

The LINKING *Ring*

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MagicIsMedicine.org gets lots of e-mails from magicians eager to volunteer, and from venues – such as an assisted living community in Rhode Island and a homeless shelter in Edmonton, Canada – requesting shows. Recently they got a request from a high school teacher in Illinois, whose student read a book about Houdini and wanted a magician to run a MagicIsMedicine Student Club there. Volunteer magicians teach simple therapeutic magic in hospitals to kids with cancer and to students struggling with English in schools, and then give them free magic kits.

Founder Daniel Rosenthal enjoyed giving a USO show for soldiers and their families in Maryland. He said, “This summer, while visiting my grandparents’ home in El Paso, Texas, I performed in Spanish for children. At PeopleCare, I performed for two hundred and fifty severely mentally disabled adults. As I watched them enter the room, my heart sank. Many were unable to speak coherently, let alone say ‘Abracadabra.’ Some were squealing uncontrollably, even crying. Most had never seen any kind of show. I feared they would never stay seated or watch quietly; I dreaded an out-of-control disaster. As I performed, I was stunned, then uplifted: they were the most appreciative, enthusiastic audience of my life. Afterward, I taught the staff some simple therapeutic magic tricks.”



Daniel Rosenthal, right, in a presentation for Magic Is Medicine.