



Dear Friend,

We would like you to join us in making a profound and meaningful contribution to children and young adults with disabilities right here in our area.

iCan Shine is a national charitable nonprofit organization which conducts over 100 five-day iCan Bike programs teaching approximately 3,000 people with disabilities how to ride a two-wheel bicycle each year. Since its inception in 2007, over 20,000 people with disabilities have learned to ride a bicycle through this wonderful program.

There is a great need for bicycle programs for people with disabilities. Research shows that approximately 80% of people with autism and 90% of people with Down syndrome never learn how to ride a bicycle during their lifetime. Learning to overcome the challenge of riding a bicycle benefits people with disabilities by enabling them to participate in a leisure activity with their friends and family, stay physically fit, gain confidence and improve their sense of accomplishment and self-esteem.

Using adapted custom-built bike equipment, trained professionals, and volunteers; participants in the five-day iCan Bike programs receive 75 minutes of daily instruction. What is truly amazing is that over 80% of the participants learn to ride a conventional bicycle independently by the end of the week!

I can assure you that this letter cannot adequately describe the moment during a camp when the volunteer lets go of the participant's bike training handle for the first time: The rider smiles as broadly as they ever have, truly shining, the staff erupts in cheering, and the parents laugh and cry.

How can you help!

The Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society & REACH Center is very lucky to have the opportunity to host the iCan Bike program in Paris, Texas. It will be held at the Love Civic Center the week of June, 24-28.

We need your help to make this program a big success. The program includes highly-trained staff along with lots of custom-built adapted bike equipment travelling from city to city each week via truck and trailer. We are looking for organizational sponsors as well as individual donors to help cover the cost of hosting this wonderful program in our community.

By making a tax-deductible donation, you can ensure that we have the funds we need to pay for the great staff and equipment to travel here, help us keep the fees for parents of

participants to a minimum, offer scholarships for those families with financial need, and make sure that we have everything we need to make our camp as successful as it can be.

There are many options for sponsorship.

For example:

- *\$1,500 - Sponsor a session (Five participants)*
Sponsor will receive prominent signage during their sponsored session as well as logo recognition on the iCan bike camp banner, our website & Facebook page
- *\$750 - Sponsor our t-shirts (provided to participants and volunteers)*
Prominent sponsor recognition on the back of the t-shirts, on iCan bike camp banner, our website & Facebook page
- *\$300 – Sponsor a participant*
Logo recognition on iCan bike camp banner as well as recognition on our website & Facebook page
- *\$150 – Sponsor participant awards (trophies/medals)*
Recognition on our website & Facebook page
- Or choose any amount that fits your budget!

Whatever your donation, you will be helping kids in our community gain independence, self-esteem and inclusion opportunities with their family and community.

We rely on the generosity of caring people like you to make learning this life-long skill a reality for so many in need. It is life changing for the participants and for their families, offering opportunities to be just like everyone else.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Kristina Crites, Executive Director
Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society & REACH Center

Please make checks payable to: RRVDS

Mail checks to: PO Box 6455, Paris TX 75461

To make an online donation:

Please call the REACH Center at (903) 783-1922