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# JORDAN becomes the KARATE KID

adapted from a story by Faryn Sand

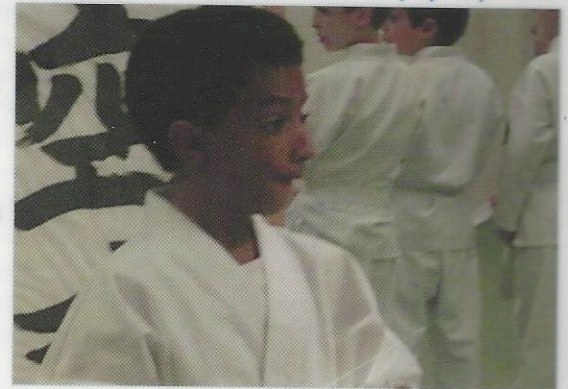
Dr. Charles Thorne, a member of the IRPS Team of doctors, linked the NFFR with Sensei John P. Mirrione of Harmony By Karate where Dr. Thorne's wife and daughter receive instruction.

As part of his goal to bring warmth and encouragement into the lives of all children, especially those in need, Sensei John P. Mirrione, Jr., creator and owner of New York City's Harmony By Karate school, desired to welcome one child into the Harmony By Karate family, and Jordan is that lucky boy.

Jordan is a typical twelve-year-old boy. He does well in school, listens to hip-hop and reggae, remains inexorably within the grasp of his Nintendo system, and is extremely athletic he plays basketball and football, has a passion for boxing, and of course, karate. Unfortunately, Jordan suffers from a genetic condition called Crouzon Syndrome, a craniofacial disorder that presented itself at birth. This condition, characterized by an underdevelopment of the bones in the middle third of the face and skull, causes very obvious facial deformities in the eyes, forehead, and jaw. The detriments of Crouzon Syndrome, however, are not solely cosmetic - for much of his life, Jordan has suffered from complications with his airways and his hearing, not to mention the daily psychosocial challenges a young child encounters when he is physically different from his peers. We spoke with Jordan's mother, who told us he would consistently come home from school with stories of the other children's cruel mockery. He felt he was an object of ridicule and, perhaps worse than his physiological weaknesses, his spirit was breaking.

This has changed, however, due to the efforts of the of the Institute's Team and the financial resources of the NFFR. After many surgeries, Jordan's physical condition as well as his secondary complications have greatly improved; he is now better accepted by his peers, and is slowly becoming a more extroverted, confident, and truer version of himself. He explains, "After getting the surgery I am more outgoing; I am not afraid about what people think of me." Jordan may be an ordinary child, but he has an extraordinary spirit. He is a kind-hearted, extremely intelligent boy who excels in everything he does. "When he

decides to do something, anything," says his mother, "he does it well." She says she hopes that Jordan will use everything he has endured to teach others



how to cope with similar experiences. Not surprisingly Jordan has already established that goal for himself. He told us, "I just want to teach people."

This quality alone makes Jordan the perfect addition to the Harmony By Karate school, where teaching and genuine, indiscriminate caring for others are values of ultimate pursuit. "He is a man of few words, but he is a very sweet kid," says Sensei John, the owner of the school. "He is very intelligent," adds Sensei Oscar Salvatierra. Jordan's mother believes the positive interactions her son has had at Harmony By Karate have been

essential, and Jordan whole-heartedly agrees. Having trained at other martial arts schools in the past, he insists, "This school is different." Jordan values

the study of karatedo, which he says has taught him both self-protection and inner calmness. He has also taken a special liking to the teachers and students at the school: "Knowing that

Harmony By Karate is helping me," he says, "I feel safe and equal to everyone, proud of the spirit, and

respected." For someone so young who has endured what Jordan has, such feelings of comfort, safety, acceptance, and love are sacred.

This April, Harmony By Karate will hold its annual karate competition, Harmony By Karate Classics, at Manhattan's Reebok Sports Club/NY. It is one of few Harmony By Karate events that is open to spectators, and this year, all proceeds from the competition

will go the NFFR to help pay for the medical needs of Jordan and many other children like him. Of this humane gesture Jordan says, "I think it's really nice, and I really appreciate it." Now that Jordan has been welcomed into the school and into their hearts, Harmony By Karate would like to invite you to attend this special event to help raise money for the NFFR. For more information please visit [www.harmonybykarate.com](http://www.harmonybykarate.com).

Special Thanks to Sensei John Mirrione, Charles Thorne, M.D., Whitney Burnett, Angie Rodriguez, and Mrs. Perez for making this special event a reality for Jordan.

"Knowing that Harmony By Karate is helping me, I feel safe and equal to everyone, proud of the spirit, and respected."  
Jordan

