

An ancient Chinese legend speaks of a **silken red thread** that connects one person to another. It is said that this magical cord may tangle or stretch but never break.

THE RED THREAD
PROMISE

OUR MISSION :: The Red Thread Promise is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to bringing hope and healing to needy & orphaned children who have no one to advocate for them. Our diverse programs in China, Haiti and the USA exist to improve the quality of life for these exceptional children so they can live independently with dignity, health and, most importantly, HOPE. Our mission enables people to use their professional and personal skills to raise awareness of the plight of orphaned and special needs children, and to provide for their care and treatment. We consider our humanitarian efforts to be an investment in world peace, building relationships between people of different countries and connecting strangers for the greater good of humanity. Through involvement in The Red Thread Promise, it is our dream that people will begin to value the lives of others as much as—or more than—their own.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Red Thread Promise name is rooted in an ancient Chinese proverb that speaks of a silken red thread of destiny that connects all of us, person-to-person. It is said that this thread may tangle or stretch, yet never break, so that people who are destined to connect will do so, regardless of situation or circumstance.

Our core work embraces this concept, causing us to reach out to those with whom we already share a bond—regardless of race, gender, nationality or religion—in their time of need. As we feel the tug of the silken red thread, it is our promise to offer assistance, bringing together donors, volunteers and children in need.

STRENGTH IN PARTNERSHIPS

Strong partnerships are essential for providing efficient, cost-effective programs. Every organization that partners with The Red Thread Promise brings a unique skill set, talented individuals and much-needed resources, allowing us to help more children than we otherwise could. These important alliances help us strengthen and grow our initiatives while working hand-in-hand for the health and wellbeing of needy children across the globe.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer or financially supporting our work in any capacity, please contact us. We'd love to talk to you about opportunities with our organization and in your area.

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For the most up-to-date information on our programs, like us on Facebook and read our blog at www.redthreadpromise.org.

The primary objective of The Red Thread's mobility program is to help physically challenged individuals become as independent and mobile as possible. Through this project we hope to achieve another important goal: to eliminate the social stigma associated with disabled people, proving that those with handicaps are not to be pitied or viewed as second-class citizens.

By offering valuable and practical assistance, we help them reach their full potential and are achieving this goal by:

- Providing 100+ All Terrain Wheelchairs (ATWs) to people with handicaps living in remote regions and developing countries
- Training people to assemble, maintain and fix ATWs in their home country
- Supplying prosthetics, orthotics, canes and walkers to those without access to these critical tools for independence

These mobility tools and programs literally change the lives of those we serve. Children are able to go school and adults can better interact with their families, return to work and become productive members of society. In every case, the recipient

beams with pride at their newly found independence, causing their self-worth to soar and their self-confidence to increase.

ALL TERRAIN WHEELCHAIRS

In many developing countries, people with disabilities lived marginalized lives due to lack of mobility and extreme social stigma. Poor roads, unpaved areas, rough terrain and steep mountains were—and continue to be—constant obstacles to those with handicaps. These rugged ATWs feature a heavy-duty frame, mountain bike tires, specialized seat cushions and more, making this chair the perfect fit for harsh terrain. Recipients receive more than the gift of a simple chair: they gain the ability

for improved self-care, become more productive, and reduce the burden on their already struggling families. In each service area, we will set up a centrally-located repair and maintenance station to extend the use of the chairs for years. Each center will provide jobs, help fuel the country's economy and reduce the amount of waste from broken and unusable wheelchairs.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are currently setting up a repair and maintenance station in Port-au-Prince as well as fundraising to begin work in the Dominican Republic and other countries. Your financial support of this program can help make the gift of mobility available to more people around the world.

• INTL •

GLOBAL MOBILITY PROGRAM



The Red Thread Promise has been working and building relationships in Haiti since 2009. Our work has taken us from the heart of Port-au-Prince, to coastal areas, to remote mountain villages that are only accessible by foot. It is the beautiful children with their huge brown eyes and warm hugs that continue to draw us there, tugging on that silken red thread of destiny.

Through our various programs, we support ill and physically challenged children, providing critical treatment they might otherwise not receive. The Red Thread Promise funds medical care, hospitalizations and surgeries; supports mobility solutions for non-ambulatory children; supplies clinics and orphanages with medical equipment, medication and other necessities; and supports clean water and food initiatives, as well as many other things.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK IN HAITI

- Delivering, assembling and distributing over 100 brand new all-terrain wheelchairs
- Planning and establishing Camp Jake, an annual camp for disabled children

- Financially supporting the treatment of orphans with various diseases, birth defects & disabilities
- Working in hospitals, clinics and orphanages; donating medical supplies, diapers, formula, baby food, pharmaceuticals & necessities
- Purchasing, coordinating and delivering equipment for blind and deaf schools

ONGOING NEEDS

- Setting up a fully stocked, centrally-located hearing aid clinic in Port-au-Prince, including Haitian-trained staff, state-of-the-art evaluation equipment and a two-year supply of digital hearing aids

- Offering a full camp experience to handicapped children through Camp Jake
- Conducting an ongoing food drive for St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children to feed students and staff at least two nutritious meals each day
- Financially supporting the purchase and installation of a water treatment system at St. Vincent's
- Sending medical personnel to work at clinics
- Connecting adoptive parents with children in need of permanent, loving home

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The opportunities to help in Haiti are vast, from hand-on trips, to conducting fund and supply drives, to financially supporting our programs.

• HAITI •

WHEELCHAIRS, NUTRITION, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION



Camp Jake is an annual summer camp for special needs orphans and students from St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. For one week, campers enjoy respite from the intense Haitian heat in a unique, fun-filled learning environment brimming with new activities and skill-building opportunities, creating memorable experiences within the poorest country in the Western hemisphere.

A ONE-OF-A-KIND CAMP

Camp Jake is designed to meet the diverse special needs of children, youth and young adults living with physical challenges in Haiti. All campers—deaf, blind and non-ambulatory—are treated with care and respect during camp, freed from the daily social stigma surrounding people with disabilities living in Haiti. This unique camp allows campers to explore life in ways that broaden their horizons, create life-long memories, develop character and boost self-confidence. Campers proudly learn new skills—tools for future career opportunities—while enjoying new and fun experiences side-by-side with a team of caring American counselors.

Our team consists of artists and musicians, sports enthusiasts, medical professionals and mentors. This dynamic group leads seven full days of fun, exciting learning activities that allow participants to develop and strengthen their abilities, leaving disabilities behind.

MEETING SPECIAL NEEDS

Camp Jake is designed to remove physical and emotional barriers, giving opportunities to engage in:

- Creative arts—sculpting, painting, music, sewing, jewelry making, photography and other artistic outlets—that are both fun and therapeutic

- Physical outlets—and dancing—activities that cultivate a healthier, more active lifestyle
- Social activities—including game- and card-playing, storytelling and cultural exchanges—activities that promote personal growth and inclusiveness
- Educational opportunities—such as lessons in personal hygiene and physical therapy—that will enhance campers' lives far beyond Camp Jake

HOW YOU CAN HELP

These and other activities allow campers to express themselves physically and emotionally, providing a unique experience that you can be a part of as a Camp sponsor or volunteer.

• HAITI •

CAMP JAKE RICHARD



Our work in China began in 2001 when The Red Thread Promise was only a twinkle in our founders' eyes. A teenager named Zhou Zhou, who lost his leg to a land mine, stole our hearts and compelled us to help transform his life by giving him the gift of mobility. Since then we have worked exclusively with special-needs orphans in various provinces, providing medical care to improve their quality of life and increase their chance of adoption.

Orphanages are often unable to provide costly critical care for the most severely disabled babies due to insufficient funds. We fill this gap by offering life-saving medical care to the weakest children who are often ineligible for adoption. We partner with foster homes for special-needs children in China and provide surgery for spina bifida and other severe or life-threatening conditions. Following treatment, children enjoy improved health and are often eligible for adoption.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK IN CHINA

- Funding in-country spina bifida surgeries
- Providing a life-saving operation for an infant with teratology of fallot, a severe heart condition

- Funding the hospitalization and urgent care of severely premature infants
- Supplying nebulizers, food and formula for at-risk infants
- Giving palliative care to a terminally-ill toddler
- Donating a walker to a child with uneven legs
- Identifying a specialist and providing a compression stocking to a child who suffered from a huge growth on his foot, leg and buttocks

ONGOING NEEDS

It is our goal to provide medical intervention for 6 Chinese babies over the next 12 months.

For infants with acute conditions such as spina bifida, early intervention is critical. Surgery needs to be performed within days of birth to assure optimal outcomes; otherwise, these children are at risk for being permanently institutionalized or even death. Following surgery, a child's chances for adoption are greatly increased. This improved state of health and wellbeing allows them to grow up to become more productive members of society and drastically increases their self-worth.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please consider supporting critically ill orphans in China by donating toward our programs, providing medical treatment and helping them find homes.

• CHINA •

CRITICAL SURGERY, NUTRITION, HEALTHCARE



STORIES FROM CHINA



HUA

Take a look at these photos of Hua and you'll see him grow from a 2.2 lb. premature infant with a very tenuous hold on life, to a sturdy little boy with an angel face. Hua's tiny cry for help came to us through one of our partner organizations, Love Without Boundaries. • Born prematurely in Anhui during the devastatingly brutal winter in January 2008, Hua's grave condition required immediate medical intervention. To survive, he needed to be able to eat on his own rather than through a tube. • The Red Thread Promise teamed with Angel Covers and Love Without Boundaries to provide Hua with intensive care hospitalization and round-the-clock care. Hua remained in critical condition for several months, receiving the special formula and specific care our partnership was able to provide. Thankfully, he learned to suck on his own and take his feedings by bottle. • Because we were able to intervene early, Hua not only lived, he's thriving and is awaiting adoption into a forever family.



LU YUAN

When we met Zheng LuYuan he was just 10 days old and needed spina bifida surgery. • Spina bifida is a birth defect in which part of the spinal cord is located outside the body in a sac. Spina bifida occurs at the end of the first month of pregnancy when the two sides of the embryo's spine fail to join together, leaving an open area. In some cases, the spinal cord or other membranes may push through this opening in the back. • Just a month after he was born, The Red Thread Promise (TRTP) supported LuYuan's journey to Shanghai Children's Medical Center where he received life-changing surgery. After several weeks of one-on-one care from a nanny, LuYuan returned to Swallow's Nest where, according to the director, "He wants to be held all the time ... and is cooing and smiling." • Being in a better state of health is a gift that LuYuan will have for the rest of his life and will greatly increase his chances of being adopted.



XIN XIN

In December 2011, another bundle of joy joined us on earth. A moment that should have brought great wonder, brought a dim future for XinXin—she was born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. • Hydrocephalus is a buildup of fluid inside the skull, leading to brain swelling. The name literally means "water on the brain." This buildup of fluid puts pressure on the brain, pushing the brain up against the skull and damaging or destroying brain tissues. • XinXin has already received her initial surgery and follow-up CT scan, great steps toward her recovery. Since her procedure, she has been cuddled, loved and cared for by the specially trained nannies at Swallows Nest. Her road to recovery is long, but we have great hope for this little one. • The Red Thread Promise is committed to supporting Baby XinXin's post surgical care until she is matched with her forever family. It is estimated that she may be in foster care for two or more years due to the severity of her special needs.



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Following our humble beginnings in China, we asked ourselves “As an American charity, how can we offer hope and healing in our own backyard?” We answered that question in 2007 by establishing Jacob’s Fund to help children who are doubly disadvantaged by both disability and poverty. Through this program, we are able to fund much-needed scholarships for children who will greatly benefit from hippotherapy and therapeutic riding.

Derived from the Greek word “hippos” (horse), hippotherapy literally means treatment or therapy with the aid of a horse. Hippotherapy is the process of administering physical, speech and occupational therapy by a trained therapist, using the movements of the horse to influence the rider. It is best known to improve neurological function & sensory processing.

Therapeutic riding is often the next step when patients “graduate” from hippotherapy. It is a more independent style of riding that includes various therapeutic exercises and activities, allowing the rider more advanced physical, psychological and social development.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK IN THE USA

- Funding full and rotating scholarship for hippotherapy and therapeutic riding sessions for children with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, expressive/receptive language disorders and profound developmental delays
- Taking teams to work at McKenna Farms
- Collecting and distributing hand-made blankets and shawls to destitute children on the streets and in shelters (USA: AZ, KY, LA, OH, PA, WV, UT; Argentina, China, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Iraq and Mexico)

ONGOING NEEDS

- Funding uninterrupted hippotherapy for multiple children over the next year
- Bringing architects to McKenna Farms to assist in planning an addition to the indoor arena so parents can unobtrusively observe their child receiving therapy
- Working hands-on at the Farm

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can help these exceptional children reach their full potential by financially supporting Jacob’s Fund scholarships for hippotherapy or by volunteering on one of our working trips to the Farm.

• USA •

JACOB’S FUND - HIPPO THERAPY, THERAPEUTIC RIDING



• USA •

STORIES FROM THE UNITED STATES



COLE

The Red Thread Promise met young Cole just before his 4th birthday. He had been diagnosed with PDD (pervasive development disorder) as



well as a form of autism and speech apraxia (a condition in which the brain has problems planning the movement of the body parts necessary for speech). • Sweet, bright, and affectionate, Cole's comprehension was found to be well within the normal range.

However, he had tremendous difficulty with expressive language, which caused him to become frustrated and withdrawn. • Jacob's Fund subsidized Cole's barn fees for his therapy horse—a necessary expense that often accompanies hippotherapy—so that he could receive his treatment. During the sessions, the movement of the horse stimulated the muscles in Cole's diaphragm and chest necessary to produce sound, thus aiding him in his speech development • We are thrilled to have given him this precious gift and are confident that this therapy has positively affected his life.



LESLIE

Leslie, a sweet little princess, was born with Down syndrome, a genetic condition that causes physical and cognitive developmental delays. • Thanks to



barn-fee assistance from Jacob's Fund, Leslie has received continuous hippotherapy for several years. Despite her diagnosis, Leslie has made tremendous gains in all developmental areas including cognition, communication, and social and

physical development thanks to the therapists, horses and uninterrupted therapy at McKenna Farms. • Leslie loves singing, reading books and, of course, riding horses. Her communication skills have significantly improved; she is now able to talk and has increased her verbal skills significantly. She even demonstrates age appropriate attention to preferred tasks. • Leslie easily puts a smile on every face she meets. Her loving nature makes her a true joy to work with in speech therapy and we are happy to be a part of this young lady's life.



TONY

When we met Tony, he was a teenager with autism whose mother was dying of esophageal cancer.

Tony's therapeutic riding sessions were an anchor



of stability during this trying time. After being on the horse, Tony's sense of accomplishment and confidence soared, which helped him maintain a positive outlook on life. • All of the family's resources went toward his mother's care, and, without our assistance, his therapy and

progress would have been interrupted. Jacob's Fund and McKenna Farms teamed to provide Tony's barn fees as well as the services of a therapist so he could continue his weekly riding. • Since his mother's death, Tony continues to be optimistic. He has since competed in the Equestrian Special Olympics twice, bringing home medals each time. He successfully graduated from high school and is holding down a job while continuing his therapy. • Jacob's Fund is humbled to help Tony achieve his full potential under very adverse conditions.