

Amity Outlook

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Canada's collaboration
with the Amity Foundation

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Dear friends,

Amity's link with Canada could probably be traced back to 1947 when Bishop K.H. Ting, the founder and the first president of the Amity Foundation went to Canada and worked for the Student Christian Movement in Canadian universities. In this capacity, Bishop Ting could be described as one of the first Chinese to work as a missionary overseas during the modern era. After the founding of Amity in 1985, it has been blessed by many warm-hearted friends from Canada. Over the years, Canadian organizations, including International Development Aid, the Mennonite Central Committee, the United Church of Canada, and the Presbyterian Church of Canada have extended great support to Amity's projects in integrated rural development, education as well as disaster relief. In this issue, Julia Bentley, Counsellor and Head of the Political Section of the Canadian Embassy in China gives an account of the collaboration between Canada and Amity.

While being a recipient of overseas aid, Amity has also been an active participant in international disaster relief. In recent years, Amity has responded to the famine in the horn of Africa, the irrigation project in Kenya etc. Our most recent effort in international disaster response was the relief work in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan. It is through working jointly with partners overseas that Amity has been able to share its resources and best practices while learning how to carry out development work in a sustainable way and adapted to the local situation.



She Hongyu
Chief Editor

ON THE COVER:

Her Excellency Sharon Johnston and Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, General Secretary of the Amity Foundation, at Amity Bakery



Canada's collaboration with the Amity Foundation and initiatives to address the need of the differently-abled and other vulnerable groups in China

By Julia G. Bentley
Counsellor and Head of Political Section
The Embassy of Canada in China

I. Introduction

The Embassy of Canada in China has had a long association with the Amity Foundation, from a bilateral assistance project in western China to a social service capacity building project for a Christian community in Hunan, collaboration in disaster relief following the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008, and culminating in the visit to Amity's bakery in 2013 by the wife of Canada's Governor General, Her Excellency Sharon Johnston. Some of Canada's collaboration with Amity has been related to people with disabilities, and Canada has also supported the disabled community in China through projects with other organizations, funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiative (the Canadian Embassy's small grant program), which has supported projects in China for over 30 years) and the Civil Society Program, which from

1998 to 2009 supported Chinese community groups and non-government organizations in meeting the needs of Chinese society, especially vulnerable groups. All of these activities were funded by the Government of Canada, primarily through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

II. Project funded by Canada, implemented by the Amity Foundation and Canada's Mennonite Central Committee

From 1998 to 2003, the Amity Foundation and Canada's Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) implemented a C\$ 6.2 million project (38 million RMB) on Integrated Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation in western China.

The purpose of the project was to increase household livelihood security in selected "poverty counties" in Ningxia, Gansu, Guizhou, and Shanxi. This was achieved by increasing agricultural production and ecological sustainability, improving basic healthcare, sanitation and nutrition as well as access to basic education, training in practical skills and income generation and increasing economic diversification and opportunities to earn income. The project focused on training and technical assistance, rather than on equipment or physical infrastructure, in order to enhance the Chinese government's capacity to address poverty reduction at the local level. Specific activities in each designated county in these four provinces were tailored to their respective priorities, specific needs and local capacities.



A participatory approach was introduced into Canada-funded Amity projects

The project demonstrated measurable results thanks to the effective partnerships forged by the Amity Foundation and the MCC. The project activities improved the quality of life by increasing household income, primary school enrollment in the target villages and per capita food consumption. More importantly, the project demonstrated to local governments how practical initiatives emphasizing training and well-targeted technical assistance can significantly improve rural development in an integrated manner, thereby effectively reducing poverty.

III. Amity Foundation builds community capacity in Hunan funded by Canada's Civil Society Program

In 1998, Canada's Civil Society Program in China was launched in order to foster initiatives by Chinese community groups and nascent NGOs. This program was unprecedented in providing international funding directly to Chinese social organizations at a time when there was very limited support available to them, whether from the Chinese government, Chinese private philanthropy or foreign sources. The Amity Foundation served as the intermediary organization for a Civil Society project in 2000-2001, which helped a Hunan Christian community to build capacity to manage its social service projects. This project also demonstrated how effective collaboration between the Amity Foundation and the Canadian Embassy could channel international funding to deserving local community groups and NGOs who otherwise would

have had no direct access to international funding.

IV. Canadian collaboration with Amity Foundation in disaster relief

Following the disastrous Wenchuan earthquake in 2008 which killed 87,500 people and injured up to 370,000, MCC once again teamed up with the Amity Foundation, this time to channel Canadian funding for humanitarian relief and rehabilitation to the Sichuan communities most devastated by the earthquake. Thanks to their previous five-year collaboration on the Integrated Rural Development and Poverty Project in Northwest China, MCC and Amity were able to reach agreement quickly on how best to respond to the earthquake. That year, Amity Secretary General Qiu Zhonghui and Assistant General Secretary He Wen made many trips to the affected area, accompanied by Canadians, to determine local needs and provide appropriate relief. As a result of funds raised from the Canadian public for earthquake relief by MCC and matching funds provided by the government of Canada, 8 counties in Sichuan received C\$1,619,000 (9 million RMB) to help 20,000 families rendered homeless and severely affected by the earthquake.

In this way, the impact of Canada's collaboration with the Amity Foundation was seen across Western China, from integrated rural development in Northwest China to earthquake relief in Southwest China.

V. Canadian Governor General's wife interacts with those with disabilities

In 2013, during planning for the state visit to China by the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency David Johnston and his wife Her Excellency Sharon Johnston, the Amity Foundation was identified early on as an organization of potential interest to Mrs. Johnston. She has a professional background in mental health and was eager to meet with Chinese organizations serving the needs of Chinese with mental illness or learning challenges. She was therefore delighted to visit the Amity Bakery in Nanjing on October 18, and meet with staff including those with impairments. Although she was in Nanjing for less than a day, her visit to the bakery and her interaction with its staff was one of the highlights of her 9-day state visit to China, especially since the recipe she shared for cinnamon buns has now been added to the bakery's menu and enjoys good sales.



Her Excellency Sharon Johnston's visit to the Amity Bakery and her interaction with Amity bakers was one of the highlights of her 9-day state visit to China

VI. Other Canadian initiatives related to Chinese people with disabilities

Canada's links to the disabled community began in 1980 when Deng Pufang, son of Deng Xiaoping, was treated at Ottawa Civic Hospital, for rehabilitation and surgery following injuries sustained during the Cultural Revolution, which left him wheelchair-bound for the rest of his life. The Canada Fund for Local

Initiatives and Canada's Civil Society Program have both undertaken projects with local Chinese partners to address the needs of disabled people in China. For example, the Civil Society Program supported the Parent Club of Guangzhou in 1999 -2000 to help the families of intellectually disabled children in Guangzhou consolidate a self-help group and network with similar associations elsewhere in China. Three other examples illustrate more recent initiatives by the Canada Fund to meet the needs of the

communities with people of impairments, in places like Tibet and Nanjing. In 2008, the Canada Fund worked with Braille Without Borders in Tibet to provide vocational skills training to the visually impaired by building a bakery near Shigatse and training visually impaired young people in baking.

This project demonstrated vocational opportunities beyond stereotypes, given that employment training for the blind in China is often limited to clinical massage. The value of this project was clear six years later, when Canadian Ambassador Guy Saint-Jacques visited the bakery in September 2013 and sampled the delicious products baked by the vocational students there.

As another example also in Tibet, the Canada Fund supported a project 2011-2012 involving Handicap International and the Tibet Disabled People's Federation to provide organizational capacity building to newly-established disability organizations in Tibet. This involved organization management training, mentoring, providing learning opportunities and equipment to help improve the effectiveness of these grassroots organizations working with people with disabilities. This project helped demonstrate that well-managed organizations can provide more effective

programming and organizational stability over the long term.

As a final example, the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives supported a project implemented in Nanjing by Ganzhilu in association with Justice for All (Tian Xia Gong) in 2012-2013 related to access to education by disabled. Specifically, Ganzhilu undertook an investigation of educational barriers for disabled children in four provinces in Eastern China, and compiled the results into policy recommendations submitted to policymakers and legislators in the spring of 2013. In due course, these recommendations regarding the protection of the rights of the disabled are expected to have an incremental impact on laws, policies and practices, ultimately reducing discriminatory language, habits and attitudes towards the disabled. Interestingly, Ganzhilu was one of the small grassroots NGOs incubated by the Amity Foundation - thus linking Canada and the Amity Foundation in their shared interest in advancing the protection of rights of the disabled, including education and employment.

VII. Conclusion

This article has traced collaborative initiatives involving the Amity

Foundation and Canada, from bilateral aid projects to disaster relief and the visit last October to the Amity bakery by Sharon Johnston. It has also outlined briefly some of the past initiatives by the Canada Fund and Canada's Civil Society Program to meet the needs of the differently abled. While CIDA's bilateral programming concluded in March 2014, the Canada Fund continues to support groups in China that work with the disabled and often vulnerable communities. The Embassy of Canada recognizes the need for a better understanding of the barriers, social stigmas, and other forms of discrimination facing people with disabilities in order to identify opportunities for improving policies and regulations, demonstrate alternatives and increase access to education, employment, and other opportunities to integrate into society. To learn more about the Canada Fund in China please go to the Canadian Embassy's website and click on Governance at: www.canadainternational.gc.ca/china-chine.

The Amity Foundation has teamed up with Canada in a variety of ways over two decades, and we look forward to further collaboration to meet the needs of vulnerable groups in China in future.

When I fell in love with China

By Marthe Andreassen

Marthe was sent to Nanjing by the Norwegian Mission Society (NMS) in early 2014. In Nanjing, she and Katrine, another girl sent by NMS, helped to care for children with autism at Amity Children Development Centre. They also taught English at Amity Home of Blessings.

My name is Marthe Andreassen. I am 20 years old and I come from Norway. I'm a student at a school in Norway called Hald International Centre where I study cross-cultural communication and international work. It's a school with students from all over the world. As part of the exchange program, these international students stay in Norway while we Norwegian students go to their countries to experience a new culture and to work as volunteers.

It was not my plan to go to China. I never really thought about it. All I knew was that God had told me to apply for this school, and so I did. I really wanted to make a change, to help others and as I always said; "I want to save the world". The teachers at my school decided where



Katrine and Marthe making their first attempt of doing in China as Chinese do

I should spend the next six months, and I ended up traveling to the other side of the globe. Nanjing was now my new home.

I got a big culture shock when I first came to China. I'm from a small town at the countryside with only 7 thousand residents where cows are walking in the town centre and views of fields and mountains are seeable. Nanjing is a city with over 5 million residents, with tall

buildings and people everywhere. The language is totally different. The food is different and the traffic is crazy. I remember I asked myself the first days: "What am I doing here?" But then I remembered that it was supposed to be different. If I wanted everything to be the same, I should have stayed in Norway!

I started to work at Children Development Centre, which is a centre

for autistic children. I had no experience with autistic kids from earlier. I suffered some tough days. I didn't feel like I managed my job, and I asked myself again: "What am I doing here?"

After a while I got the chance to visit the countryside. It was an amazing experience, and I realized that China is not just big cities and crazy traffic. China got a breathtaking nature that amazed me. And even though the people we visited were very poor, they showed a happiness and generosity I've never seen before. That was when I fell in love with China.

I started work again with a new motivation, I got more confident and connected with the kids. I got to know the routines, and everything was easier. I decided to show that I can handle the kids with just pure love.

After spending the first months without any friends beside my team-mate, I finally got someone else to hang out with. I started to get to know the culture and a little of the language. I think it's really interesting. I realized that I wasn't supposed to come to China to make a change, but to change myself. I came to learn, to experience how it is to be a



Marthe and autistic children

foreigner and to get a new point of view. And now with under a month left, I can't understand how I can ever leave this place.



Marthe and Chinese ethnic minority girls

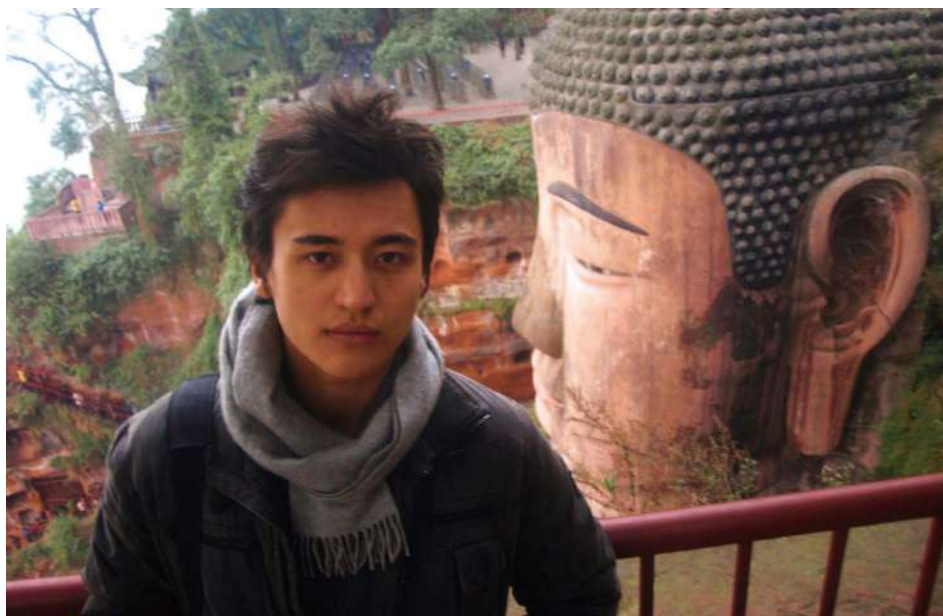
Going my own path

By Magnus Manhart

Magnus Manhart from Germany volunteered with Amity's Young Adult Program in 2011, teaching English to school kids in Gansu, for one year. After his gap year he decided to study law in Hong Kong. He is now a co-initiator of a social service volunteering and consulting group of students in his university. The group has decided to cooperate with Amity Hong Kong in the future.

I was not sure what to expect before I left for Gansu, since the main thing I heard about Gansu was always the poverty in that area. However I was surprised how underdeveloped the area actually is. It was a valuable experience, experiencing the real Chinese culture and the real Chinese people rather than staying in the big cities in East China, where many things have become very westernized. I think it made me realize how different the country is and how many aspects it has.

It also taught me to be self sufficient and independent, since it was the first time not living at home for me. It gave me a lot of time to think about life and about my



Magnus visiting the Great Buddha in Leshan, Sichuan Province

future, which I did not have during my high school years. Before I went to volunteer, I had a basic idea about life plans. I was always planning to live abroad but I was not completely sure whether that would be a suitable lifestyle for me. So this gap year gave me a good impression of what living by oneself in a completely different environment in a foreign country actually is. It made me realize that there are many things I still have to learn, but it still confirmed my plans to live abroad rather than to stay at one place. I realized that making money and

having a career are not my main priorities in my life and I would rather like to see the world. It gave me the impression, that it is much more valuable to be a world citizen rather than a local thinking individual.

That is the main thing I learned through my gap year: living the life of your ancestors and the life like everybody around you will not make your life experience rich, but going your own path and exploring things nobody else has done before does.

Boats for fishermen

By Anthony Tong

A report by Anthony Tong, Executive Director of Amity Foundation Hong Kong about Amity's rehabilitation efforts after typhoon Haiyan and his visit to the typhoon-affected areas in the Philippines.

Amity Foundation Hong Kong took part in the joint relief operation for Haiyan/Yolanda in January 2014, which benefited 5,000 families and some 25,000 people in 41 barangays in Ajuy, Batad and San Dionisio. Working closely with our chief local partner KAISA, a second visit to Iloilo was arranged during 21 – 24 March to oversee the further phases of relief aid and rehabilitation work supported by the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. The generous donation of HK\$180,000 by the RHKYC members allowed us to provide 34 fiberglass boats for some fishermen at Ajuy, Iloilo and to carry out emergency roof repairs in some classrooms.

Give a fish to a fisherman and you feed him one day. Provide a boat and you restore hope, dignity and livelihood.

On the boat project, KAISA partnering volunteers from the Iloilo Citizen Action Group (ICAG) and the Red Cross Iloilo Chapter (RC) have worked out a distribution scheme. The 34 recipients were chosen based on relative needs after a participative process headed by the local government and assisted by our local partners. Volunteers of the Red Cross double-checked the recipients' claims

and issued identifications as necessary. The ICAG volunteers were responsible for the logistics of the equipment. Together with the Local Government Units (LGU), they drafted a social contract binding the recipients in a "Payment Forward" scheme to plough back some of their income to a common fund in order to benefit other families not being given the boats this time.



Anthony Tong (the 3rd from left) checking the warehousing of boat engines



Amity staffers and volunteers from KAISA, ICAG and Red Cross in front of Ajuy Municipal Hall



Large families typical in the typhoon-affected areas



Fishermen reading and signing the social contract

The Ajuy Mayor Juan Alvarez, Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor and the Provincial Administrator Dr Raul Bantias officiated in the handover ceremony on 22 March 2014 in front of the Municipal Hall. Altogether 50 boats (34 donated by RHKYC and another 16 from other donors) were handed over to fisher families. They also got the engine, the propeller, two fishing nets and other basic equipment as well as a bag of rice. The fishermen were happy in signing the social contract. In subsequent interviews with 5 families, interviewees spoke of their harrowing experience, for example hiding under bamboo trees after their houses were destroyed. With a sharp decline of income from the previous 200 – 400 pesos down to the post-typhoon 100 – 150 pesos, they are now living at subsistence level. Mr. and Mrs. Jose Perreno with 6 children living in Tagubanhon, were in dire straits when their only means of livelihood, a “pump” boat was literally blown away by gusts of 195 mph. All they now need is to fix the winged outriggers and go back to their old trade of fishing.

The “Bankabuhayan” (translated as “Fishing boats for livelihood”) project was championed by KAISA. Through fund-raising activities including selling T-shirts, they hope to raise enough money to help fishermen in the Ajuy Municipality, found to be cooperative and proactive.



New boat owners with hopes for a better future

Keeping education running means to maintain hope for a better future

Some site visits were made with KAISA members to do more fact-finding on schools destroyed in the storm. In consideration of the degree of damage and the kind of risks children were exposed to, the needs for emergency repairs were indeed justified. Amity supports emergency relief repairs of school buildings where roofs have been completely destroyed by the typhoon and are in the danger of collapsing. Pupils are still exposed to any wind and weather while attending classes. In case of bad weather, the children's health is at risk or school is being cancelled.

The opportunity was also taken to witness additional phases of relief goods distribution for needy people in Ajuy and San Dionisio. The San Dionisio Mayor was most grateful for our assistance. The volunteers did an impressive job in supporting all the facets of relief and rehab work. Four month after the super-typhoon Haiyan, communities are still trying to reclaim their livelihood. Villagers visited do not hold much hope recovery would be soon.



A classroom totally exposed to the elements

Bangka Buhayan project and the spirit of self-reliance

By Theresa Carino
Senior Research Consultant
The Amity Foundation



Dr. Theresa Carino (left) listening to a briefing on results and impacts of the relief and rehabilitation projects

On the morning of 22nd March, more than three months after typhoon Yolanda had struck, close to a hundred people from island barangays milled around the Ajuy Municipal Hall, faces bright with anticipation and hope. They tried to hold their excitement in check as the KAISA team arrived for the handing over ceremony of 50 fiberglass pump boats, each complete with a brand new engine, to fisher folks who had suffered total loss

of homes and boats during the terrible disaster.

KAISA's Bangka Buhayan project hopes to restore the means of livelihood for more than a thousand badly affected households in affected regions of the Philippines. Donations for the boats had come from various organizations including the Chinese-Filipino Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Rotary



The lawn fronting the Ajuy Municipal Hall was lined with fiberglass bangkas

Club and the Royal Yacht Club of Hong Kong.

The lawn fronting the Ajuy Municipal Hall was lined with colorful bangkas (fishing boats), with engines propped atop their bows, lending it a festive air. I spotted Rhylene Toquero from the island barangay of Punta Buri whom I had interviewed a month before when KAISA and the Amity Foundation of Hong Kong

had been distributing relief packages. In my earlier interview with her, 42-year-old Rhylene had been in tears as she recalled her family's terrible ordeal during the storm surge that had swept away her home and her boat.

Today, her back straight and her face lit with a smile, she was busy helping others in lining up for their boats. A recipient herself, she said her bangka will be shared with her cousins. She explained that, on the average, fisher folks could earn around 150 pesos a day by selling their catch in the local market. Depending on the season, they could earn approximately 1,500 pesos (US\$ 36) a month. A good day could bring in 400 pesos but during the rainy season, rough seas would dictate fewer catches and fishermen often return home empty handed. Small catches may just be sufficient for Rhylene's 8-member family's own consumption. Since bangkas are small, nets are difficult to use and fisher folks rely heavily on the use of hook and line for gathering their marine harvest. Fishing times are from 4 a.m. to noon. There is also night fishing when squids, attracted to "white" and to light, are easy to catch.

The income that fisher folks garner will seem a pittance to many living in urban centers. There is little doubt they count



Fishermen lining up as recipients, eager to regain self-reliance

among the poorest of the poor in the Philippines. To augment their income, many of them have little choice but to join the ranks of migrant laborers working domestically or overseas.

For the fisher folks of Northern Iloilo, the bangkas provide a subsistence livelihood but at least they can hold their heads up in pride knowing they will not be on the dole. Bangkas help them redeem their self-respect, a sense of self-reliance and independence. We had noted how fishermen were reluctant to frequently queue up for relief packages. It was obvious they preferred to send their wives, older children and elderly parents to line up for the goods. Scenes of food

distribution always saw more women and the elderly queuing up. But today, there were more men folk lining up as recipients.

Their faces beaming with gratitude and anticipation, the men gently stroked the sides of the bangkas and the brand new engines as they checked the boats. Project Bangka Buhayan was uplifting spirits.

This was just the beginning. Recipients signed an agreement promising to "pay it back" later so that more people can benefit. KAISA's aim is to ensure greater responsibility on the part of the fisher folks for their own welfare as well as that of their neighbors. This would reinforce

the Bayanihan spirit in local communities and there would be greater ownership of the project on the part of recipients.

KAISA leaders are conscious that doling out food and materials is only a temporary and necessary measure, but in the long run, relief work is more about rehabilitating and rebuilding community. We learned later that some of the barangays have organized simple cooperatives to manage the project of paying back in ways and measures affordable by the fisher folks.



Amity, the local and provincial governments, Kaisha, and the local Red Cross signing an agreement on supervising future follow-up actions)

For the long haul, maintenance of the boats is a priority concern and the ownership of fiberglass boats is something quite new for many. At the handover, announcements were made encouraging recipients to report any defect in the boats or engines. Workshops to teach them about repairs and maintenance of fiberglass boats were scheduled in Ajuy.

Extending help to the typhoon victims was a moving experience for most of us, especially when seeing that the relief and rehab efforts were making a difference. Volunteers in the distribution process felt involved in lives of people and a greater identification with the larger community.



A couple with two children and their new fishing boat

One could not help but think of what their future would be. Having met some of the victims, having seen their gratitude and inspired by their resilience, we understood more fully that giving was not simply a one-off thing. We became acutely conscious of the poverty that Typhoon Yolanda had exposed in these villages.



Anthony explaining the purpose of the social contract

The lack of adequate water sources and supplies, the inadequacies of infrastructure, the extreme imbalance in land distribution such that farmers and fisher folks had to rely on the patronage of landowners in deciding where they could rebuild their homes. Damaged homes and damaged schools with rusting, unpainted GI sheets, rotting wooden chairs and tables in school rooms, all testified to the appalling conditions that had been allowed to fester in the poorer barangays. Certainly, rehabilitation must involve local participation in reshaping, not just reviving, livelihoods of local communities.



Beneficiaries expressing their gratitude to Amity staffers

Wheels for love

By Martin Lachmann

Joni & Friends, an American partner of the Amity Foundation, came to China to relieve the suffering of people with disabilities and their families by distributing wheelchairs and organizing a family retreat camp.

Families with special needs received care, support and encouragement from American experts and volunteers from local churches.

The story of Joni & Friends and its reach out to China

Joni and Friends is a Christian foundation advocates disability ministries and the inclusion of people with disabilities in the church and communities. At the age of 17, Joni Eareckson Tada experienced a neck fracture in a diving accident, which left her paralyzed. For two years, Joni had undergone hardship and rehabilitation. Putting her trust in God, she responded to her destiny and started to help others in similar situations. She founded Joni and Friends International Disability Center. Today, Joni and Friends reaches out around the world to serve people with disabilities and advocates dignity and respect for them. Joni and Friends came to China in 1999 for the first time. In 2008, after the Wenchuan Earthquake in Sichuan Province, the cooperation with Amity started with the “Wheels for the World Project”, which distributed wheelchairs to the victims of the



Technicians and physical therapists working together on a wheelchair

earthquake. Joni and Friends run projects in China three times a year, ranging from wheelchair distribution and family retreat camps to disability ministry training for churches.

The focus lies in the capabilities of people with disabilities

In 2014, the Amity Foundation and Joni & Friends joined hands and went out to the communities in Jiangsu Province to distribute wheelchairs with the support of local Chinese churches. The team consisted of physical therapists and technicians, who adapt the wheelchairs individually for the beneficiaries, as well as social workers, translators and other specialists. “To make sure that the focus lies in the capabilities of people with disabilities, and not on the handicaps and a limitation, one of our group members is a person with impairment”, explained Brian, the leader of the group. Most participants were volunteers who contributed their annual leave to serve people with disabilities in China. The reasons for their passion to volunteer always

included the joy and valuable experience of serving in the name of Jesus and through concrete involvement. “I have come to love China” and “it’s an expression of love to them”, explained Ginny, one of the social workers.

The spirit of love

“It is very nice to see how the love of Jesus is handed over through wheelchairs.”

Brian stated and added, “To see how the church changes the attitude of people with disabilities shows the precious value of this work”. The vision of promoting Christian ministry in the disability communities comes along with Amity’s efforts of advocacy for people with disabilities and can be associated with the quotation of Bishop Ting, the founder of the Amity Foundation: “Christianity moves and compels people, not by its doctrines, but by the love made manifest”. This spirit was witnessed during the next weeks. Joni and Friends worked with the Amity Foundation to reach out to church communities in Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province to support disability communities and their families by visiting them, distributing wheelchairs to them, and staging a family retreat camp for them.



One of the social workers from the states chatting with a beneficiary of the project

A letter from Mr. Paul L. Sellers

Our everlasting gratitude goes to 95-year-old Mr. Paul L. Sellers and all our friends who inspire and support our work.

11th April, 2014

Dear brothers and sisters at Amity,

Enclosed is our cashier's check US\$ 150 fund donation for the fine work of Amity in China.

Since it is difficult for me to recognize the most important project report, I wish to challenge you to decide for me.

I became acquainted with Amity when I was privileged to work with Bengbu Design & Research Institute for Glass in 1980-1983-1988 by UNIDO. I was honored to make many friends and regularly correspond with them and their families.

I am most grateful to receive your annual calendar and Amity Outlook. Since we have a Down's syndrome grandson, the Amity Bakery article was very interesting. A bit personal, I am Christian, retired, 95 years of age, and blessed with my 94-year-old wife and we have been married for 75 years.

Thank you for your cooperation and we wish for all of you Good Health , Long Life and Much Success.

Paul L. Sellers
Perrysburg, Ohio
U.S.A.

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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.