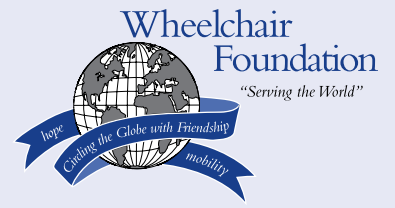


Changing THE WORLD



ESTABLISHED JUNE 2000



RESPECT,
DIGNITY &
MOBILITY

Fall 2009

A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



I recently met a man who told me that his son had just enlisted in the Army and was off to boot camp. He told me that he himself had served as a police officer for the Department of Defense, and that his son was following in his footsteps. I told him, "Please thank your son, for me and my family, for serving his country. It is an incredible commitment for a young person to make these days."

He was silent for a moment and I could see a befuddled look come across his face. "No one has ever said anything like that to me before..." he said. His words were a mixture of pride, embarrassment and surprise. Then he said, "I will do that for you, Ken, and thank you."

For years we have supported efforts to provide our United States Veterans with wheelchairs where we can. And many of our fine Partnering Organizations and donors have taken on the task of helping the men and women of our Military who are in need of mobility.

It is important to note that as the economy here in the U.S. ebbs and flows, the number of domestic requests we have been receiving for wheelchairs has increased many fold. Veteran's homes, hospitals and rehabilitation centers desperately need wheelchairs for the warriors who so bravely served their country and are now trying to return to a normal life. And some of these folks just simply fall through the cracks and have nowhere else to turn.

If you get the chance, make sure you say "thank you" to those who continue to protect the freedoms we enjoy here in the good old U. S. of A.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Behring
Founder and Chairman

Mission and Goals

Our Mission

The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organization leading an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of people with physical disabilities, to promote the joy of giving, create global friendship, and to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one. For these people, the Wheelchair Foundation delivers Hope, Mobility and Freedom.

Our Goal

Over the next five years, the Wheelchair Foundation aims to deliver one million wheelchairs to people who cannot afford to buy one, and to further the awareness that a wheelchair is no longer an unaffordable relief option for delivery to developing countries around the world.

Mobility

Since its establishment on June 13, 2000, the Wheelchair Foundation has witnessed hundreds of thousands of examples of how mobility creates independence and new possibilities for recipients and their families. A mobile child is able to attend school. A mobile adult is able to get a job and provide for their family, or care for the children at home so the spouse can work. An elderly person can rejoin society or family activities after years of staying in a bed. The joy and hope that a simple mobility device can deliver is what gives people a new outlook on life and hope for the future.

Changing the World

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WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED

Afghanistan.....	7,150	Lebanon	2,430
Albania.....	550	Lesotho	1,060
Algeria.....	640	Liberia.....	780
Angola.....	4,590	Lithuania.....	1,090
Antigua and Barbuda	280	Macedonia.....	760
Argentina.....	8,151	Madagascar.....	1,030
Armenia.....	2,964	Malawi.....	3,530
Australia.....	292	Malaysia.....	3,940
Azerbaijan.....	280	Mali.....	520
Bahamas.....	1,680	Malta.....	240
Bangladesh.....	240	Marshall Islands.....	140
Barbados.....	560	Mexico.....	113,559
Belarus.....	990	Micronesia.....	1,390
Belgium.....	280	Moldova.....	1,720
Belize.....	2,520	Mongolia.....	1,320
Benin.....	280	Montenegro.....	120
Bolivia.....	4,904	Morocco.....	4,640
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	1,480	Mozambique.....	1,660
Botswana.....	1,688	Myanmar (Burma).....	500
Brazil.....	2,305	Namibia.....	466
Bulgaria.....	530	Nepal.....	3,165
Burundi.....	520	Nicaragua.....	5,775
Cambodia.....	3,300	Niger.....	240
Canada.....	560	Nigeria.....	1,310
Cape Verde.....	780	N. Mariana Islands.....	410
Central African Rep.	240	Oman.....	280
Chile.....	8,848	Pakistan.....	3,175
China.....	244,434	Palestinians/Israel.....	1,906
Colombia.....	9,315	Panama.....	6,781
Congo, The Democratic		Papua New Guinea.....	2,080
Republic of the.....	205	Paraguay.....	2,344
Costa Rica.....	6,565	Peru.....	9,251
Croatia.....	1,300	Philippines.....	8,620
Cuba.....	1,800	Poland.....	2,420
Cyprus.....	280	Portugal.....	990
Czech Republic.....	597	Puerto Rico.....	490
Dominica.....	280	Romania.....	3,252
Dominican Republic.....	8,848	Russia.....	2,110
East Timor.....	110	Rwanda.....	2,200
Ecuador.....	7,559	Saint Lucia.....	560
Egypt.....	1,168	Saint Petersburg.....	120
El Salvador.....	7,275	Saint Vincent and the	
Eritrea.....	250	Grenadines.....	280
Estonia.....	500	Samoa.....	1,360
Ethiopia.....	3,208	Senegal.....	520
Fiji.....	1,620	Serbia.....	2,090
France.....	560	Sierra Leone.....	2,340
French Polynesia.....	280	Somalia.....	88
Georgia.....	1,030	South Africa.....	20,020
Ghana.....	2,240	Spain.....	500
Greece.....	520	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Grenada.....	280	Sudan.....	280
Guam.....	250	Suriname.....	240
Guatemala.....	7,963	Swaziland.....	1,860
Guyana.....	250	Syria.....	641
Haiti.....	1,820	Taiwan.....	756
Honduras.....	6,284	Tajikistan.....	480
Hong Kong.....	970	Tanzania.....	3,268
Hungary.....	120	Thailand.....	7,760
India.....	2,716	Tibet.....	331
Indonesia.....	3,340	Tonga.....	500
Iran.....	3,880	Trinidad & Tobago.....	3,844
Iraq.....	4,300	Turkey.....	4,990
Israel.....	7,830	Turkmenistan.....	520
Italy.....	580	Uganda.....	9,444
Jamaica.....	3,100	Ukraine.....	5,070
Japan.....	1,750	United States.....	29,754
Jordan.....	5,022	Uruguay.....	1,632
Kazakhstan.....	1,510	Uzbekistan.....	1,240
Kenya.....	2,820	Vanuatu.....	250
Kiribati.....	250	Venezuela.....	1,580
Korea, North.....	552	Vietnam.....	13,316
Korea, South.....	5,380	Virgin Islands (UK).....	284
Kosovo.....	1,300	Virgin Islands (US).....	280
Kyrgyzstan.....	1,240	Western Sahara.....	153
Laos.....	780	Zambia.....	2,170
Latvia.....	740	Zimbabwe.....	2,320

TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS 153

TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS 777,853

For current totals visit wheelchairfoundation.org



The 8th Annual *Drive Fore Mobility* golf tournament was a great success! Participants raised over \$86,000 dollars this year. Wheelchair Foundation

would like to thank everyone whose efforts contributed to making this event incredible for the eighth year in a row!

WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION AND BIG PICTURE VIDEO CAPTURE ANOTHER AWARD!



Lights. Camera. Help., a Film Festival in Austin, Texas that features works advocating non-profit projects, recently selected "Reality, Independence, Mobility" to be among the 19 jury finalist from the more than 140 submissions this year. You can view this and other award winning videos of wheelchair distribution work from around the world at the Wheelchair Foundation website or by searching for "Wheelchair Foundation" on YouTube.

TWO BEHRINGS RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATES.



Wheelchair Foundation founder Kenneth E. Behring addressed the 2009 graduating class of John F. Kennedy University at commencement ceremonies, along with Actor/Activist Martin Sheen. Mr. Behring was honored for his work in worldwide philanthropy. Concurrently, Wheelchair Foundation President David Behring was presented with a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Wittenberg University President, Mark Erickson, in recognition of Behring's outstanding contributions to the world and the extraordinary accomplishments made by Wheelchair Foundation.



PHOTO OTNIEL CRUZ SOLANO

OAXACA

By Kayla Ring

This year, our motto was “*Take it to Oaxaca!*” and that is exactly what we did.

In the south of Mexico is a state of high peaks, tropical jungles, and beautiful beaches, all inhabited by people with rich culture. Oaxaca is truly unlike anything we have ever seen.



PHOTO BY GREG SMITH

Together we worked “mano a mano” with DIF, Desarrollo Integral de la Familia, Mexico’s National Agency for Family Development. DIF gave us the opportunity to bring four hundred wheelchairs into their beautiful state and give them to the people who needed them most. Oaxacans came in from all over the state waiting for their wheelchairs. They were so thankful that we had come all the way to Mexico to hand deliver these wheelchairs and show that we, Cal Poly students and the Wheelchair Foundation, care about them.

One touching story is about a man and his wife, Felix and Esperanza. Felix is ninety years old and he is blind and deaf to the point where he cannot distinguish words. When he was younger, he worked at a train station where thirty years ago there was an accident on the job that left Felix immobile. He could no longer move his left leg and for the past thirty years he has rarely been able to leave his house because his wife had to carry him from place to place.



PHOTO BY GREG SMITH

As we approached his house in the municipality of San Pablo Huitzo, a town that consists of one main dirt road with hills on all sides, Felix and his wife, Esperanza, were happily and anxiously awaiting our arrival. As we got there, she welcomed us to their home and thanked us for coming all the way to see both of them personally. With the helping hands of several of the guys on our team and our counterparts from DIF Oaxaca, Felix was lifted from his seat and brought to the first wheelchair he has ever owned.



PHOTO BY GREG SMITH

>>>Blind, physically disabled and completely dependent upon his wife, Esperanza, Felix wipes tears of joy from his eyes upon receiving his very first wheelchair at the age of 90. >>>

As the team situated Felix into his new chair, tears began to roll down his face. All he could do was thank us for helping him. This man made us all to cry that day, knowing that he had been stranded in his house for the past thirty years of his life and now, finally, he had the freedom to move. That man, and many more, was the reason we traveled to Oaxaca: to see the faces when they first sat in their own wheelchairs and we understood that life from now on would be different.



>>> Cal Poly Volunteers were able to deliver wheelchairs directly to families and individuals who might otherwise have been overlooked or forgotten. >>>



PHOTO OTNIEI CRUZ SOLANO

"I couldn't believe the impact that a wheelchair had on the recipient's family."

One member of the team, Janis de la Torre, Director of Marketing for this year's Cal Poly Wheelchair Chapter project, said, "I couldn't believe the impact that a wheelchair had on the recipient's family." These wheelchairs have brought peace of mind to family members, knowing that their loved ones are now free to live their lives.

Reflecting upon this whole experience, we had gone to Oaxaca with a mission in mind: to change the lives of those who have few means to get by, and give them the gift of mobility. Cal Poly Wheelchair Chapter Project Manager, Helya Naghibi, said, "There are not enough wheelchairs in the world and this foundation raises awareness that these people need our help, too." Therefore, without your gracious support and the support of DIF, this experience would not have been possible. This opportunity has shown that just one person can make a difference in the world and the Cal Poly Chapter thanks Wheelchair Foundation for the chance to change lives. Mission accomplished!



PHOTO OTNIEI CRUZ SOLANO

>>> Another fine class of Cal Poly Students and their DIF counterparts, changing thier own lives and those of others in rural Oaxaca, Mexico. "Thank you!" to Lynne Metcalf for producing such wonderful students and humanitarians! >>>

A TRIBUTE TO OUR FRIEND ED MCMAHON

by Jack Drury



>>> Ed with his long time friend, Jack Drury, who runs the Florida office for Wheelchair Foundation. >>>

Most Americans knew Ed McMahon as the man who sat next to Johnny Carson for 30 plus years on the Tonight Show, and heard him say every night “Here’s Johnny!”

Ed volunteered to be a member of the Wheelchair Foundation’s Board of Advisors years ago, and was always ready to help us raise awareness of our mission. We also knew him as a Marine Fighter Pilot who represented and defended our country in both World War II and the Korean War, and as a Full Colonel at the end of his service in 1966.

“The mission of supplying these gifts of hope and mobility to the disabled of the world is something I’m proud to be a part of.”

-Ed McMahon
Member, Board of Advisors

As a tribute to our pal Ed, who passed away on June 23rd of this year, Wheelchair Foundation will continue to supply brand new manual wheelchairs aboard the US Navy/Marine Hospital Ships that are part of “Operation Continuing Promise.”

Recently, the USNS Comfort hospital ship spent four months at sea providing medical treatment to over 100,000 patients in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, Panama, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, spending 10 to 12 days in each port. During the course of the deployment medical teams completed 1,657 surgeries, dispensed 193,961 prescriptions, 30,785 pairs of glasses and 11,940 pairs of sunglasses, extracted 4,444 teeth and provided wheelchairs to people in need of mobility.



>>>Full Colonel, Marine Pilot, Tonight Show sidekick, Wheelchair Foundation supporter Ed McMahon. >>>

“Operation Continuing Promise” continues this fall with the deployment of the USNS Iwo Jima and Wheelchair Foundation will provide wheelchairs for this ongoing mission.



If you would like to honor Ed McMahon and his family with donations toward “Operation Continuing Promise” please indicate “Ed McMahon” when making online, telephone, or donations by check to:

Wheelchair Foundation
3820 Blackhawk Road
Danville, CA 94506

or at: www.wheelchairfoundation.org

WHEELCHAIRS FOR THE LOWVELD OF SOUTH AFRICA



In mid-July of this year 25 Americans traveled to the Lowveld of South Africa to help with the distribution of several hundred wheelchairs. Along the way they were able to experience first hand the excitement of helping a disabled person into their very own wheelchair. Usually it was the very first wheelchair they have ever had.



>>> Above: Three Generations of Behrings - Wheelchair Foundation President, David Behring, his daughter, Stephanie, and mother, Patricia Behring, getting acquainted with two new wheelchair recipients. >>> Top: >>> American visitors, District 9250 Rotarians and local wheelchair recipients enjoy some South African sun together outside a church in Rustenburg. >>>

"This is the first wheelchair I have ever had, thank you everyone!" says Benjamin Mpathi, who lives in the community old age home. Benjamin suffered a stroke that left him unable to move about on his own. More than 20 kind-hearted donors collectively helped sponsor a portion of the wheelchairs that South African District 9250 Rotarians have been fortunate to receive in the past.

The group distributed 36 wheelchairs to patients at the Hlokomela Aids Clinic which is located just outside Hoedspruit, South Africa. Although the prevalence of HIV in South Africa is portrayed in simple terms in the world media, the true extent of the problem becomes clear when seeing first hand how little is being provided in the way of relief to patients and their families.

The next day a distribution was staged in White River, South Africa, at the Ingwenyama Lodge. Donations were also presented to the Desmond Tutu Center for Leadership. Later that same day, the group traveled onward to Masoyi Village where they delivered 10 wheelchairs to disabled children, as well as donating school supplies, soccer balls and other aid.

The third distribution took place in Rustenburg, South Africa. After formalities were addressed, the local Rotarians and the American traveling delegation prepared a Bar-B-Que for all 63 recipients.



>>> Wheelchair Foundation supporter Carole Landon and some of the ladies receiving wheelchairs at Ingwenyama Lodge in South Africa. >>>

The final distribution was held in an impoverished area of Grahamstown at the local community center. Many of the elderly recipients had lost their mobility to one cause or another and the receipt of brand new wheelchairs helped to restore some of their dignity and independence.

Wheelchair Foundation's work in South Africa is made easier through a wonderful and productive relationship with Rotary Clubs and Rotarians. Without Rotary, much of what has been accomplished would simply not be possible. We deeply appreciate the inspirational leadership of PDG Cliff Peake and the Rotarians of District 9250 for their continued support of the mission of Wheelchair Foundation.

season highlights



Counter-clockwise from top: Long time Wheelchair Foundation supporter David E. Walters with his mother, Edith Walters, get acquainted with Rustenberg, South Africa wheelchair recipients as Stephanie Behring watches on. >>> Checking out the property in a brand new wheelchair in Oaxaca, Mexico. >>> Cadets in Washington, D.C. fit a wheelchair for a Veteran on Veteran's Day 2008. >>> Ray Gallagher, Matthew Hansen and Patrica Behring make a new friend in Rustenberg, South Africa. >>> WWII Veterans who travel to Washington, D.C., with the *Honor Flights Network* not only visit the WWII National Memorial, but also the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial as well. Veteran's expenses are completely covered by *Honor Flights Networks* nationwide in honor of their service to the United States of America.

777,853

wheelchairs delivered and still counting!





Clockwise from top : Chou Hoytt, Kay Collier and Stephanie Behring, Matthew Hansen and Charli Butterfield help prepare a grand bar-b-que for wheelchair recipients in Rustenberg, South Africa. >>> Local Boy Scouts help with wheelchair distribution on Veteran's Day with Knights of Columbus in Chicago, Illinois. >>> Wheelchair recipients in South Africa show their gratitude with song. >>> The arrival of WWII Veteran participants of *Honor Flights* is a cause for celebration, and members from all branches of the United States Military show up to welcome their fellow warriors to our nation's capital. The U.S. continues to lose nearly 1200 WWII Veterans a day and ensuring that they receive the recognition they deserve while there is still time continues to drive the *Honor Flights*' mission. >>> Cal Poly students Josh Burroughs and Danica Sherman deliver wheelchairs to the home of a gentleman in Oaxaca, Mexico. >>> Wheelchair Foundation friends and supporters Chou Hoytt and his mother, Xiaoru Hoytt, traveled to South Africa to help distribute wheelchairs and share laughs with recipients. >>> South African District 9250 Rotarians travel off the beaten path to deliver a much needed wheelchair, blankets and other life-giving necessities to a disabled man living alone, on his hands and knees, in rural South Africa.





HONORING ALL VETERANS

Opened on April 29th, 2004, the National WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C., honors the 16 million who served in the United States armed forces during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home.

The Veterans of WWII represent a generation whose youngest member is now 78 years old. This fact, and a strong sense of patriotism, led Physician's Assistant and Retired Air Force Captain, Ed Morse of Ohio, to establish the *Honor Flights* Network. *Honor Flights* provide a means for WWII Veterans to travel to Washington, D.C. and see their memorial first hand.

As many of the Veterans of WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam age, they become less and less mobile. A trip from their hometowns to the Nation's capital becomes an impossible feat, without a great deal of assistance.



For those who can not walk unassisted, or have difficulty getting around on their own, sightseeing is typically out of the question. So when Wheelchair Foundation was approached to make wheelchairs available for the Honor Flights Network it was a privilege to help.



Above: >>> Veterans arriving in Washington, D.C. receive a "heroes' welcome". >>> Left: >>> Minnesota WWII Veterans find their spot at the National WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. >>> Top: >>> An *Honor Flights* Network volunteer gets a special chance to experience the National WWII Memorial through the eyes of a Veteran. >>>

There are an estimated 23,442,000 Veterans in the United States today, and 153 VA Medical Centers and 768 VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics. Over the past decade Wheelchair Foundation has donated thousands of brand new wheelchairs to our wounded warriors and the facilities that serve them.



Whether the request comes from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., seeking wheelchairs for general hospital use, rehabilitation, or for discharged patients returning home, or for the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland., Wheelchair Foundation strives to answer all calls to assist by providing new wheelchairs.

This November 11th, Knights of Columbus chapters in Texas, Washington, D.C., New Jersey, Florida and California will deliver 550 wheelchairs to Veterans, Veteran's homes, clinics and hospitals. This adds to the more than 2,000 wheelchairs distributed by Knights of Columbus in previous Veteran's Day celebrations throughout the nation.

Although Veteran's Day is set aside for national recognition of the men and women who serve their country, help can be given at any time of the year, and is welcomed with gracious thanks. This is exemplified by recent donations made by Wheelchair Foundation supporter and friend, Dr. Scharleen Colant, who insisted that the wheelchairs she sponsored be given to local Veterans. She personally attended the hand-over ceremonies at The Veterans Home of California, in Yountville, CA, The Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Martinez, CA, and at the U.S. Veterans Hospital in Livermore, CA.



Above: >>> Dr. Schaleen Colant visits with WWII Veterans at the Veteran's Home of California in Yountville, California. >>>

Wheelchair Foundation also donates wheelchairs to Veterans and wounded warriors abroad. Whether assisting the wounded men and women who fight the war on the illegal cocoa trade in Colombia, South America, or the victims of landmine tragedy and civil war in Angola, or those dealing with the lingering effects of conflicts past in places like Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in Asia, we offer our assistance in the form of wheelchairs. In arenas such as Afghanistan and Iraq, we have provided wheelchairs for U.S. troops to distribute to wounded Afghan and Iraqi citizens and fighters alike, thus empowering our service men and women to assist those who fight side by side with them. And we continue to assist ongoing U.S. Military international outreach programs like "Operation Continuing Promise" by making wheelchairs available to hospital ships like the USNS Comfort and the USS Iwo Jima.



Above: >>> A first wheelchair for this soldier at the Mubende Barracks in western Uganda. >>> Left: Soldiers assist wheelchair recipients at a Knights of Columbus Veteran's Day distribution. >>> Below: A parade of wheelchairs, and a testament to the violence faced in the war on narcotics in Colombia, South America. >>>

Wheelchair Foundation acknowledges the sacrifices these brave soldiers have made for their countries. We are proud to provide mobility in the form of wheelchairs wherever there is a need. We salute all of the men and women of the armed forces and those who support them. For this we thank you.



For more information about Honor Flights Network please visit www.honorflight.org

How To Turn Wine Into Wheelchairs!



The idea behind Wine for Wheels is both powerful and simple. Private citizens as well as schools, church groups, and other organizations come together to raise funds and awareness through privately held social events, giving people all around the world a way to become directly involved in helping provide hope, mobility and freedom to the physically disadvantaged through the provision of a wheelchair.

- Wine for Wheels provides a fun and interesting way for individuals and groups to initiate fundraising campaigns at all levels and to offer their friends a way to engage with the world. The cost of providing a wheelchair is \$150.00. Some hosts set a goal; to raise enough funds to send a full container (280 wheelchairs) or a half container (110 wheelchairs) to an approved designated country. Many others combine their funds to help send wheelchairs to a current Wine for Wheels designated project.

- All event hosts will have the opportunity to join the Wheelchair Foundation in delivering wheelchairs to an annual Wine for Wheels designated project.

Individuals and organizations can support Wine for Wheels and the Wheelchair Foundation in a number of ways:

- o Host a Wine for Wheels “Wine and Dine” party. Information is available at www.wineforwheels.org or email Jeff Behring at jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org.
- o Host a dinner, luncheon, picnic, or tea party at your home, church, community center, local restaurant or business to raise funds.

- o Host a benefit concert, speaker series, talent show, bake sale, or movie.
- o Sponsor a run, Dance-a-Thon, sports event, talent show or community event.

Wheelchair Foundation will provide:

- Newsletters & DVDs that show the need for and the joy of giving mobility and freedom to a recipient and their caregivers.
- Marketing materials and ideas on how to host an event and discuss the topic of providing mobility to those in need.
- Letters of personal gratitude and tax donation receipts to all hosts and participants for sharing in these extraordinary events.
- The new Wine for Wheels website as a conduit for hosts and participants to provide and collect donations online for their private or public events.

Please join us as a host, participant, donor and/or volunteer to help provide the gift of mobility to the physically disadvantaged and bring freedom to both them and their family members and caregivers.

For more information on hosting and participating in a Wine for Wheels event, email jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org, call (925) 648-3829 or go to www.wineforwheels.org. Become a fan at www.facebook.com/wineforwheels



On April 17th of this year 27 Americans from five different Rotary Clubs within District 6110 (covering parts of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri) distributed wheelchairs in and around Cancun, Mexico. The first distribution was at a Community Center which had been built by local Rotarians. This vital asset houses a shelter for battered women, and all who attended were touched by the amazing three month program they administer to help women get back on their feet and find a way out of the violence they and their children have experienced.



Above: >>> Julia expresses her gratitude with a beautiful smile! >>> Right: Luke Hannon receives a Paul Harris medallion from his Grandfather, Larry. >>>

One of the wheelchairs distributed at the Community Center was received by a woman named Julia. Julia is 75 years old, and despite her problems, has a most beautiful spirit! She, like many Mexicans, suffers from diabetes and had lost her left leg some twenty years ago. For a few years she was able to use crutches to get around, but she has now also lost most of her eyesight which makes walking with crutches particularly difficult. She was very distressed when her old wheelchair became unusable because it was her means of transport to and from medical appointments. She told me, "Not having a wheelchair is terrible and makes

me depressed, and I cried a lot because I had become a prisoner in my own house." She is a woman who likes to go out into the sunshine, get some fresh air, and interact with her neighbors and community. Getting a new wheelchair put a smile on her face.

When the distribution was finished, the visitors and local Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Cancun assembled for a club meeting. Visiting Rotarians Brenda and Larry Hannon, part of the American delegation, took the opportunity to recognize their grandson, Luke, as a Paul Harris Fellow, and presented him with a pin and medallion signifying his contribution of more than \$1,000 USD to the District 6110 wheelchair project. Brenda tells that "several years ago, her granddaughter, Grace, was Student Body President of Tyson Elementary School in Springdale, Arkansas, and she began a wheelchair drive to

collect funds to provide wheelchairs to people in need. Luke was in third grade at the time and started to save money to buy wheelchairs – every dollar from birthdays, Christmas, etc., he saved to buy wheelchairs. And now he was getting the chance to give wheelchairs to those he has been working so hard to help. (cont'd pg 14)





Above: >>> Volunteers listen and learn about the plight of people with disabilities in the State of Cancun, Mexico. >>>

Several “first time” Rotarians joined us for these wheelchair distributions, like Beverly Oaks and Dave Sydney from the Rotary Club of Joplin, Missouri. Both are very adventurous and creative, and it is no surprise that they took the opportunity to travel and see what “this wheelchair thing” is all about. Their club had sponsored 16 wheelchairs, and Brenda and Dave worked to capture 16 photos and stories to share with their Rotary club. We all appreciated Beverly’s spirit: “I bring the party to wherever I go.”

And of course, we were graced with El Jefe, Noel Morris, and El Junior Jefe, Chris Weiser. But, as Noel said, “I am only El Jefe when they want me to be.” Despite all the times our Rotary team has traveled to Mexico, El Jefe still got nervous when the bus did not arrive in time to take us to one of our distributions, but we learned from John, from the Rotary Club of Cancun, that even after being here for 20 plus years, he still is not accustomed to “Mexican time.”

“If I could give a gift to the world it would be to give wheelchairs. I would give these wheelchairs to people who cannot walk. I would accomplish this by earning money and sending the money to the Wheelchair Foundation so they could buy the wheelchairs, put them together and then go someplace where people need them. It is very hard to choose to give, but afterwards it feels so good when you give. All in all, giving a gift of wheelchairs to the world is touching and exciting.”

- Luke Hannon, 5th grade Student Body President, Tyson Elementary School, Springdale, Arkansas U.S.A.

We also gave a wheelchair to Diego, an 8-year-old child (serious face – by flags). He was born with a lumbar dystrophy and has never been able to walk. We gave him his very first wheelchair, which brought a little smile out of him even though he was not feeling well due to a cold.



Above: >>> Eight year old Diego receives his very first wheelchair. >>>

On Saturday, April 18th, we traveled to a few out-lying Mayan villages, to the municipality of Lazaro Cardenas, about a two hours bus trip from Cancun. We had a lovely ceremony with the Municipal President and Mayor Professor Clemente Angulo Cupul and his wife, Profesora Edva Concepcion Pool Tah, DIF President, and proceeded to do 11 home wheelchair deliveries that afternoon.

It was a long day delivering wheelchairs house to house, but it was quite an experience to walk around the little villages and to see how people live their daily lives, and have the opportunity to give mobility to some of those in need. Like our new 75-year-old friend and wheelchair recipient Julia said, “Everyone should have the right to a little sunshine!”

Planned Giving

Whether supported through an outright gift or planned gift, the Wheelchair Foundation's efforts are made possible through the generosity and commitment of people like you. A planned gift to the Wheelchair Foundation helps to ensure the future of our wheelchair deliveries worldwide for years to come and, at the same time, may further your financial goals.

Planned gifts include gifts through your will, charitable gift annuities, gifts of life insurance and charitable trusts.

BEQUESTS

Many of our supporters make charitable gifts by naming the Wheelchair Foundation as a beneficiary in their wills.

GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE

If you no longer need the life insurance you purchased years ago to provide for children or other family members, donate the policy to the Wheelchair Foundation. Claim a charitable deduction for approximately the policy's cash surrender value, and the proceeds are removed from your estate.

GIFTS OF RETIREMENT PLANS

Some donors have chosen to name the Wheelchair Foundation as the primary or contingent beneficiaries of their IRAs. An IRA can provide income to the owner of the account and then pass to the Wheelchair Foundation as the beneficiary recipient.

CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST

Individuals with very large estates can use a charitable lead trust to benefit the Wheelchair Foundation and pass principal to family members with little or no tax consequences.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

Families have used the charitable remainder trust as an integral part of their estate planning. This type of plan provides income to the family and the remainder is gifted to the Wheelchair Foundation in the name of the Family Trust. A charitable remainder trust is designed to decrease the value of one's estate thereby alleviating tax consequences to the family beneficiaries.

Consult your financial or tax advisor regarding the variety of charitable giving options available to you that provide financial advantages now and in the future. We appreciate your interest in making a planned gift to support our mission to provide new, free wheelchairs to needy people worldwide. **For more information call (877) 378-3839.**

Matching Gifts

You may be able to double the amount of your gift if you work for an employer that has a matching gift program. Check to see if your employer offers an employee charitable matching gift program and send their form to the Wheelchair Foundation.

Wheelchair Foundation Donor Wall



The Blackhawk Museum, world renowned for its galleries of the finest "classic" automobiles anywhere, also showcases the Wheelchair Foundation's work around the world. The Wheelchair Foundation Gallery features information about the Foundation's humanitarian work, the need for wheelchairs worldwide, people whose lives have dramatically changed with the simple gift of a wheelchair, and what you can do to help.

A Donor Wall spreads across the whole back of one room and honors those of you who have made significant contributions to support our success of 750,000 wheelchair deliveries in nine years. Panels on the Donor Wall include:

Super Star	Granters of Wishes	Sponsors of Dreams	Givers of Hope	Circle of Freedom	Benefactor	Founder's Circle	Global Partners
\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE HONOR ROLL!

Call Us Now At (877) 378-3839 Or Donate Online At www.wheelchairfoundation.org



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