

World Forgotten Children's Foundation

NEWSLETTER

701 E. Chocolate Avenue, Hershey PA 17033-1240, USA
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Help Us Spread the Word

Please forward a copy of this newsletter to your friends and colleagues and make them aware of the WFCF mission.



**Providing Helping
Hands to Less Fortunate
Children of the World**



Raising Hope, Inc.

Bringing Hope and a Future to Those in Need in Ukraine

The ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine has taken a toll on the entire country. Life-saving medicines are desperately needed at hospitals, along with bandaging and medical supplies to care for those who have been wounded. Many soldiers in the war zone do not have things as basic as socks and tea because of lack of funding and materials. Churches have been trying to evacuate people and also provide food for those who stay. And with the Ukrainian economy failing, inflation is hitting the entire population extremely hard. With the price of gas increasing by 50% and all food by 30%, it is increasingly difficult for all families to get by on the same salaries that they were making before the crisis began. It requires families the equivalent of hundreds of dollars more a month to meet basic needs.

World Forgotten Children's Foundation has extended its outreach into Ukraine to partner with Raising Hope, Inc., to provide help for children in this war-torn nation who have very special physical and intellectual needs. In this small way, WFCF is offering hope and a better future to those living under a dark cloud of violence, economic deprivation, and severe limitation.

This spring, WFCF donated \$8,000 US for the purpose of purchasing ten (10) wheelchairs at a cost of \$700.00 each and two (2) treadmills at a cost of \$500.00 each for the benefit of orphans living with severe physical disabilities.

Raising Hope is currently in the process of purchasing this equipment for the children it serves along the Moldovan border.

Because of the situation in Ukraine, funds deposited in banks are only allowed to be withdrawn in small amounts at one time. Raising Hope has recently finished withdrawing the funds WFCF sent to the non-profit for the purchase of the equipment. In order to "stretch the funds" and use the donation most effectively and efficiently, Raising Hope has identified a supplier who can bring the wheelchairs and treadmills from Poland and/or Germany directly, to buy more of them with the money.

As soon as the equipment is delivered, Raising Hope will share a narrative, as well as photos, of the children benefiting from the wheelchairs and treadmills. When we receive these photos and the stories of how WFCF's gift has touched children's lives, we will also share them with you.

WFCF is honored to be a part of bringing hope and a future to children in Ukraine who are living as orphans and with disabilities.



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World Forgotten Children's Foundation

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www.world-forgotten-children.org
HELP WFCF HELP THE CHILDREN!

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Developmental Disabilities in Children Across Different Cultures

The U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities promotes the acceptance, integration and inclusion of people with disabilities into mainstream society. However, the integration of a disabled child is not the norm in many cultures.

Different cultures have different views of disability and treat children with developmental disabilities in different ways. For example:

- Traditional Confucian beliefs, such as those held in China, value an accepted family hierarchy based on age, gender and generational status. Harmony in family and society is maintained by self-restraint and collectivism, with everyone acting in accordance with their hierarchical status. Maintaining 'face' means that "shameful" family affairs cannot be disclosed to outsiders. The family of a child with disabilities may be reluctant to seek supportive services.¹
- In some South Asian cultures, such as in parts of Pakistan, a girl is expected to be like her mother and a boy like his father. When this does not occur, it can be seen as a disturbance in the natural order. In traditional communities, a family may wonder whether their child with a disability has been taken over by a djinn (spirit) or they see him as a "changeling." Parents may even feel isolated from the rest of their community because of the perceived stigma of having a child with developmental disabilities.²
- Families from some cultures may worry that having a disabled child will affect the marriage prospects of other family members, especially daughters.²

Different cultures have different views of the causes of developmental disabilities. 'Blame' for a disability may be placed on the mother or both parents, or the child's condition may be considered an "act of God." Here are some examples:³

- Traditional Confucian beliefs see the birth of a child with a developmental disability as a punishment for parental violations of traditional teachings, such as dishonesty or misconduct. The child's disability may also be seen as punishment for ancestral

wrongdoing. The wider community may feel that the parents are responsible and be less likely to provide the family with sympathy or support.

- Individuals from South-East Asian cultures may believe that developmental disabilities are caused by "mistakes" made by parents or ancestors.
- Indian cultures offer multiple causes for a disability, ranging from medicines or illness during pregnancy and consanguinity, to psychological trauma in the mother and lack of stimulation for the infant.
- In other cultures, the will of God or Allah, karma, evil spirits, black magic or punishment for sins may be seen as causes of disability. Some cultures freely combine traditional beliefs with biological models such as disease degeneration and dysfunction. Mexican, Haitian, and Latin American cultures may see disability as the result of a mother (or family) being cursed.

WFCF's goal is to reach out to as many rural communities as possible anywhere around the world regardless of ethnicity, background, belief, and culture in support of unfortunate orphaned children who are living with developmental disabilities. WFCF strongly promotes the acceptance, integration and inclusion of children with disabilities into mainstream society and is inviting NGOs and Non-for-profit organizations that support the aforementioned communities to submit their project for funding to WFCF at help@world-forgotten-children.org.

References:

1. Ravindran N, Myers BJ. *Cultural influences on perception of health, illness, and disability: A review and focus on autism*; 2012.
2. Baker DL, Miller E, Dang MT, et al. *Developing culturally responsive approaches with Southeast Asian American families experiencing developmental disabilities*; *Pediatrics* 2010.
3. Summers SJ, Jones J. *Cross-cultural working in community learning disabilities services: Clinical issues, dilemmas and tensions*; 2004.

Contributed by: Mr. Saeed Otufat-Shamsi, a member of the WFCF Advisory Board

A few ways that you can help WFCF:

- Let your friends and associates know about WFCF
- Forward a copy of the WFCF Newsletter to friends and associates
- Encourage friends and associates to inform WFCF about appropriate projects to fund
- Consider including WFCF as a beneficiary in personal wills

