

# Changing THE WORLD



SPRING 2014



## ABOUT US

### A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



A very busy 2014 is nearly half over and so far this year has been filled with exciting projects and opportunities. I have just been named "Chinese Museums Goodwill Ambassador" on the occasion of China's *International Museum Day*, which coincides with the Chinese *National Day of Disabled Assistance*. We are providing more than 500 wheelchairs for Museums throughout China to allow everyone access to these spectacular temples of learning.

Soon we will be joining thousands of excited high school and elementary students at the University of Maryland to participate in the finals of National History Day. Following that, we are off to Asia to witness this year's finals of Global Natural History Day.

The theme for this year's National History Day competition is "Rights and Responsibilities in History." I can't imagine what kinds of projects we might see. Every cause requires a vanguard. That's how I feel about the good folks featured within these pages; the veterans who gave all to secure our freedom, a father and son who would like us to accept each other, regardless of appearances, and visionary friends, providing places for youth who desire to better themselves, to do so.

Who knows what the second half of the year holds for us? I can assure you of this much, we will continue to learn from the past and look for the pioneers of the future.

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

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.

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Wheelchair  
FOUNDATION

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### WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED

Afghanistan.....	7,150	Liberia.....	780
Albania.....	550	Lithuania.....	1,090
Algeria.....	1,480	Macedonia.....	760
Angola.....	6,790	Madagascar.....	1,270
Antigua and Barbuda.....	280	Malawi.....	3,530
Argentina.....	11,009	Malaysia.....	4,040
Armenia.....	3,244	Mali.....	1,060
Australia.....	292	Malta.....	240
Azerbaijan.....	280	Marshall Islands.....	140
Bahamas.....	290	Mauritania.....	100
Bangladesh.....	350	Mexico.....	160,484
Barbados.....	1,120	Micronesia.....	1,265
Belarus.....	990	Moldova.....	1,720
Belgium.....	280	Mongolia.....	1,320
Belize.....	2,835	Montenegro.....	120
Benin.....	280	Morocco.....	5,470
Bolivia.....	5,294	Mozambique.....	1,660
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	2,040	Myanmar (Burma).....	500
Botswana.....	1,688	Namibia.....	466
Brazil.....	2,305	Nepal.....	3,275
Bulgaria.....	530	Nicaragua.....	8,225
Burundi.....	520	Niger.....	240
Cambodia.....	3,630	Nigeria.....	1,420
Canada.....	560	Northern Mariana Islands.....	410
Cape Verde.....	780	Oman.....	280
Central African Republic.....	240	Pakistan.....	3,175
Chile.....	11,388	Palestinian Territories.....	1,906
China.....	354,714	Panama.....	10,361
Colombia.....	12,635	Papua New Guinea.....	2,080
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the.....	205	Paraguay.....	2,614
Costa Rica.....	8,735	Peru.....	12,367
Croatia.....	1,300	Philippines.....	10,360
Cuba.....	1,800	Poland.....	2,700
Cyprus.....	280	Portugal.....	990
Czech Republic.....	597	Puerto Rico.....	490
Dominica.....	280	Romania.....	3,571
Dominican Republic.....	8,958	Russia.....	2,230
East Timor.....	110	Rwanda.....	2,200
Ecuador.....	9,249	Saint Lucia.....	560
Egypt.....	1,168	Saint Petersburg.....	120
El Salvador.....	9,820	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	560
Eritrea.....	250	Samoa.....	1,360
Estonia.....	500	Saudi Arabia.....	20
Ethiopia.....	3,468	Senegal.....	520
Fiji.....	1,840	Serbia.....	2,370
France.....	560	Sierra Leone.....	2,340
French Polynesia.....	280	Slovenia.....	110
Georgia.....	1,030	Solomon Islands.....	110
Ghana.....	2,610	Somalia.....	88
Greece.....	520	South Africa.....	22,800
Grenada.....	280	Spain.....	500
Guam.....	250	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Guatemala.....	9,228	Sudan.....	280
Guyana.....	250	Suriname.....	240
Haiti.....	5,320	Swaziland.....	1,970
Honduras.....	7,044	Syria.....	641
Hong Kong.....	970	Taiwan.....	756
Hungary.....	120	Tajikistan.....	480
India.....	2,716	Tanzania.....	3,528
Indonesia.....	3,340	Thailand.....	8,410
Iran.....	3,880	Tibet.....	331
Iraq.....	4,300	To Be Determined.....	1,045
Israel.....	7,830	Tonga.....	500
Italy.....	580	Trinidad & Tobago.....	5,614
Jamaica.....	3,640	Turkey.....	5,550
Japan.....	1,750	Turkmenistan.....	520
Jordan.....	5,022	Uganda.....	9,664
Kazakhstan.....	1,510	Ukraine.....	5,350
Kenya.....	2,930	United States.....	35,454
Kiribati.....	375	Uruguay.....	1,632
Korea, North.....	752	Uzbekistan.....	1,240
Korea, South.....	5,700	Vanuatu.....	250
Kosovo.....	1,300	Venezuela.....	2,800
Kyrgyzstan.....	1,240	Vietnam.....	14,476
Laos.....	780	Virgin Islands (UK).....	284
Latvia.....	740	Virgin Islands (US).....	280
Lebanon.....	2,430	Western Sahara.....	153
Lesotho.....	1,060	Zambia.....	2,646
		Zimbabwe.....	2,580

**TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS..... 150+**  
**TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS..... 960,912**

For current totals visit [wheelchairfoundation.org](http://wheelchairfoundation.org)

## FLORIDA HAPPENINGS



ABOVE : <<< (left to right) Hector Manley, who navigated the length of the Mississippi River to raise funds and awareness for people in need of mobility, with Jack Drury, Jeff Behring and David Behring.

Jack Drury, President of the Southeast Region of the Wheelchair Foundation was invited to be one of the featured speakers at the May convention of three Florida Rotary districts. Held at the Lucayan Beach Resort on Grand Bahamas Island, Drury reported on the activities of the Foundation and not only received a standing ovation, but many commitments from Florida Clubs to be partners to accomplish our mission.

Jack's annual Florida Golf Tournament this year honored double amputee Hector Manley, and also featured Basketball Hall of Fame member David Cowens and all-time great Golf Pro Bob Murphy. Hector, who lost both of his legs in an earthquake in El Salvador, showed all the other golfers just what a remarkable person he is by shooting a 79 and winning one of the top prizes. The tournament raised more than \$67,000, enough to send containers of wheelchairs to Jamaica and El Salvador!



## A large group of World War II veterans, many wearing yellow commemorative shirts, are posed for a group photo in front of the World War II Memorial building. The veterans are arranged in several rows; the front row consists of men seated in wheelchairs, while the others stand behind them. Some veterans are wearing military uniforms or hats. The building's facade features the words "WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL" in large, dark letters, and below that, "NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INFORMATION". To the left of the group, a blue bus with "Shore" written on its side is partially visible. The ground is wet, suggesting recent rain.

For years now, Honor Flight Northern California has been flying veterans to Washington, D.C. to allow them the opportunity to visit and reflect at their memorials. For many aging veterans this is their only opportunity to see the tributes erected to their valor and sacrifice for our freedom.



# MANY, MANY THANKS TO THE HOFMANN FAMILY FOUNDATION

BY LEE WINTER



ABOVE: <<< (left to right) Ken Hofmann with Mexican President, Vicente Fox, First Lady, Marta Sahagun de Fox and Ken Behring at the launch of *Mobility for Mexico* in 2006. This \$2,000,000 pledge provided 20,000 wheelchairs to people in need in all 31 States, throughout Mexico.

Ken Behring and Ken Hofmann first met in the early 1970s. A strong connection and friendship developed as their interests and goals expanded in parallel directions over the years. Both Kens played instrumental roles in the explosive growth of the East Bay and pursued projects involving land development, construction and real estate. They each acquired a major sports team franchise (Ken Behring and Ken Hofmann both owned the Seattle Seahawks; Ken Hofmann later purchased the Oakland A's). In more recent years both gentlemen have become passionate about the numerous magnificent philanthropic projects they have supported, conceived and developed.

In 1995 Ken Hofmann took the first step toward creating the Concord Youth Center to "help kids through sports." Today the CYC is a state-of-the art sports and academic complex covering 55,000 square feet, where 1,600 youngsters ages 3 to 18 learn discipline, dedication, purpose and desire through controlled sports training and academic tutoring.

Ken Behring's generosity transformed into the Wheelchair Foundation with its record of over 961,000 wheelchairs distributed in 153+ countries since 2000. Mr. Hofmann became an early and strong supporter of the wheelchair project. From the year 2000 until 2014 Mr. Hofmann's donations have helped 35,000 people regain mobility, increase their independence, and provided them with hope for the future. Not only has he given a new way of life to the beneficiaries but his donations have also impacted families and care-takers as well. By donating 35,000 wheelchairs, Mr. Hofmann has touched and improved the lives of hundred of thousands of people!

In 2000 and 2002 his Oakland Athletics Community Fund teamed up with Wheelchair Foundation to give 3,900 wheelchairs to physically disabled people in the Dominican Republic, home of the Oakland Athletics Training Facility.

In 2003 Mr. Hofmann, at the request of Steve Largent, initiated a donation of 1,120 wheelchairs to Chiapas, Mexico, one of the poorest Mexican States. In 2004, Mr. Hofmann continued his support by sponsoring more than 1,400 wheelchairs to various regions in Mexico in dire need of hope and mobility. After joining a wheelchair distribution and ceremony in the state of Sonora in 2005, Mr. Hofmann wanted to help even more!

Ken and Ken met with the then-President of Mexico, Vicente Fox and his wife Marta Sahagun de Fox in the summer of 2006. They announced a major new initiative, "Mobility for Mexico," made possible by a \$1,000,000 donation from Ken Hofmann and matched by Ken Behring - a total donation of two million dollars for 20,000 wheelchairs that were distributed in all 31 Mexican states. August was designated "Mobility Month" and the program was kicked off with a wheelchair distribution at the Presidential Palace in Mexico City and followed by wheelchair distributions all over Mexico.

In June 2010, at the Wheelchair Foundation's 10th Anniversary celebration, when Ken Hofmann was introduced as a *Spirit of Mobility* honoree, he responded by rising and pledging one million dollars for wheelchairs. We are currently in the last phase of this project, and have so far distributed nearly 10,000 wheelchairs by matching Mr. Hofmann's donation with funding from other donors. The wheelchairs have been distributed in the United States, Mexico, Panama, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados.

Mr. Hofmann's donations have had a powerful impact on mobility in Latin America. They have allowed us to make dreams of mobility a reality for thousands by allowing Wheelchair Foundation to match donations from organizations in Latin America. These organizations know the need in their region, and they have stepped forward to become not just a distribution partner, but also a financial partner in these projects. It may have been impossible for many groups to raise the entire amount necessary on their own, however, with Mr. Hofmann's contribution, mobility has become a reality.

Ken Hofmann and the Hofmann Family Foundation have played a significant role in the tremendous success of the Wheelchair Foundation's distributions of wheelchairs to deserving recipients worldwide. Thank you!



# DEL CORAZÓN - FROM THE HEART

FROM 20 STUDENTS IN ONE SCHOOL IN 2009  
TO 48,000 STUDENTS IN 50 SCHOOLS IN 2014

BY EVA CARLETON



**T**his year, more than 48,000 students from 50 schools from Pleasanton, San Ramon, Danville, Alamo, Hayward and Oakland, California school districts are participating in the *From the Heart* project.

Wheelchair Foundation provides ten wheelchairs to each school to be used for one week by students and teachers to help them understand how it feels to be bound to a wheelchair, to be different from others, what obstacles are encountered, and how they are perceived and treated.



## GOAL #1 - RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE NEED FOR MOBILITY IN THE WORLD



From Village and Horizon High School:

"I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you have done for Village & Horizon High School. You have inspired some of the more challenging students, and you have given them an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. We are a small school but I believe we can all make a difference. Together we can accomplish the impossible."





## FROM THE HEART

### GOAL #2 - SENSITIZE STUDENTS TO THE ISSUES FACED BY PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Using a wheelchair is just one part of an *Ability Awareness Program* that was implemented in many of the participating schools:

*"At Montair Elementary this week we are participating in a 'No Name-Calling Week', and as Leadership was discussing ways to promote this, a few students brought up the fact that they actually think name-calling has decreased at school since Ability Awareness and the Wheelchair Foundation project – because kids learned to accept others for who they are, no matter what they look like or their abilities. This was such an awesome connection...clearly the wheelchair/ability awareness experience made an impact."*



Here's how the Wheelchair Project is opening children's hearts and minds:

*"My children came home excited to share what they had learned in the school assembly yesterday and how they could help somebody have a wheelchair who might otherwise be immobile. I admire your work and my family is pleased to be part of it in a new way today."*

-Parent at Tassajara Hills School

### GOAL #3 - RAISE MONEY TO PROVIDE WHEELCHAIRS FOR THOSE IN NEED



The fundraising stories that came back to us were just heartwarming! Among the many fundraising activities reported, students donated proceeds from their Bar Mitzvah and birthday parties, did extra chores, and even decided to change their savings plan:

*One 2nd grader emptied her piggy bank of every penny, nickel, dime and dollar – all of the money she had been saving for an iPad Mini. When asked by her parents about this she told them that she wanted to donate it all to the Wheelchair Project to help children who needed a wheelchair more than she needed an iPad. Her parents offered to donate \$50 and she could donate \$50. She told her parents she would love for them to write a check for \$50, but she was still going to donate \$75. Hearing this, her teenage sister donated \$15 and a neighbor \$25. One child's generosity prompted the purchase of an entire wheelchair.*

Funds from this project are being used to send nearly 600 wheelchairs to children and young adults in need of mobility in the countries of Honduras and Costa Rica. Several students and teachers from participating schools will travel to Central and South America with the founders of *Del Corazon* to personally participate in the distribution of these much needed wheelchairs.

To learn more about Del Corazon - *From the Heart* please visit their website [www.del-corazon.org](http://www.del-corazon.org).





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## MOBILITY FOR AMERICA

[WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG)

Wheelchair Foundation has launched ***Mobility for America*** solely to provide wheelchairs to individuals in need of mobility, but without access to a wheelchair, right here in the good old U.S.A!

Your \$150 donation can provide a much needed wheelchair to someone nearby. We help Veterans and the elderly, schools and hospitals, the homeless and the forgotten who have fallen through the cracks, and maybe even someone you might know?

