



January

2015

What's new?

1. Changed font for our logo's tag line.
2. Updated brochures
3. Young Athletes Special Olympics program starting February 7th
4. School year social group for children

*St Croix Therapy is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization.*

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*A saint is one who makes goodness attractive.*

*Laurence Housman*



Executive Director  
Dianne Joachim

Rachel, Jenn and Colleen, pictured here, are at Hangzhou Children's Welfare Institute, a large orphanage which has partnered with Red Thread



since 2009 and has become a regional leader in promoting special education and children's rehabilitative services. The staff at Hangzhou have done an outstanding job incorporating the techniques and concepts taught by Red Thread volunteers over the years and now are successfully reaching out to other orphanages to teach them how to implement similar programming at their own sites.





Several children had serious oral motor or sensory challenges which limited their ability to get adequate nutrition. Jenn and Sally (SLPs) were able to work one on one to teach caregivers positioning and feeding techniques for specific children.



Thank you to all those who sent toys to the children in China. The caregivers and staff at one of the orphanages have little training in how to use toys and play to promote the children's development. The toy drive allowed Red Thread Volunteers to arrive with plenty of materials to use during our trainings. After a toy was used for teaching and demonstration, it was left with the Chinese staff who had been taught the techniques, helping to ensure immediate follow through.

The board games also went to classrooms to help teach skills such as turn taking and matching. In the picture above, one of our translators is learning how to play American board games so that she can write the instructions in Chinese and show the teachers how to play. The teachers received the materials with great enthusiasm and eagerly sought ideas on how to incorporate the toys into their school day.

Our hope is that, having seen firsthand how to use these toys and materials to engage the children, the caregivers and educators at the orphanage will be able to continue building on the ideas brought to them by Red Thread.

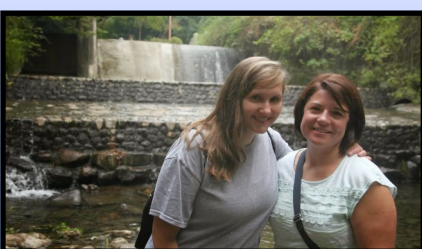
In 2013 Red Thread brought a Rifton gait trainer to the orphanage at Ningbo so that a teenage girl with cerebral palsy could take her first steps. She now delightedly uses her gait trainer to walk around the rehab facility. Knowing that there were many younger children at Ningbo who had potential to walk if they had access to the right equipment, in 2014 Red Thread brought a smaller size gait trainer. This little boy had spent a year watching his friend walk, and he knew he had the same potential. When Rachel unpacked the gait trainer and asked for a demonstration model to show the staff how to appropriately fit a gait trainer, he was ready to go. Adjusting and fitting the gait trainer was complicated by the fact that he took his first steps before Rachel could get the buckles strapped!



A Child Comes to Life

While very invested in doing all they can to help the children reach their full potential, many of the caregivers who work

with the younger children at Ningbo are just beginning to learn how to use sensory techniques to engage the children. Colleen used her extensive sensory background and her gentle spirit to demonstrate ways to encourage a child's development. In the toddler room Colleen began working with one particularly shut down child. As Colleen and the child played, entirely absorbed in each other, a group of caregivers quietly gathered around them. Finally one of the translators explained: "They've never seen this child smile before."



The orphanage at Hangzhou has also become a resources for families who are raising children with special needs. Families travel to Hangzhou from hours away to learn rehab techniques from the staff, who

take great pride in sharing skills learned from Red Thread volunteers. Jenn, Colleen, and Rachel had the privilege of screening and advising children from some of these families.