

## Upcoming Fundraisers

### Celebrate Mother's Day with PATS!

This Mother's Day celebrate all of the amazing women in your life with a donation to PATS!

Each special woman you honor will receive a beautiful handmade card with a personalized message from you as well as the following inscription: *A donation has been made in your name to support an HIV-positive child living in China.*

Visit [www.patskids.org](http://www.patskids.org) to place your order.

All orders must be submitted by Friday, April 30th to ensure on-time delivery.

Suggested donation amounts (per card):

- Option 1 (student) - \$20.00
- Option 2 - \$25.00
- Option 3 - \$50.00
- Option 4 - 3 cards for \$60.00
- Option 5 - donation of any amount

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [PATSmothersday@gmail.com](mailto:PATSmothersday@gmail.com).

Thank you for your generous donation!

We look forward to helping you honor the important women in your life!



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## No contribution is too small

By Eleni Petrow

When I was given the opportunity to travel to China for the first time with PATS, I was excited at the thought of such an invaluable experience, but anxious about my ability to help.

After meeting with families and children affected by HIV/AIDS in the rural countryside, my fears about not being able to serve and connect on a meaningful level disappeared. Though we could not speak to each other directly, these children embraced my affection and encouragement with joy and laughter. In addition to our important tasks of checking on medication to ensure adherence and conducting follow-up interviews, there was also time for drawing, playing, dancing and singing. It was remarkable to see how much these families appreciated these small efforts, especially the very sick. But the most remarkable thing was how much these children are a resilient

affirmation of life, and how much they can help themselves with anything we can give.

I remember one impoverished young girl, living with her elderly grandmother and young sister, showing her pillbox and telling one of the health workers how she had taken all the right doses at the right time. She is not an uncommon case; many young children have taken so much responsibility for their illness and are able to flourish tremendously with help. I asked myself what could be given that would mean something and the answer is anything we have. I gave my time and there are many other ways to help these amazing children; even small donations bring support to families who need it. I know it is hard to imagine how we can impact lives that seem so far away, but we can help these children, these families and this large community of affected people start to help themselves.

## PATS update

PATS started with one simple idea – to provide proper treatment and support to 16 HIV-positive children in rural China. Nearly three years later, PATS now cares for more than 35 children, has 6 full-time community health workers in China, is trusted by the local communities and health authorities and, most importantly, has obtained 501(c)(3) status as an independent nonprofit organization!

This has been a blessed journey and would not have happened without the support of many generous donors, organizations and friends like you. Some organizations and individuals we would like to express our special gratitude to are: Medical Care Development International for its support during the pilot year; Jenzabar Foundation for providing generous matching donations for the past two years; Alliance for Children Foundation for handling the accounting and finances year one; Frank Gangi of Global NAPs for providing

matching funds and consistent support over the years and Judith G. H. Edington, Attorney at Law, Sullivan & Worcester LLP, Boston, our amazing pro bono lawyer who helped with the NGO registration process. We would also like to thank those who have graciously agreed to be on our Board of Directors, providing invaluable advice as we continue to grow: Dr. Jessica Haberer, Dr. Joan Kaufman and Xilin Mow.

Looking ahead, PATS strives to extend our work. As a small organization, all PATS US staff are volunteers, keeping the operating costs to a minimum and leveraging resources so maximum funds go directly to support the work in China. We sincerely appreciate your support and encourage you to consider purchasing hand-made Mother's Day cards and to make a donation on behalf of all the important women in your life.

With our most sincere appreciation,  
PATS Volunteers

# Getting to know the PATS kids

By Lily Huang

I am a graduate student at the Harvard Design School of Architecture and in 2009 I had the opportunity to visit the homes of several PATS children. Working alongside the PATS health workers and volunteers, I focused on getting to know each of the children in the program, in order to organize and create Sponsor a Child profiles. Through the profiles, PATS can best match children with generous donors abroad, whose support deeply impacts the lives of these children.

During my trip, one child in particular stood out to me. On a site visit to Lixin, Anhui, the PATS team met Ling Feng who lives in a rural house with his grandfather and brother. In addition to being HIV-positive, both of his parents and three of his four uncles had passed away. Because his elderly grandfather has trouble remembering to give him his medication, drug adherence is a challenge for Ling Feng. PATS workers provided the family with marked pillboxes and make special efforts to visit the house to provide health support and

encourage accountability.

On this particular visit, meeting with Ling Feng's family alone was complicated by the fact that it was summer and the

neighborhood children were playing nearby. Ling Feng was incredibly nervous because of the attention brought on by the health workers and the possible stigma of being seen as HIV-positive. I was there as well, trying to get to know Ling Feng to create a summary for the Sponsor a Child packages, a difficult task given the tension. At this point, in order to distract the children playing tag in the area, three of the health workers and volunteers began singing songs in English and Chinese. The children were delighted and joined in on the choruses. Ling Feng, seeing many of his friends comfortable with the health workers, relaxed and began to enjoy himself.

In many ways, Ling Feng is a very normal boy. Recovering from his shyness, he shared with us that his favorite activities were swimming and playing basketball and that he likes to eat noodles with meat. He started school this past year and his grandfather reports that he is doing well and has many friends. But in order for Ling Feng to be healthy, he requires a lot of support from his family and the health workers. Evident from the diversion created by the singing health workers, his family also needs support from the health workers to show by example the possibility of community support rather than stigmatization. That afternoon made it clear to me how much a team of health workers have to not only be competent but also sensitive, committed, and creative in responding to the many details in caring for vulnerable children. I was not only able to get my interview with Ling Feng and to learn a few Chinese folk songs, but I was also reminded it will take many clear voices, singing together to make a change.



Picture of Ling Feng

## Tough choices - nine children waiting

By Cherry Wan

When asked by the local Ministry of Health to add nine new HIV-positive children to the program, PATS volunteers and staff were both honored and humbled. While the request validates the success of the PATS program, especially the hard work of our community health workers (CHWs), it also reveals the limits of being a small non-profit. In discussing the addition with our dedicated CHWs, they offered to forgo compensation for the extra work and give up one more weekend per month, making the additional costs as low as possible. The devotion of the PATS CHWs inspires the US volunteers to strive for innovative ways to raise funds. At a minimum level of support, the addition of these nine, who live in Lixin where PATS already works, would still cost an additional \$4,000 every year. The costs include transportation for the health workers to visit regularly, nutritional support for the families and hygiene supplies.

Through much deliberation, the conclusion was made that at

this time, it is not financially feasible for the program to support nine more children because sufficient yearly funds to cover them are uncertain. This episode serves as a bittersweet reminder that while we wish to include all children in need, difficult choices are inevitable. PATS' lead CHW spoke frankly about the new children, "No, we haven't gone to see these children because we won't be able to say no to them once we see them." Aware of the transformations PATS kids undergo upon joining the program, denial is a heart-wrenching decision, yet it is the responsible choice. In writing this, we wish to share a glimpse of the inner workings of PATS. All PATS staff in China and the U.S. are wholeheartedly dedicated to providing every PATS child exemplary support. We will continue tirelessly to garner more support so the nine children, and more children in need, can be part of the PATS family in the very near future. If you are interested in helping to sponsor the addition of these nine children, please let us know by e-mailing us at [info@patskids.org](mailto:info@patskids.org).

### Want to Make a Donation or Sponsor a Child?

If you would like to make a donation, please mail your check of any amount to the following address:

PATS  
PO Box 381740  
Cambridge, MA 02238-1740

All checks should be made out to "PATS," and will qualify as a tax-deductible donation.

You can also sponsor a child and be matched with a specific PATS child. For more information on this and to read about some of our kids, please visit our website: [www.patskids.org](http://www.patskids.org).

Thank you from the PATS Team!



Community health worker, Pan Pan, teaching PATS children.