remedial training, and refined a series of localized and practical teaching materials for preschool inclusive education.

Since 2004, Cai Lei's Kindergarten received technical support from overseas organizations such as Friends of China Foundation, The First Social Welfare Foundation, Taiwan Early Intervention Association, and Handicap International. By adjusting course structure and teaching strategies, and improving professional ability and education quality, they established a local preschool inclusive education system with high academic value and strong operability and guidance. In addition, they delivered new concepts on inclusive study and additive study courses and created an "Individual Inclusive Education Program" (IIEP), which included the development goals of children with special needs into the kindergarten's daily life.

After more than 10 years of practice and research, Qishehua Welfare Kindergarten made a bunch of scientific and educational achievements. They published several professional books. And, its good practice promoted the inclusive education across the province, where 92 kindergartens were selected by the government to copy Qishehua's model with guidance and trainings from Qishehua Kindergarten.



△ Cai Lei

So far, more than 300 children with special needs have been trained and mentored, of whom, 39 have been leveled up to ordinary schools and the rest entered special education schools. According to feedbacks, their academic performance could reach a moderate level on average.

**During the Tencent “Sept 9 Philanthropy Day” event in 2017, Amity Way Fundraising team helped Qisehua Welfare Kindergarten established “Let Inclusion Start From Babies” fundraising project. The project finally raised a total of RMB 586,614.52 and raised public awareness on the existence and power of inclusive education.**

In her 20 years of inclusive education experience, Cai Lei received countless honors at all levels. However, she attribute this to her team.

“The road ahead is still long,” she said. “We definitely will try our her best to continue.”

Source / Gao Mei





## Name card

Name : Cao Qian

Organization: Hyacinth Care

When we talk about the word “dance”, most of us would come up with the description: beautiful, graceful, whirling or wonderful. But many people may not know that there is another word about dancing which connects to heavy, confusing and uncontrollable...

The word is: Huntington's Disease.

Huntington's disease, also known as Huntington's chorea, is an inherited disorder that results in death of brain cells. The three main symptoms are: uncoordinated body movements, declined mental abilities and mental disorder. Symptoms usually begin between 35 and 44 years of age, but may start at any age. As the disease advances, patients will gradually lose basic self-care ability. At late stage, patients usually stay in bed at high risk of depression and suicide. It is estimated that there are approximately 100,000 patients with Huntington's disease across the country. Huntington's disease is typically inherited from parents with 50% possibilities, which means there may be more than one patient in the same family.

There is no cure for Huntington's disease. Due to lack of knowledge, the suffering group is rarely accepted in the society. Families living under such incurable disease are confused and helpless.

A young girl called Cao Qian stood out. She is from Hyacinth Care. Established in January 2016, the Hyacinth Care is the only social service organization in China that provides services for patients with Huntington's disease.

“Grandma Hua from Heilongjiang Province was the first person who sought help from Hyacinth Care,” Cao Qian told us. “Grandma Hua’s husband died of Huntington’s disease many years ago. Her two sons and one daughter grew up with Huntington’s disease. Their spouses chose to leave.” When Grandma Hua first contacted Hyacinth Care in March 2016, her two sons had already passed away and her daughter could not take care of herself. Grandma Hua tried hard to take care of her sick daughter and two young grandchildren, all by herself alone.

The story of Grandma Hua deeply touched Cao Qian. Cao Qian contacted Amity Way Fundraising team to initiate a crowdfunding for “Grandma Hua’s Huntington’s Disease Family”. Later, a total of RMB 13,527.24 was raised for the family to fight against the fate. And this is the beginning of cooperation between Hyacinth Care and Amity.

In the second half of 2016, Cao Qian and her team conducted a six-month survey on patients of Huntington’s disease and visited patients’ families throughout the country in order to better understand the needs of the special population. Grandma Hua also became the backbone of the volunteers. When more people are aware of this disease, more volunteers and ordinary people began to use their own ways to provide support for this group.

**In 2017, with the help from Amity Way, Hyacinth Care raised RMB 27388.88 donation for “Care Camp for Huntington Patients”, “Wheelchair Dream of Huntington Patients” projects.**

In the early morning of December 10, 2017, Cao Qian published a message from an overseas drug company, Inoio, on the Internet. The news said: The company successfully completed the HTT-Rx trial for the gene therapy for Huntington’s disease, which represents a milestone on the way against Huntington’s disease. The news was significant for patients and their families as it meant hope and new life.

In fact, Cao Qian, a great helper and sunshine for families with Huntington’s disease, also comes from a family with the same problem. Four of her family died



△ Grandma Hua, Cao Qian and Volunteers

of Huntington’s disease. And now, her mother is also suffering from the disease.

"My mother has been suffering from the disease for 10 years," said Cao Qian frankly. "Although she is able to do some self-care, she still needs a lot of care from my father. My father is an optimistic and open-minded man who is very supportive to my work. We hope we could help other families against the disease."

We don’t know what Cao Qian was thinking when we talked about these. What we know is that a person who has the courage to face all the challenges in life and who struggles hard with the hardships ahead must have the power to choke off this terrible fate.

Source / Xu Huijie

We are looking forward to a world of equality, whether in family or workplace. However, we must admit that gender inequality still persists worldwide in form of violence, exploitation and unequal division of resources and labor.

Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is crucial to accelerating sustainable development. We hope that these stories will deliver the warm but powerful influence of women and imply some possibilities and growth paths for women who are interested in philanthropic work.

Love, understanding, persistence... These are all common things in human nature. The slogan of “fighting forward” is not for female groups only. Amity Foundation always advocates against discrimination and for equal rights worldwide.







## Great love from her

Lingyun County of Baise City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, may be an unfamiliar place to the public. However, it remains a warm name to many people in Amity.

For nearly 30 years, Amity Foundation implemented an array of comprehensive rural community development projects in Lingyun County, widely covering various fields and large number of local people. A lot of Amity staff established connections with this Lingyun County because of Amity's work.

Sister Qin, an amiable name that Amity staff gave her, represents a common element in the connections.

Sister Qin, full name as Qin Haijuan, was the former deputy director of the Amity Project Office under Lingyun United Front Work Department. She is an "old friend" of Amity and a beautiful legend in the eyes of the local people. Sister Qin spent over 20 years in the deep cultivation of Amity rural community development projects, holding up half the sky for local people in the alleviation of poverty.

## Spring in the crevices

Every spring, when Sister Qin went to the project sites, she is delighted to see the thriving green alongside the road. This green is *Zenia insignis*, a special local plant that the locals call "Ren Dou Tree".

For Lingyun County and many areas in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the karst mountains feature high rock, steep slope, low vegetation, thin soil and poor water storage. This landform stands as one of the major factors restricting the local economic and social development. But Ren Dou Tree, a flood-tolerant and drought-tolerant plant with rapid growth, can help to optimize ecological environment and reduce damage and loss caused by natural disasters. For local people, Ren Dou Tree is widely used. Its trunk can be used to make furniture, branches can be used as fuel, and leaves can be used as fodder.

Since 1995, Amity Foundation started to carry out the planting project in Baise and Hechi regions, with a total planting area of more than 380,000 mu (i.e. approximately 25,333 hectares). Lingyun County of course is one of the beneficiaries.

At the beginning, quite a few local people were skeptical about the feasibility of the project when Amity promoted Ren Dou Tree planting in Lingyun County. In spite of all the difficulties and challenges, Sister Qin visited every village to convince and encourage local people to join Amity by presenting Amity's concepts and explaining the principles. You would always hear her saying "Let's have a try."



△ *Zenia insignis* with a local name as Ren Dou Tree

Later, when the first people who followed Sister Qins' "Have-a-try" finally benefitted from the economic effect brought by Ren Dou Tree, they believed in Sister Qin and Amity and actively encouraged other people to join the project.

From then on, a new song has been popular in the project area:

**Stone mountains with Ren Dou Trees,  
People rich and mountains green,  
You will harvest grain, cattle and sheep.**

The melody of the song drifted into the heart of Lingyun people. And Ren Dou Trees grow deeply in the lives of Sister Qins and Amity staff.

## Drawing on the wisdom

In the past, many poverty alleviation projects were based on the "giving the fish" principle – people outside the project area would provide what they felt is needed for the people inside the project area while these people inside would basically take whatever people outside gave them.

Although in the short term the resources that the outside people thought were needed by the inside people indeed improved the living conditions of those recipients to some extent, but for the long run, it would be a waste of resources because the "supply" never actually met the "demand".



△ Sister Qin (woman in black) visiting local families for need assessment





△ Discussion meeting for drinking water project in Liudong Village

Today, most people have fully understood the concept of "Participatory Poverty Alleviation", which means it is not difficult to grasp the relation between "supply and demand" in the third sector. But back to the years Amity first started its comprehensive rural community development in Lingyun County, to make local people aware of the importance of drawing on wisdom and engage the whole community remained a problem.

However, Sister Qin managed to make it.

"Taking the drinking water project implemented in Liudong Village of Shali Town under Lingyun County," said Sister Qin, "I have to clarify to them from scratches about the project, including the actual uses and benefits and influence on people's lives, in every section from villagers' meetings, group discussions and farmer interviews during project setup and investigations, to opinion gathering during project designing and planning, to villagers training and group working, and to the launch and organization of subsequent managing sections."

When villagers found that the drinking water project did meet their actual needs and did improve their lives, their willingness to participate grew significantly.

"Upon knowing about our drinking water project, some elderly people, despite their old age, walked a long way to



△ Amity Lingyun Beilong Yao Ethnic Culture Protection Project



△ Primary school built by Amity

participate in our group discussion. When we were setting up the drinking water facilities, some women even came along, holding their new-born babies in the arms. I really felt happy.” When recalling these, she was proud.

Later, when Amity’s other projects under comprehensive community development program took root and blossomed in Lingyun County one after another, the local people embraced and accepted the engagement from the bottom of their hearts. They would say: "as long as it is Haijuan’s project, we will follow. Believe in Haijuan, yes!"

Today, when we talk about “Targeted Poverty Alleviation”, "Rural Revitalization Strategy" and "Effective Governance", we may be amazed at the practice Sister Qin had taken Lingyun people to make if we look back at the completed Amity projects in Lingyun County.

More than 20 years later, the majority of Amity’s projects have been completed perfectly, giving Lingyun County a new look. In this small county, from hill to road, from fields to campus, you will see the results and influence of Amity’s comprehensive community development, and the diligent Lingyun people who have affection on Amity.



△ Amity eco-agriculture and sustainable development project site

You may have enjoyed the stories and fruits of “legend of Sister Qin” from Amity staff and Lingyun people, but you must find that Sister Qin rarely appears on photos or videos, nor does she appear in any news reports. Sister Qin, a great woman, has been used to giving the stage to local people while she herself, always walking in the crowd, is willing to make herself a screw.

**August 2017 was the time for Sister Qin to retire. Now, although she is retired, as usual, she keeps everyone’s needs ahead of hers and provides supports to those that rely on her.**

**In her own words, "yes I am retired, but many local people in Lingyun still live in poverty. Even as a retiree, I have to do my part."**

**Sister Qin, skinny but powerful, is like sunshine that warms everyone beside her when speaking of these. This warmth and broadness reflected the time, practice and perseverance she devoted, which moist the earth of Lingyun County and prop up half the sky for the local people.**

Picture / Wen Fangfang



## Holding up half the sky



△ Lin Jianmei (lady in black) at work

Over 30 years, on the way of Amity's philanthropic undertakings, there are a lot of "Sister Qins". They take root in the project areas and walk hand in hand with Amity in their contribution.

### Iron Lady Jianmei

In Amity's Office, if any one tells "Jianmei is not in the office today" or "Jianmei is on business trip", there will be a commotion in the office: "oh, it can't be!" "oh, no, I still have something urgent to find her!"

However, you guess it wrong - Jianmei is not an employee of Amity, but of a partner in Amity's Yunnan project area. She and her team are responsible for the implementation of Amity projects in over 40 counties in Yunnan Province.

Jianmei, a Pumi ethnic minority girl who likes smiling, has been working with Amity teams since her graduation from university in 2010. Countless projects, big or small, are filled with all sorts of trifles and coordination works. You will see from time to time several people in Amity's office looking for Jianmei and her cellphone is out of charge from the barrage of calls...

Jianmei said she was an iron lady, and she often ran "over and over the mountains" in Yunnan (for Amity projects). When we asked if Amity projects make her too busy and tired, Jianmei said: "Actually I like traveling, because every time I walked in any Amity project area, seeing those smiling faces of children and elderly and hearing them singing, I will instantly feel cured, and that gives me power".



## Forever young Aunt Su

She is the "always-so-young Aunt Su" for the children. "Su" is the Chinese surname she gave herself. Her real name is Judith Sutterlin and Amity staff usually call her "Judy".

More than a decade, Aunt Su, who lives and works alone in Nanjing, together with her team in the United States, funded more than 250 "E-action babies". Each summer vacation, Aunt Su would represent her team to visit the children. After the years, many of the "E-action babies" have grown up, going to their ideal universities, finding a job and/or establish their own families. But every one of these "E-action babies" sees her as a relative.

Although Aunt Su is not good at Chinese and "E-action babies" are not good at English, more than a decade of friendship has touched the heart of both sides without obstacles.



△ Aunt Su (right)

## Affectionate "housewife circle"

Fifteen years ago, two ladies found an abandoned baby with a congenital heart defect under a tree in Nanjing. Despite the rescue, the child did not survive. The children's pass-away touched the two ladies deeply, who formed a "Hope of Heart" organization to work with Amity to help children from low-income families with congenital heart defects.

Beginning from fundraising in the "housewives circle", the organization is now able to leverage on communities, schools, companies and other volunteering forces. Moreover, the organization develops from a local Nanjingese team to a strong organization with branches across Chengdu, Guangzhou and Germany... Because of the "heart", this volunteering team of different nationalities and languages is getting bigger and bigger. So far, "Hope of Heart" has helped more than 500 children in need.



△ "Hope of Heart" volunteers

## Village doctor “Doctor Pu”

In 1996, Pu Xuying, just graduating from junior high school, got to know Amity Village Medical Training Program. She wanted to go, first simply because "my parents are not in good physical condition, and my relatives have no money or resources to seek medical treatment when getting sick. I can cure my parents and relatives after attending the program."

After 1.5 years of training, she returned to his Hani ethnic village to become a village doctor. From then on, he became an enthusiastic, kind and responsible "doctor" in the eyes of the villagers. Later, she even invested in a private hospital in order to provide more comprehensive medical treatment for the villagers.

"My money was not enough," Doctor Pu told us. "So I sold my house." he was quiet but determined.

For years, all kinds of challenges persist in the process of his rural medical service.

Once upon a time, because of the small space and difficult conditions, Doctor Pu had to share a bed with the patient - the patient used it in the daytime, and Doctor Pu slept on it during the night.

Due to China's One Child Policy, babies born in violation of the One Child Policy had to avoid being registered in hospital. That's why Doctor Pu went to villagers' home to establish birth records for the newborns to monitor the health conditions of the babies. However, many villagers misunderstood that Doctor Pu was to check the violation, and some of them even poured water on her to drive her away.



△ Amity village doctor on the way in spite of the rain

But Doctor Pu kept her commitments.

On that day Doctor Pu stepped into Amity village doctor training class, she might only think about her parents and relatives. But when she came out of the training class, her heart was filled with the villagers, a vast world that needed her help. This is the power of our philanthropic projects.

**These ladies may be local partners, sponsors, volunteers and project beneficiaries... No matter what their roles are, they have chosen to be with Amity on this philanthropic road, holding up half the sky for all those needy people in difficult circumstances.**

Pictures / Gao Mei, Xu Chen

# Young social workers' challenge

## —Amity interview with social worker experts

**A**mity conducted an exclusive survey on 55 social worker students (including 44 girls and 11 boys) at Nanjing University, Nanjing Normal University, and Yangzhou University. During the survey, we discovered some interesting points that provoke our thinking.

When being asked "what do you think are the biggest gains this major has brought to you?" 55 respondents responded very positively: "Life can change another," "Helping people help themselves," "Reshape our values", etc.

However, when asked "will you choose to become a social worker in the future?" 23 respondents answered "no". 12 respondents answered "will consider later". Only 20 people indicated that they would like to become social workers; however, of these 20 people, 8 planned to "work as a social worker for a while and then change jobs".

31 respondents considered that social workers have "low social recognition".

17 respondents stated that they "like" this major. 1 answered "I don't like it". The other 37 respondents chose "neutral" which is meaningful for us.

Some reports also show that in Jiangsu Province, although universities and social worker students both believe that social work is promising, in fact, only 15% of social work students actually engage in social work after graduation.

What's wrong with this profession? How should social work students develop themselves? How can students realize their aspiration? Bearing the questions in mind, we interviewed two senior experts in social work fields and invited them to ease the "growing pains" for the young people.





## How can we make young social workers stay in this field?



Bai Youtao, Professor of School of Social Development, Nanjing Normal University; Director of Social Work Research Center, Nanjing Normal University; General Secretary, Nanjing Yimin Social Service Center.

### Amity: What do you do in respect of social work?

**Bai Youtao:** My work involves four areas. 1. Social work-related research for government's reference. 2. Work with the Nanjing Yimin Social Service Center (hereinafter referred to as "Yimin") on NGO development in Pukou, Luhe, Jianye and Yuhuatai districts of Nanjing. 3. Front-line social service of Yimin targeting elderly, teenagers, and women. 4. Social work-related training.

### Amity: In the social service sector, taking Yimin as an example, what are the advantages and disadvantages of social workers and non-social workers respectively?

**Bai Youtao:** I think a good social worker requires much more than professional knowledge, because the needs

of your clients are diversified. Therefore, social workers who do not graduate from social work major may have more experience and better integration of knowledge and practice. On the other hand, social workers who came from social work professions are often able to better understand, accept and recognize the values, ideas and tools of social work. They will feel social work more like a career than just a job.

### Amity: What do you think about the relationship between current social work education and social development needs in China?

**Bai Youtao:** In terms of the needs of our clients, I feel that knowledge and tools of professional social workers are still insufficient to solve all needs of various social groups. In terms of the service buyer's needs, their perspective is not exactly the same as the social workers.

When the government purchases services, it pays attention to party policies and administration, in addition to social work itself. In terms of social work education itself, as practice is quite limited during students' academic study, the newly graduated social workers usually are not good social workers in terms of experience. At last, many people now criticize that we have "a lower level of social worker education", but I would like to say that the society gives very little time for the development of social worker education but makes very high expectations, which usually ends in disappointment. I think that a good social worker needs 10-20 years to develop, but we actually don't have such time.

**Amity: How long do you think a social worker works will make him/her less likely to change job?**

**Bai Youtao:** In my opinion, if a social worker can persist for more than five years, he/she will basically be stable. Even if the social worker changes working place, the possibility of leaving the sector is relatively low.

**Amity: What do you think would make these young people stay in this sector in a more stable manner?**

**Bai Youtao:** First of all, it is necessary to clarify policy expectations, and local implementation must be consistent with the policies. This will enable young social workers to see supports and guidance. Secondly, clear financial support is needed. Although we have increasing public investments and government procurement, the stability for financial support has yet to be improved. We need to explore more clear and stable funding sources so that young social workers see guarantee and protection to

the field. Thirdly, we need to develop more social worker organizations as platforms for young social workers.

**Amity: You mentioned "to develop more good social service organizations." What kind of organization can be called a good organization?**

**Bai Youtao:** 1. a good organization can provide stable and predictable income for social workers. 2. in addition to high professional identity, a good organization provides social workers a foreseeable career path, i.e. the possibility to grow. 3. a good organization offers a sense of honor and belonging. 4. a good organization offers a platform for social workers to display their talents other than a place just to provide service.

**Amity: The last question - what kind of support do you think a non-profit organization such as Amity Foundation can provide for the development of the social work?**

**Bai Youtao:** On the one hand, a foundation with public fundraising qualification like Amity can not only be a social service provider, but also a resource integrator to provide extensive support for front-line social work service providers with growth capabilities. On the other hand, I think that Amity can cooperate with social work organizations in human resources such as volunteers, to solicit both staff and human goodness for social work organizations, to reduce costs and enable quality services.

## Social Work +: Young social workers should talk less about emotions but more about abilities



**Zhang Wei**, Chairman of Nanjing Red Leaves Social Work Service Center; Director of Civil Society Organization and Community Governance Research Center of Nanjing Institute of Technology; Director of Jiangsu Association of Social Workers; Nanjing Medium-grade Social Worker Supervisor; Nanjing Jiangning District Social Work Leader. He was awarded the title of “Philanthropic Pioneer” by Nanjing Social Construction Committee.

### Amity: What do you think is your role in the field of social work?

**Zhang Wei:** After graduating as a social work student in 2007, I taught at Nanjing Institute of Technology in social work. Since 2009, I have had some cooperation with civil affairs department. In 2012, I initiated Nanjing Red Leaves Social Work Service Center (hereinafter referred to as “Red Leaves”). Therefore, I think I am a “three-in-one” role, like learning social work, teaching social workers, and doing social work.”

### Amity: In Red Leaves, what is the proportion of professional and non-professional social workers? Why do non-professional social workers turn to social workers?

**Zhang Wei:** The ratio of professional social worker to non-professional social workers is basically 1:1. Non-professional social workers are diversified in terms of previous jobs, such as tour guides, automobile 4S stores employees, state-owned enterprise executives, and infrastructure company employees... Most of them have 4-5 years of work experience.



### **Amity: Why do they change jobs to become social workers?**

**Zhang Wei:** Most of them feel that “this is what I want to be”. The jobs and values of social workers are attractive to them. It is worth mentioning that this kind of social workers often have stronger belief and are more confident in social work. In addition, they are more clear about their career planning.

**Amity: For them, the re-selection of career is an initiative, which means any bottleneck or risk that may appear later are both within expectation. Social workers who have professional background may be more likely to identify their capacity and major, but when difficulties or risks occur, they may not be able to hold it. Do you mean that?**

**Zhang Wei:** Yes. So when I talk to Red Leaves members, I want them to talk less about emotions but more about abilities. In turn, when I talk to non-professional social workers, I would like them to talk more about emotions, encouraging them to keep their choice when meeting any difficulties.

**Amity: So from a group perspective, do you think young social workers actually have some common disadvantages?**

**Zhang Wei:** Yes, and there are three. 1. They have more emotions than abilities and often lack some comprehensive skills. 2. In practice, they may somehow have “grandiose aims but puny abilities”, taking small and

repetitive work as “insufficient to reflect my emotions for social work”. 3. They tend to follow the steps provided under social work guidance and are likely to be frustrated when actual situation is inconsistent with the “toolbox”.

**Amity: Do you have any advice for young social workers or students?**

**Zhang Wei:** Still, as I just mentioned, to talk less about emotions but more about abilities. That is, to pay more attention to the effects of your work. I always ask my students to work hard to improve six abilities in learning and practice: planning, (professional) service, communication, management, promotion, and innovation. Why are social workers abroad generally respected in society? Because they did do something good before they are widely recognized. Therefore, only when you do something that has great effect, you win recognition and respect.

**Amity: In the operation of social work organizations, what measures or models do you take to support your above point of view?**

**Zhang Wei:** In Red Leaves, we use a “social work +” model, that is, each employee will take some other tasks according to his/her interest in addition to basic social work. For example, Red Leaves has “social workers + administration”, “social workers + publicity”, “social workers + finance”, and even “social workers + N”... For an organization, this model can improve organizational efficiency where small teams can make big things. For employees themselves, this model can increase their sense of accomplishment and achieve “one expertise with multiple capabilities”.

**Amity:** So you mean a good social worker should be an all-round person, right?

**Zhang Wei:** Yes. Social workers, as a group that involves in the governance of community and group issues, shall have excellent thinking ability and comprehensive abilities. I hope more talented people will join this group.

**Amity:** do you have any advice for organizations in developing young social workers?

**Zhang Wei:** If conditions permit, I hope an organization can expand slowly while collecting experience, so as to improve the connotation and capabilities of young social workers and the organization itself step by step.

It is worth noting that in China, the government is paying increasing attention to the development of social work. Since 2015, the word "social work" has been put into the "Government Work Report" for four consecutive years. Shenzhen Yantian District government is pioneering in this field by publishing the "Implementation Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of Professional Social Work Talent Team", which gives us reference and direction.

Social Work in China, like young people, is growing vigorously.



## Amity and churches in Gansu establish fund for social needs



△ Signing of the cooperation agreement.



△ A ceremony was held and attended by many leaders of the Gansu church

On January 8, 2018, the Amity Foundation and the church of Gansu Province held a launching ceremony and established a joint fund (Amity Spring Rain Charity Fund) to provide social services for people in need. Amity's General Secretary Qiu Zhonghui, the Chairperson of the Gansu Provincial Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China Rev. Kou Xiaodong, and the President of Gansu Provincial Christian Council Reverent Mu Ganglang attended the ceremony. Furthermore, leaders of the provincial religious authorities and various pastors of provincial churches and Christian institutions participated.

The fund is a Christian fund jointly established by the Amity Foundation and the Chinese Christian Council of Gansu. The spirit behind the fund follows the principle "Love your neighbor as yourself" and aims to encourage Christians and churches to care for the community and provide social services for those in needs. For this purpose

Christians in Gansu have already raised substantial amounts of money that will be used for the initial establishment of the fund.

The Amity Foundation will contribute by sharing its experience and make efforts to support the churches' engagement and the professional development of the fund. Kang Xuehai Director of Gansu Provincial Bureau of Religious Affairs (SARA) emphasized the previous contribution of the Church in Gansu for poverty alleviation and charitable purposes.

After the ceremony the first meeting of the fund's management committee was held. Qiu Zhonghui becomes the fund's general adviser. Subsequently, the 15 members of the committee discussed the charter, future work priorities, promotion and day to day coordination of the fund.



## Luzhou Church and Amity set up joint fund for the needy



△ Mr. Qiu Zhonghui and Reverent Liao signing the cooperation agreement



△ The ceremony for the newly established Amity Rose Charity Fund took place in the Luzhou Church

**O**n the morning of January 27, 2018, the Amity Foundation and Luzhou Christian Church in Sichuan announced a future cooperation to help people in need through a common charity fund. The signing ceremony for the fund named 'Amity Rose Charity Fund' was held in Luzhou Christian Church. Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, Chair of the Board of Amity Foundation, and Reverent Liao Xiaoqin, Luzhou church leader, signed the cooperation agreement.

Amity Rose Charity Fund is a special fund for Christian social services set up by Luzhou Church and the Amity Foundation. The purpose of the fund is to promote the development of social services in Christian churches in the region, promote a progressive role of Christian churches in socioeconomic development and a harmonious

development of the Church and the society.

By establishing the fund, the two signing actors agreed to cooperate and provide social services, poverty relief, orphans support, disaster prevention and relief, health and other aspects. The ceremony was attended by various Christian local leaders as well as local party and government officials.

Thereafter, the Amity Rose Charity Fund's management committee consisting of 19 people held its first meeting. Mr. Zhuo Xinping, Director of the Institute of World Religions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, General Secretary of Amity Foundation, were elected as consultants of the fund.

## Winter Conference of Amity's international exchange programs



△ The participants of the Amity Winter Conference 2018 in Peitian.

From 20 to 26 January, the Amity Foundation held its annual Winter Conference for overseas volunteers, long-term teachers and its Chinese partner organizations in Fujian Province.

The purpose of Amity's Annual Winter Conference is to exchange volunteering and work experience among the participants of Amity's Education and International Exchange Department, strengthen their resilience and

equip them with new ideas for their future ongoing service in China. For the participating partner institutions of the Chinese educational sector, Amity organized a conference simultaneously, where participants discussed and exchanged about organizational, caring and supervising issues of overseas staff. All together the attendees joined project visits and an exposure tour of rural development and community building projects supported by Amity in Peitian Village.





△ Amity's overseas volunteers and teachers were welcomed by Rev. Fung and She Hongyu (left). During the conference the participants exchanged about their work and best teaching practices (right).



The overseas participants were warmly welcomed by Amity's Associate General Secretary She Hongyu. Hongyu told a story about a woman in her 30s, who once recognized an Amity bag of a long-term teacher during a train ride. The woman revealed to the Amity teacher in well-spoken English, that Amity changed her life when she was young. When she was a kid, an overseas Amity volunteer was teaching her father English and so she became exposed to the language. By this anecdote, Hongyu emphasized the importance of Amity's work over the last decade and in particular the work of overseas volunteers and teachers. Thereby, Ms She Hongyu pointed out the enduring impact of Amity's engagement - nowadays even for the second generation of people in China.

Afterwards, Reverent Fung, a church representatives of the Xiamen Three-Self Patriotic Movement and the Christian Council introduced the Protestant Church in Xiamen and Fujian Province. She informed the overseas teachers about Christian activities, the history as well as the social engagement of the church in Xiamen. Lisa Meng gave an introduction about the Amity Pfrang and Heartwings Theater Program under Amity's Education and International Exchange Department. In a second part of the conference, the overseas Amity teachers and volunteers shared their work assignments and daily life with the conference participants. Thereafter, the log-term teacher

hold workshops on evaluating the previous work and teaching new techniques for the future work as teaching volunteers and cultural ambassadors.



△ The volunteers and teachers organized an English teaching camp in for the students in Peitian village.



△ The participants experienced village life and culture first hand. Playing the drums.



# Relief for people affected by the Taiwan earthquake



△ Local partner are distributing clothes in one of the shelters



△ Local partners distributing clothes

**O**n 6 February, ten minutes before midnight, an earthquake of magnitude 6.4 on the magnitude scale struck Hualien, Taiwan. The earthquake killed at least 17 people and injured 285. Hundreds have been evacuated from their homes and far more than 100 aftershocks have been reported.

Immediately afterwards, the Amity Foundation contacted its Taiwanese partner, the Chinese Christian Association of Cross-Strait Exchanges, and asked how to support the victims of this natural disaster. A few days after the disaster hit the region, a cold front brought the year's coldest recorded temperatures. The Chinese Christian Corporate Association of Cross-

Strait Exchanges and the local NGO Chinese Sunnycastle Caring Association started to distribute warm clothes to displaced people.

Furthermore, they started to distribute red packets for people affected by the earthquake. Red packets, which are filled with cash, are usually given during the Chinese New Year. The Amity Foundation supported its Taiwanese partners with donations by people from the Mainland fundraised on online platforms. The red packets from across the straight will hopefully bring relief during Chinese New Year to people who are suffering from the disaster and contribute to people to people relationship, peace and benevolence in the region.

## Warm Winter Sun for E-action children

From January 12th to 13th, Amity organized “E-action Warm Sun” winter visit to our Tengchong project site in Yunnan. Eighteen sponsors and volunteers from nine provinces and municipalities across the country participated in the visit.

There was one special member in the visiting delegation - Jia Nan from Henan Province. Jia Nan is a medical student and also an “E-action Child” who joined the “E-action” family since 2009.

“Continued funding and care from ‘E-action’ program

supports me to grow up.” Said Jia Nan. “And because of this, I have been watching the development of Amity Foundation and ‘E-action’ program, looking for opportunities to give back. This time, I used my part-time job salary to pay for a round trip to “Warm Winter Sun” visit.

During the visit, Jia Nan encouraged E-action Children. “The road to dreams will be difficult,” he said. “But you will never be alone. There are many similar people who share the same difficulties, and there are so many kind people walking together with us and cheering for us.”



△ Jia Nan talking with an E-action Child who also wants to study medicine



## Diakonie Germany visits Amity

At Amity Foundation's invitation, from 7 to 13 March, a delegation of Diakonie Germany - 'Diakonie Deutschland' visited Nanjing to inform themselves about church related social work in China. The delegation was led by Mr. Lilie, President of Diakonie.

Diakonie is a German umbrella organization, which represents the social projects of all Germany's Protestant churches. Diakonie Germany is the charitable organisation of the Protestant church in Germany. This work includes more than 28,000 inpatient and outpatient care centers, from nursing homes and hospitals to community outreach and welfare centers, employing about 450,000 full- or part-time employees

After their arrival, the delegation visited the Amity Bakery, a social enterprise that provides vocational training for people with mental disabilities and is supporting their families. Furthermore, it raises awareness for their rights and well-being among the wider public. "The goal is to facilitate an inclusive society", says Vivian, Amity's director of the African office.

In the evening, the delegation met the Amity Foundation's leadership and staff of Amity's Social Service and Church Departments. Reverent Shen Zhanqing, director of Amity's Church Department, introduced Amity's work with churches. Amity combines 'hardware' and 'software' in its social work with churches. Projects in the fields of elderly care, environmental protection, work with the disabled or poverty alleviation are combined with capacity building, volunteer and team building, management and financial training. Thereby, churches are empowered to run their own social services in the future. Diakonie Germany gave a presentation about their social service work. Compared



to a long tradition in Germany, churches in China are at a starting point to provide social services for the community.

In the course of the following days, the delegation visited the provincial and national Seminary in Nanjing to learn about theological education in China. Furthermore, they visited the Amity Printing Company, the world largest Bible printer, and the 'House of Five Religions'. This building is an interreligious center in Nanjing where the five official religions of the city are coordinating and working together.

To experience social work of churches and other religions in action, the delegation visited the city of Zhenjiang and their church related social welfare activities. On Sunday, the participants visited the English-speaking church Service of Nanjing's St. Paul's Church and afterwards the Nanjing Massacre Museum. Finally, they visited the Qixia Philanthropy Valley and Amity's social service and community organizations in Nanjing.

During the farewell events, the Amity Foundation and participants of the Diakonie Deutschland delegation expressed their hope that cooperation between Germany and China will intensify in this field.



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## Headquarters

71 Hankou Road  
Nanjing 210008  
Jiangsu Province  
People's Republic of China  
Tel: (86-25) 8326-0800  
Fax: (86-25) 8326-0909

### Bank Details:

The Amity Foundation  
Bank of China, Nanjing Centre Branch  
29 Hongwu Road  
Nanjing 210005  
PR China  
A/C #: 5105 5820 9952

Nanjing Headquarters: [amitynj@amity.org.cn](mailto:amitynj@amity.org.cn)

## Hong Kong Office

13/F, Ultragrace Commercial Building  
5 Jordan Road  
Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR  
People's Republic of China  
Tel: (852) 2723-8011  
Fax: (852) 2366-2769

### Bank Details:

Amity Foundation, Hong Kong  
Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp.  
238 Nathan Road  
Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR  
PR China  
A/C #: 127-5-017372

Amity Foundation, Hong Kong: [amityhk@amityfoundation.org](mailto:amityhk@amityfoundation.org)

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.