

Rachel's Bridge

Soc Trang, Vietnam

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Our family sincerely thanks you for the very special opportunity to partner with you to help the birth family and village of our daughter, Rachel.

The *Rachel's Bridge* project is an effort to raise funds to replace a very unsafe “monkey bridge” for a village outside of the city of Soc Trang, Vietnam. Our family saw first hand the great need for a safer, more dependable and permanent bridge in this area. The new concrete bridge will be 105 feet long and 8 feet wide. It will be strong enough for passage by bicycle, motorcycle, very small utility vehicles, and by foot. It will benefit the children, elderly and families of a very poor village where our daughter's birth family lives.

Some of the primary benefits of this project:

- Safe river crossing without fear of falling and possibly drowning
- Children, elderly and families will have quicker and safer access to public services (health care, education and social services, etc.)
- Provide quicker and safer access to schools for children who live in isolated areas
- Fewer students will drop out of school during monsoon season

Goals for beginning the bridge building process this year if our fundraising goal is met by the end of October 2012:

- November 2012 – Hire construction company to create bridge drawing/plans. Apply for building permits from the local government
- December 2012 – Finalize bridge plans and create work plan for building the bridge
- January 2013 – Bridge construction begins! It will take approximately one and a half months to complete the bridge

Our goal is to raise a total of \$15,000 by November 2012, so the bridge can begin construction during the dry season. We have currently raised over \$10,000! We welcome your help to get us to our goal. If you are interested in participating in seeing this bridge become a reality, please visit AidForKids.org to donate online (remember to note *Rachel's Bridge* in PayPal), or you can send a check to: *Aid for Kids, 18 Market Square, Houlton, ME 04730*. Please make the check payable to *Aid for Kids*, noting *Rachel's Bridge* in the memo on the check.

Update on May 26, 2012

We just received news from Vietnam that at the location where the concrete bridge will be built, a small boy on his way home from school, recently fell off the monkey bridge in a rainstorm and drown. As a result, the local government required all of the local people to contribute wood and nails to replace the monkey bridge with a temporary foot bridge for people to use. The concrete bridge we are planning to build is desperately needed so no other children will be harmed in this way, at this location, in this village.

Thank you again for your generous support!