

Changing THE WORLD

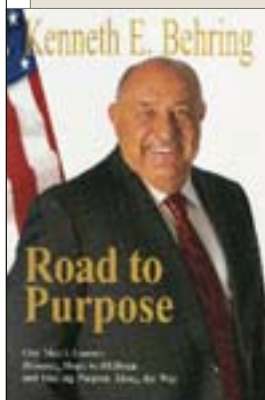
WINTER 2004



mobilizing

THE AMERICAS

A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



Many people have asked me since the beginning of the Wheelchair Foundation how I came up with the idea to help people without mobility. I can honestly tell you that I had not thought much about mobility over the years as I traveled the world and often brought relief supplies with me on my plane.

But when I first witnessed the immediate change a wheelchair made to the life of a person with a physical disability and to every member of his or her family, I was

struck by the simplicity of this gesture.

Suddenly I felt I had found something that would give me purpose in my life. Since then, I have traveled to most of the 130 countries where we have delivered over 300,000 wheelchairs. I have received so much satisfaction that I decided to write a book that describes my humble beginnings, business successes and failures and what finally resulted in me finding my purpose—The Wheelchair Foundation. The book is called *Road to Purpose*.

My hope is to inspire people to find purpose in their lives and experience the joy of giving by helping those less fortunate than themselves.

I have decided to give one of my books for free to anyone who donates \$75 to sponsor a wheelchair (until December 31), or a signed copy to anyone that donates \$150 to sponsor two wheelchairs. The wheelchairs will deliver hope, freedom, dignity and change people's lives. If you would just like to receive my book, you can donate \$15 and we'll send you one (add \$3 S&H). For details, please visit our website at www.wheelchairfoundation.org or call us toll free at (877) 378-3839 to make a donation and receive your free book.

Thank you for helping us to improve the quality of life for so many.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Behring
Founder & Chairman of the Board

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 1 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 tens 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 their 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.

Wheelchair
Foundation
"Serving the World"



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THE OVERWHELMING NEED FOR WHEELCHAIRS

- People require the use of a wheelchair for many reasons: accidents, birth defects, war injuries, debilitating diseases and advanced age.
- One of the most horrific causes of disability worldwide can be attributed to landmines or unexploded ordnance (UXO). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), every year, more than 29,000 people are injured by landmines or UXO around the world. This number does not include unreported cases, or those that are killed by the explosions.
- An estimated 100-150 million people with physical disabilities worldwide need wheelchairs, though less than 1 percent own or have access to one. The number of physically disabled is likely underestimated, due to the difficulty in accounting for “forgotten” citizens who spend their lives hidden from sight.
- It is estimated that the number of people who need wheelchairs will increase by 22 percent over the next 10 years, with the greatest need existing in developing countries.
- In developing countries, only a small percentage of those who need wheelchairs have them, forcing dependence upon family and friends to get around. For others, the only way to get around is to crawl, or lie in a bed or corner of a room for years at a time.
- Despite tremendous efforts of many relief organizations, they are still not sufficient to meet the overwhelming need. Traditionally there have been three wheelchair delivery options—sadly, none of which is adequate for a country's poorest disabled citizens:

>> Wheelchairs available in the West: The most basic durable wheelchair with similar features to the type we deliver costs from \$375 to \$500, not including shipping charges. This sum is out of reach for most people in developing countries. In Vietnam, for example, a person with a physical disability may earn about \$30 a month—if she or he is able to work.

>> Refurbished wheelchairs: There are several organizations that refurbish and distribute wheelchairs very professionally and responsibly. Unfortunately, their efforts cannot hope to address the overwhelming need.

>> Wheelchairs manufactured in country: Some developing countries have domestic wheelchair manufacturing operations. But the wheelchairs still must be sold to the physically disabled citizens and are almost always too expensive for the destitute.

The wheelchairs provided by the Wheelchair Foundation are purchased in bulk from Chinese manufacturers, and designed to be the best possible solution in developing countries. They cost \$150 each, delivered by a 280-wheelchair container, and are offered free to those most in need. Each donation of \$75 will be matched by the Wheelchair Foundation, with funds provided specifically for that purpose, to deliver a wheelchair. \$21,000 will deliver an entire 280-wheelchair container.

Kenneth E. Behring

The establishment of the Wheelchair Foundation marks the most recent chapter in Kenneth E. Behring's philanthropic efforts to improve the lives of disadvantaged people around the world.

From his successful career as an automobile dealer in Wisconsin, Ken entered the world of real estate development in the 1960s. Over the course of the next 35 years, his companies created numerous planned communities in Florida and California, including the world-renowned Blackhawk development near San Francisco.

After purchasing the Seattle Seahawks football team in 1988, Ken established the Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation, which benefited numerous children's charities. The Seahawks Foundation was the most substantial donor to the Western Washington Muscular Dystrophy Association for many years.

Ken Behring founded the Blackhawk Museum and the Behring-Hofmann Educational Institute in Blackhawk, California, to benefit the San Francisco East Bay region. In 1997, he pledged \$20 million to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, and in 2000 he pledged an

“When I see the happiness in the eyes of the people who get a wheelchair, I feel that this is the greatest thing I have ever achieved in my life.” —Kenneth E. Behring

additional \$80 million to rebuild the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. For only the fourth time in the Smithsonian's 170-year history, the prestigious James Smithson Award was bestowed on Behring in recognition of his generosity and vision. The Blackhawk Museum is now an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and hosts Smithsonian exhibits.

During his years of travel around the world, Ken has made it his personal mission to help those in need. His donations of food, medical supplies, clothing, toys and educational materials have helped people in some of the most impoverished nations on earth. His first-hand involvement has given him a realistic picture of how much help is needed worldwide.

In 1999, Ken donated shipments of wheelchairs to relief organizations in Eastern Europe and Africa. His personal contact with the recipients gave him a greater understanding of how much hope and happiness can be given to a person who receives a wheelchair. In the following months, he traveled the world delivering wheelchairs to numerous countries. On June 13, 2000 (his birthday), the Wheelchair Foundation was established at a ceremony in Washington, DC.

Since June of 2000, Ken has tirelessly traveled the world delivering tens of thousands of wheelchairs to the disabled citizens of five continents. The relationships he has developed with world leaders have led to a greater awareness of the needs and abilities of the physically disabled, and are a great force in propelling the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation. In 2002, Ken was awarded an honorary doctorate by Brigham Young University for his worldwide charitable efforts.

Ken and Patricia, his wife of 54 years, reside in Blackhawk, California. They have five sons and ten grandchildren.

international board of advisors

MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ADVISORS OF THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION ARE INDIVIDUALS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING WHEELCHAIRS TO CHILDREN, TEENS AND ADULTS AROUND THE WORLD WHO CANNOT AFFORD ONE FOR THEMSELVES. THE ADVISORS BRING THEIR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE TO BEAR IN PROVIDING VALUABLE COUNSEL ON THE DIRECTION OF THE FOUNDATION AND SUPPORT IN ACCOMPLISHING ITS GOALS AND FULFILLING ITS MISSION.

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WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED SINCE JUNE 2000

Afghanistan.....	5,800	Lesotho.....	500
Albania.....	550	Liberia.....	250
Algeria.....	640	Lithuania.....	530
Angola.....	2,920	Macedonia.....	500
Argentina.....	4,011	Madagascar.....	1,030
Armenia.....	2,124	Malawi.....	2,020
Australia.....	292	Malaysia.....	1,980
Bahamas.....	920	Mali.....	240
Bangladesh.....	240	Malta.....	240
Barbados.....	280	Marshall Islands.....	140
Belarus.....	990	Mexico.....	38,899
Belgium.....	280	Micronesia.....	1,390
Belize.....	1,860	Moldova.....	1,480
Bolivia.....	3,244	Mongolia.....	1,040
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	1,010	Montenegro.....	120
Botswana.....	848	Morocco.....	520
Brazil.....	2,305	Mozambique.....	1,380
Bulgaria.....	250	N. Mariana Islands.....	420
Burundi.....	240	Namibia.....	186
Cambodia.....	2,270	Nepal.....	1,985
Cape Verde.....	500	Nicaragua.....	3,885
Central African Rep.....	240	Niger.....	240
Chile.....	4,298	Nigeria.....	1,310
China.....	54,568	Pakistan.....	655
China/Hong Kong.....	970	Palestinians/Israel.....	1,965
China/Taiwan.....	506	Panama.....	3,960
Colombia.....	2,700	Papua New Guinea.....	1,240
Costa Rica.....	4,315	Paraguay.....	1,544
Croatia.....	1,550	Peru.....	2,909
Cuba.....	1,240	Philippines.....	2,540
Czech Republic.....	480	Poland.....	280
Dominican Republic.....	8,238	Puerto Rico.....	250
Ecuador.....	2,761	Romania.....	3,556
Egypt.....	1,058	Russia.....	1,590
El Salvador.....	3,785	Rwanda.....	800
Eritrea.....	250	Samoa.....	520
Estonia.....	250	Senegal.....	240
Ethiopia.....	2,428	Serbia.....	1,000
Fiji.....	500	Sierra Leone.....	1,560
French Polynesia.....	280	Somalia.....	88
Georgia.....	500	South Africa.....	5,820
Ghana.....	1,960	Spain.....	500
Greece.....	240	Sri Lanka.....	520
Guam.....	250	St. Lucia.....	280
Guatemala.....	5,353	Suriname.....	240
Guyana.....	250	Swaziland.....	1,020
Haiti.....	1,820	Syria.....	641
Honduras.....	4,344	Tajikistan.....	240
Hungary.....	120	Tanzania.....	1,908
India.....	2,791	Thailand.....	3,050
Indonesia.....	2,300	Tonga.....	500
Iran.....	3,600	Trinidad & Tobago.....	1,604
Iraq.....	1,900	Turkey.....	3,040
Israel.....	4,790	Turkmenistan.....	240
Italy.....	560	Uganda.....	2,624
Jamaica.....	1,880	Ukraine.....	3,348
Japan.....	2,250	Uruguay.....	1,352
Jordan.....	2,818	USA.....	18,869
Kazakhstan.....	1,230	Uzbekistan.....	990
Kenya.....	2,260	Vanuatu.....	250
Korea, North.....	140	Venezuela.....	760
Korea, South.....	5,172	Vietnam.....	5,516
Kosovo.....	1,080	Virgin Islands.....	280
Kyrgyzstan.....	990	Western Sahara.....	153
Laos.....	780	Zambia.....	400
Latvia.....	740	Zimbabwe.....	1,550
Lebanon.....	2,090		

TOTAL COUNTRIES130
TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS314,876

For current totals visit wheelchairfoundation.org.



PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

*Pennies from heaven into a Pot,
Pennies from heaven we don't
need a lot*

*The pennies we give will help
to provide*

*Wheelchairs for those who need
the ride.*

Judy Piquet, president of the Relief Society of Corona, California, first heard about the Wheelchair Foundation through *The Ensign*, the monthly LDS Church magazine. "I was intrigued by the Wheelchair Foundation's mission to fight immobility, so I went on the website. I read several stories and saw the video 'The Power of One,' which really moved me. It brought me to tears."

Judy then put together a committee with Shellie Hunt and contacted the Wheelchair Foundation. "The Wheelchair Foundation was extremely helpful in getting us materials to share with our group."

A month prior to the Relief Society conference, Judy and her friends and fellow society members handed out 600 Chinese take-out containers with the "Pennies from Heaven" poem on the front as well as a small request: "When you find spare change, toss it in the container." Throughout the month, people found change in their car seat, in-between couch cushions and among the laundry. Nickels, dimes, quarters and pennies all were added to these small Chinese take-out containers.

Judy decided to raise these funds in memory of Jean Shumway, a member of the LDS Church who passed away earlier this year. "It is a great project to remember a great person."

The Corona California Relief Society had a goal to raise enough funds to sponsor 12 wheelchairs. One month and 500 pounds of spare change later, \$5,625 was raised. This amount was enough to sponsor 75 wheelchairs. They were able to raise more than six times the amount of their original goal! The Wheelchair Foundation would like to thank Judy Piquet for her "Pennies From Heaven."



LEE BURGE AND THE TEMPE, AZ, SISTER CITIES GROUP JOINS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MACEDONIA LAWRENCE BUTLER.

WHEELCHAIRS FOR PEACE

Working in partnership with the Wheelchair Foundation since 2002, Sister Cities International has sponsored or co-sponsored the delivery of nearly 5,000 wheelchairs. These were sent from U.S. communities to their sister cities abroad through the "Wheelchairs for Peace" program, and another 2,800 wheelchairs are currently in the works. Highlights of these deliveries include the Wheelchair Foundation's first shipment into the country of Mali and one of the first shipments to successfully make its way into Russia.

Under the leadership of board members Randy Avon and Steve Beinke, Sister Cities International recently announced the "Friendship Across the Americas" initiative, which will allow sister city groups the opportunity to work collectively

and join the efforts of diplomats, the business community, local Rotary Clubs and others to send 280-wheelchair containers to target countries in Latin America. The initial phase of the program focuses on Panama, Argentina, Columbia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

Through the "U.S./Iraq International Partners for Peace initiative," six pairs of communities will be connected to develop humanitarian assistance projects in Iraq. Sister Cities International is promoting the "Wheelchairs for Peace" program to these communities through this initiative.

TRAVEL WITH THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION

Travel the world and help deliver wheelchairs! The Wheelchair Foundation, in partnership with Howard Tours of Oakland, California, has designed a series of group-travel experiences where people can personally deliver wheelchairs to those who lack mobility. These distributions will provide enduring memories and emotions, but that will be just the start of the experience.

In addition to participating in a hands-on distribution of individual wheelchairs, those who join us will:

- Explore the sights, sounds, history and cultures of the countries visited.
- Visit additional humanitarian sites and projects.
- Build friendships with the people of each land.

There will be approximately four to five trips per year. Costs include airfare, hotel, special events, transfer, etc. Currently scheduled:

- 17 days in Vietnam. Only \$2,799. March 17 to April 2, 2005
- 5 days/4 nights in Mexico City. Approx. \$1,400. Mid-July 2005

For more information about these trips, please call the Wheelchair Foundation or Howard Tours at (800) 475-2260, or send an e-mail to travel@howardtours.net.



CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE: KEN BEHRING GREETES EACH WHEELCHAIR RECIPIENT. >>> QUALITY CONTROL TESTING BY OUR SUPPLIER IN SHANGHAI. >>> OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BEHRING WHEELCHAIR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER. >>> 13-YEAR-OLD HE JIEYING

In September 2004, a 13-year-old girl named He Jieying touched the hearts of the Wheelchair Foundation/LDS Charities team that made her one of the 500 recipients who would get their very own wheelchair that day in the city of Guangzhou. The girl's teacher, Mrs. Zheng, accompanied her to experience the special event. Mrs. Zheng explained that this wheelchair would not only help young Jieying, but also four other children that are immobile at their school. "Now all of the children with physical disabilities will be able to take turns in the wheelchair to go outside more often, and it will be a great help to me." Jieying was constantly smiling and so thankful for the chance to "fly" in her new wheelchair and explore the world outside.

wheelchairs in China

THE BEHRING RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER OPENS



The Behring Wheelchair Research & Technology Center was established on October 12, 2004, in Dalian, China. It is a research facility at the Dalian Jiaotong University that will provide the Wheelchair Foundation with technical data regarding the design and performance of wheelchairs currently being distributed and developed. The university's intention is to create the leading wheelchair technology development and quality-testing center in China. The initial focus will be to develop wheelchair designs that enable people with physical disabilities in varying environments to live more productive and independent lives, and to increase the longevity of the wheelchairs.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A WHEELCHAIR MEANS A NEW LIFE. >>> THIS 12-YEAR-OLD WILL NOW BE ABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL. >>> SPONSORS OF MOBILITY COME TOGETHER IN MOROCCO. >>> JUDY MCCALLUM OF THE D.O.D. AND KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS RON KULEY CHANGE LIVES IN MOROCCO.

As relationships strain throughout the Middle East, the Wheelchair Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Defense are seeking to promote peace and stability in this critical land. The week of September 27, 2004, the Wheelchair Foundation delivered the first of 12,000 wheelchairs to the Middle East as part of a new Middle East initiative with the U.S. government. Since 2002, the Foundation, State and Defense Departments have jointly delivered wheelchairs to 95 countries.

Nearly 1,000 wheelchairs, that were co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, LDS Church and Rotary Clubs, were distributed to physically disabled citizens in Amman, Jordan, and Casablanca, Morocco, with the U.S. Departments of State and Defense. Washington D.C. firefighter Ron Kuley represented the Knights of Columbus on the trip, and Dr. Jon Grant represented the Rotarians.

At the first distribution in Jordan, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah joined the delegation at the distribution, held at a school and rehabilitation center operated by the Al-Hussein Society. One of the wheelchair recipients was Duaa Shihadeh, a 10-year-old Jordanian girl who suffers from spina bifida. Duaa was the 100,000th physically challenged person to receive a wheelchair under the public/private partnership between the Wheelchair Foundation and the U.S. Department of State, and was helped into her new wheelchair by Queen Rania.

Judith McCallum, who oversees transportation of Foundation wheelchairs in the Office of Humanitarian

Middle East and North Africa

Assistance and Mine Action at the Defense Department, also assisted several recipients into their wheelchairs.

"It makes me want to go back and work harder. It makes me want to do more," McCallum said afterwards. "I just want to help the Wheelchair Foundation and State Department get wheelchairs to everyone on the planet who needs a wheelchair."

After the event, members of the distribution team saw first hand the power of mobility to change people's lives. At a workshop for mosaic art in Madaba, they noticed a woman in the corner in a wheelchair. Ismat Mdanat, 38, has been immobile because of polio most of her life. She had received a wheelchair from the Foundation in 2003, through the Al-Hussein Society and local Rotarians. The wheelchair had allowed her to get the job in the mosaic workshop, her first ever. It could eventually pay her \$1,000 a month. "I feel very good. It's a wonderful feeling to be able to be productive," she told team members. "I feel good that I can contribute to my family."

In Morocco, the team distributed 280 wheelchairs at the Center Noor, operated by the Amicale Marocaine des Handicapes. The U.S. Ambassador to Morocco, Thomas Riley, First Lady of the state of New York Libby Pataki and many Moroccan government officials attended the event. A banner at the distribution read in English and Arabic: "In friendship with the people of the United States of America."

Tarik Daria shouted, "Viva America" when he knew his brother, Adil, was finally receiving a new wheelchair. Tarik had taken a day off from work as a plumber to carry Adil, who is 22 and has been immobile since birth, to the event. With a wheelchair, Tarik said, Adil would have mobility and Tarik would no longer have to choose between helping him and earning money to feed his family.

"We are very grateful to the American people," Tarik told team members through a translator. "We know that the American people are very generous and that they are ready to help others; and for that, we can express but our sincere gratitude."

Earlier this year, the Foundation provided 1,500 wheelchairs sponsored by Rotarians to the people of Iraq and last year 5,000 wheelchairs were distributed in several provinces throughout Afghanistan. Both of these countries are in desperate need of wheelchairs, as landmines and unexploded ordnance are perpetual problems that plague their society.

"In this part of the world and elsewhere, one of the most important things for us in the State Department is to move beyond the bilateral relationship with the governments of these countries to the people of each of these countries," said Haynes Mahoney, public affairs counselor for the U.S. embassy in Amman. "And there's no more noble or human kind of act that we can perform than to improve somebody's life as dramatically as giving them a wheelchair."

season highlights



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: >>> Masai children welcome us to Tanzania. >>> Seth Thomas and James Clay present a check to WF's Jason Katz from the Bimmerworld Racing Team. >>> Texas Rotarian Jim Edwards gives veteran Horace Johnson a new wheelchair. >>> Playing canoe.





CLOCKWISE, FROM RIGHT: >>> Patricia and Ken Behring share a special moment in Jordan. >>> Mobility for their dad is a new experience. >>> (left) Former soldiers in Colombia condemn the anti-personnel landmines that caused their immobility. >>> (right) New friends in Jordan. >>> Women walk miles to get clean water. >>> Dan Dominguez of Noah's Bagels presented Wheelchair Foundation President David Behring with a check to sponsor over 600 wheelchairs. >>> Tibetan monks receive the gift of mobility. >>> Morocco kids are giving us the thumbs up. >>> Children celebrating in Mexico. >>> Xavier now works for the Mexican government helping the physically disabled.





mobilizing the Americas



BRINGING WHEELCHAIRS TO OUR CONTINENTAL NEIGHBORS TO THE SOUTH

Since June of 2000, a major focus for the Wheelchair Foundation has been to bring mobility to our physically disabled neighbors in Mexico and Central and South America. Approximately three percent of the populations of developing countries lack mobility and would have the quality of their lives greatly improved by the gift of a wheelchair.

COUNTRY – MEXICO

POPULATION - 105,000,000

WHEELCHAIRS DELIVERED SINCE JUNE 2000 – 38,899

ESTIMATED WHEELCHAIRS NEEDED – 3,150,000

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY TO IMPORT WHEELCHAIRS

DUTY-FREE – High

It is estimated that nearly 50 percent of the physically disabled people in Mexico are children, and the resources necessary to address their needs are just not available. Recent improvements in the approach by government to provide services for the physically disabled have provided much needed assistance, but it is the overwhelming generosity and dedication of relief and service organizations, churches and charitable foundations that have brought hope and an improved quality of life to tens of thousands.

One of the great challenges facing the Wheelchair Foundation is the importation of brand new, Chinese-made wheelchairs into

countries duty free. The importation barriers that exist to protect markets from being flooded by Chinese-made products have proven to be a consistent challenge, even when delivering our wheelchairs, which are free humanitarian aid. Over the past year, the level of difficulty and cost to bring our life-changing wheelchairs to the physically disabled people in Mexico have more than doubled. We are almost at the point that we cannot guarantee a distribution date to sponsors visiting Mexico to participate in a wheelchair distribution of less than six months from the placement of the order for the 280-wheelchair container. The ordering, manufacturing and shipping time from China is approximately 60 days, and the rest of the time spent can be compared to moving Everest-size mountains of red tape with a toothpick.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our regional operations director Eva Brook, our transportation manager Gerry Riley, his associate Laura Morales, our Rotarian volunteer Dr. Jon Grant, and the hundreds of volunteers that work endless hours to make our distributions in Mexico possible, we are continuing to fight the fight on a daily basis to get wheelchairs to the physically disabled residents without mobility.

“I can’t think of too many things that can make a significant difference in people’s lives, but delivering wheelchairs makes a major difference every day.”



With these words, Rick Todd, a Rotarian from Southern California's District 5300, succinctly summed up a successful wheelchair distribution in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. He vowed to return soon with even more wheelchairs for the needy and physically disabled residents of this seaside community.

"One young man who had no legs and desperately needed a wheelchair came to the distribution on a skateboard, using his hands to push his body through the streets of Puerto Vallarta," said Todd. "When you see someone arrive on a skateboard and leave in a wheelchair, you know you've made a difference in their life."

Todd first heard about the Wheelchair Foundation and its partnership with Rotary Clubs during a presentation by District Governor Barbara Risher Welch. He joined members from 11 other clubs in District 5300 to raise funds for the 280 wheelchairs—a full container—sent to Puerto Vallarta.

Fifty California Rotarians made the trip to Mexico. Arturo Vazquez Serrano and other members of the Rotary Club of Puerto Vallarta assisted with the distribution. When recipients were unable to show up to receive a wheelchair in person, the wheelchairs were delivered to their homes.

"There was this one elderly man," said Todd, "who was really struggling to use his crutches. When he was able to sit down in his new wheelchair, his life changed immediately. The look in his eyes told us how important our mission was to him."

Rotarians witnessed the life-changing impact a free wheelchair provides. "I felt a lot of emotion while seeing the recipients of wheelchairs," said Ed Biebrich.

"I saw children who were emotionally and developmentally challenged who, for the first time in their lives, were able to move around independently. I also saw the impact this would have on family members who no longer had to carry them."

"I was truly moved," said Biebrich, whose two sons helped raise money for the wheelchairs by cutting firewood and selling it to their neighbors.

"We all go through life wondering if we have made a difference," added Todd. "Delivering wheelchairs does make a difference. It brings hope to people who have no hope, and is a way we can see first hand the great improvement of a person's life."

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

>>> Arrived on a skateboard to get his new wheelchair.

>>> District 5300 Rotarians in Puerto Vallarta. >>> Interact

Rotarian Lindsay Lowenthal in Guatemala.

>>> Antigua, Guatemala. ABOVE LEFT: >>>

Now this boy will be able to play with his friends. ABOVE RIGHT: >>>

A family receives mobility in Guatemala.

COUNTRY – GUATEMALA

POPULATION – 14,300,000

WHEELCHAIRS DELIVERED SINCE

JUNE 2000 – 5,353

ESTIMATED WHEELCHAIRS NEEDED – 429,000

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY TO IMPORT

WHEELCHAIRS DUTY-FREE – Low

Guatemala is known as "the land of eternal spring" because of its beautiful year-round weather and tropical environment. The rich culture includes many people that live their lives with the same traditions as their ancestors, and speak 23 officially recognized Amerindian languages, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mam, Garifuna and Xinca. The Maya civilization flourished in Guatemala and surrounding regions during the first millennium A.D. During the second half of the 20th century, it experienced a variety of military and civilian governments as well as a 36-year guerrilla war. In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the conflict, which had led to the death of more than 100,000 people and had created some 1 million refugees. It is estimated that the conflicts also left thousands of people with physical disabilities.

One of the Wheelchair Foundation's most dedicated Rotarian supporters is still hard at it, delivering free wheelchairs to the physically disabled and often forgotten people in some of the world's hardest-to-reach corners.

Jim Walker, past district governor of California's Rotary District 5170, and six other team members helped deliver 280 wheelchairs recently in Antigua, Guatemala. Jim was among the Foundation's first Rotarian supporters in 2001, and has been involved in giving the gift of mobility ever since. It's a gift that has special meaning to this Rotarian, as Jim's wife Linda relies on a wheelchair for her mobility.



"High school-aged members of District 5170's Interact clubs raised the majority of the \$21,000 needed to deliver the 280 wheelchairs to Guatemala," said Walker. They had bake sales, washed cars and collected change in donation cans. Three of the students accompanied the distribution team to its Central American destination, to experience the impact that would be realized from their hands-on efforts.

"It was extremely fulfilling to have these students from the Interact clubs be able to participate in a wheelchair distribution," said Walker. "I've heard it said that a wheelchair changes lives. I could not agree more. It changes the lives of both the recipient and the donor in extremely profound ways."

Lindsay Lowenthal, one of the Interact club members who went on the distribution, had a truly emotional experience. "This experience has opened my eyes to the world around me," she said. "When I went



THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: >>> Father and daughter mobility in Bogota. >>> Unloading wheelchairs in Santiago. >>> Elder Von and Sister Marian Sorensen changing lives in Chile. >>> The victims of landmines and UXO in Colombia. OPPOSITE PAGE: >>> A relic in Colombia.

to Guatemala I saw so many people whose lives were forever changed because of something that I was a part of. I got the feeling that I as an individual have the

power to change the world. I now know that everything one does to help out those in need, no matter how small it may be, can make a difference and change a life forever. To see a smile on each face as we lifted them into their new wheelchair was extremely rewarding and life changing for that person as well as myself."

In recent years, Walker has accompanied more than 100 Rotarians on wheelchair deliveries all over the world. "It is more than writing checks," he said. "It is about humanitarian service. ... We go out and deliver the wheelchairs to the people who need them." And even when he's not helping people into wheelchairs in a far away country, Walker is still acutely aware of the blessings a wheelchair can provide. His wife, Linda, is a paraplegic after suffering a spinal-cord injury 15 years ago. She is also a proud veteran of four wheelchair distributions.

"I know how much a wheelchair can change a life," Walker said. "I see it every day with my wife. I enjoy showing others what a magic gift a wheelchair can be."

"The Guatemala trip was extremely well received," he said. "The people were very thankful for their wheelchairs, and the Wheelchair Foundation/Rotary Club partnership helps us make such an immediate difference in so many lives."

COUNTRY – COLOMBIA

POPULATION – 42,300,000

WHEELCHAIRS DELIVERED SINCE JUNE

2000 – 2,700

ESTIMATED WHEELCHAIRS NEEDED –

1,269,000

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY TO IMPORT

WHEELCHAIRS DUTY-FREE – Low to medium

With dramatically beautiful rainforests, mountains, cities, enchanting people, and incredible history, Colombia is an experience to remember for any visitor. Our team members were struck by how normal and orderly everyday life is despite the problems the country is experiencing with rebel forces in some rural areas, and the landmine and UXO problems caused by the armed conflicts. Colombia is one of the world's most complex and fascinating

countries, with over 200 indigenous languages spoken throughout its population, and even the lost Pre-Colombian "Kogi" tribe that can recite their oral history of the past thousand years.

At a distribution in Bogotá, capital of the South American nation, 108 free wheelchairs were delivered to physically disabled members of Colombia's Public Force—soldiers and police officers—and their families who could not afford to buy one on their own.



“The Wheelchair Foundation is an organization that has shown a great commitment to helping the people of Colombia,” said Juan Carlos Franco, director of Tejido Humano, one of two Colombian groups involved in the identification of needy recipients and the actual distribution of the wheelchairs.

The largest population of physically disabled people assisted by Tejido Humano are victims of landmines. “Unfortunately,” said Franco, “landmines are still being put in the ground in Colombia, now more than ever by these rebel insurgents, and when a Public Force member is injured, they can no longer perform the job that was paying their salary.”

“The soldiers who received a wheelchair feel appreciated for the sacrifice they made. They feel that their struggle to make

our country safer was not in vain and that the people of the United States showed their friendship by giving them a wheelchair.” Franco continued, “It is very difficult for these active, healthy young men of 19 or 20 to go from their job and livelihood one day to being bedridden the next, and sometimes for years.”

Other wheelchair recipients were physically disabled children whose parents are members of Public Force but cannot afford the wheelchairs their children need.

“A wheelchair,” said Franco, “costs a minimum of 600,000 pesos (\$235.00) – a sum of money that is impossible for most families to save.”

The Wheelchair Foundation is grateful for our Global Partners that provided funding for these wheelchairs, and to the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Defense who provide additional funding for the delivery of wheelchairs to countries suf-

fering the effects of landmines and armed conflicts.

COUNTRY – CHILE

POPULATION – 15,800,000

WHEELCHAIRS DELIVERED SINCE JUNE 2000 – 4,298

ESTIMATED WHEELCHAIRS NEEDED – 474,000

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY TO IMPORT WHEELCHAIRS DUTY-FREE – Low

Chile stretches over 2,700 miles along the southwestern coast of South America, a distance roughly the same as that from San Francisco to New York, and a natural diversity that goes from snow-capped volcanoes to ancient lakes and arid deserts. At the same time, its width never exceeds 150 miles, making the country more than 18 times longer than its widest point. Aside from its geographic grandeur, Chile’s rising economy in recent years and good financial policies have given it the strongest sovereign bond rating in South America. Unemployment is still a serious problem, however, and there is little access to jobs for people with physical disabilities. Children without wheelchairs are unable to attend school, and the elderly are most often confined to their homes.

It’s been just four years since Gary Winters first contacted the Wheelchair Foundation to learn more about its mission—and with his phone call launched a lasting partnership that annually gives hope and mobility to tens of thousands of deserving people.

Winters is manager of Major Initiatives for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Since that initial contact in 2000, the LDS church has been a



ABOVE: >>> 10-year-old Juan Eduardo gets his first wheelchair.

participant in hundreds of wheelchair distributions, with one of the most recent taking place in Chile.

“We delivered a total of 1,000 wheelchairs in several parts of Chile,” said Winters, noting that missionaries Von and Marian Sorensen and area welfare manager Eduardo Jimenez were instrumental in making the distribution successful.

The wheelchairs were delivered by Winters and other church members to people in Santiago, Valparaiso, Quillota, Villa Lalemana and Kulipue. “Even after four years of working with the Foundation, I still have unique, emotional and moving experiences,” said Winters.

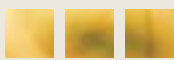
“We were able to give a 101-year-old woman her first wheelchair. She had spent her entire life depending on others but was able, for the first time, to experience life with mobility.”

“On the same trip,” said Winters, “we also gave a wheelchair to a nine-year-old boy named Joun Lopez Hernandez who has been physically disabled since birth. A family member has always had to carry him to school. Now, with a wheelchair, he has independence.”

Winters says that the wheelchair distributions show how wonderful it is for both young and old to receive the gift of mobility. Joun’s mother, for example, told him that it is a “true blessing” for her son to receive a wheelchair because the family could never have afforded one, forcing Joun to live a life dependent on others.

“To be part of an event that distributes wheelchairs is truly a great thing,” said Winters, “and we feel so blessed to be able to help so many people help themselves.”





The Need for Wheelchairs in the Americas

THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

While the United States and Canada have a greatly reduced need for free wheelchairs, there are still segments of the populations in inner cities or remote areas that are in need of wheelchairs, cannot afford them and for one reason or another cannot get one through governmental channels or local agencies. The Wheelchair Foundation addresses these needs through local sponsors and relief organizations that operate in North America. Distribution partners include, The Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries, The International Association of Firefighters, Catholic Charities, and Rotary Clubs and Districts.

The goal of the Wheelchair Foundation is to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult that needs one but cannot afford one. At the same time, it is equally important for us to continue to create awareness about the needs and abilities of people with physical disabilities throughout the world, and that wheelchairs are now an affordable relief option. Children can go to school, adults can go to work and provide for their families and the elderly can once again be part of family activities. Often, once receiving mobility, the wheelchair recipients work hard to help those less fortunate than themselves. Even if homes and public areas are not wheelchair accessible, the mobility provided by a wheelchair greatly improves lives, and ways are found to incorporate new mobility into everyday life.

By spreading the word to local groups and organizations, churches, service clubs, businesses, media outlets and corporations about the immediate and tangible relief that can be given to a person with a physical disability by just raising \$75 to sponsor a wheelchair, we can address the great needs of people around the world.

Many corporations and employers have matching programs. If you donate \$75, your employer might match it. If your child's school or your church raises \$21,000 to sponsor an entire 280-wheelchair container to the country of your choice, your employer or a local corporation might match it to deliver two containers. We receive these types of sponsorships all the time.

There are many ways that our network of volunteers around the world is helping to get the word out about the

immediate change a wheelchair makes in a person's life, outlook and future. As we spread the word about our mission, suddenly the enormous numbers of people waiting to receive wheelchairs seems much smaller. We are delivering over 10,000 wheelchairs per month around the world, and can keep increasing this number by spreading the word. You can make a difference in the lives of these people with very little effort, and you can know in your heart that you have helped a global network of good people working together to improve the quality of lives in over 100 countries.

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Country	Population	Estimated Wheelchairs needed	Importation Difficulty
Mexico	105,000,000	3,150,000	High
Guatemala	14,300,000	429,000	Low
Honduras	6,800,000	204,000	Low
El Salvador	6,500,000	195,000	Low
Nicaragua	5,300,000	159,000	Low
Costa Rica	3,900,000	117,000	Low
Panama	3,000,000	90,000	Low
TOTALS	144,800,000	4,344,000	

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia	42,300,000	1,269,000	Low to medium
Venezuela	25,000,000	750,000	Medium
Guyana	700,000	21,000	Unknown
Suriname	435,000	13,050	Low
French Guyana	190,000	5,700	Unknown
Ecuador	13,200,000	396,000	Medium-high
Peru	27,500,000	825,000	Medium
Bolivia	8,700,000	261,000	Low
Brazil	184,000,000	5,520,000	Not possible*
Paraguay	6,100,000	183,000	Low
Uruguay	3,400,000	102,000	Low
Chile	15,800,000	474,000	Low
Argentina	39,000,000	1,170,000	Medium
TOTALS	336,325,000	10,989,750	

*Our experience has taught us that Brazil is one of the four countries worldwide to which it is too time-consuming and unpredictable to ship our wheelchairs with a reasonable expectation of them being imported duty-free and actually reaching their destination. The other countries currently on our "no ship" list are Nigeria, Mozambique and India.

Tax Beneficial Donations

The gift of appreciated securities may allow you to make a larger gift than you ever thought possible, and enjoy substantial tax benefits in the process.

Case Study: Appreciated Stock Is an 'Appreciated Gift'

Marc L., while not a wealthy man, has managed his money carefully and is today able to provide a good life for his family, while also helping support his favorite charitable organizations.

Through membership in his local Rotary Club, Marc has come to know the Wheelchair Foundation and finds great joy in donating and raising money to provide physically disabled people in the world's far corners with the life-altering gift of a wheelchair.

Recently, as Marc was in the process of revising his long-range financial plan, his attorney suggested that he consider a gift of appreciated stock to the Foundation. It didn't take Marc long to agree, since such a gift does provide multiple benefits.

People making a gift of appreciated property that's been held for more than a year—and this includes everything from stock to a vacation home—is looking at up to a double tax break.

First, Marc was eligible for a federal income tax deduction based on the current fair market value of the stock, regardless of its original cost. In addition, he was exempt from paying capital gains taxes on an increase in the stock's value—taxes he would definitely pay if he sold the stock.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Marc was able to make a larger gift than he ever thought possible to the Wheelchair Foundation. In doing so, he's supporting a worthy cause and setting an outstanding example for his children and theirs.

The Gift of Giving

Leaving a Legacy

Help support the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation for years to come through a planned gift, including gifts through your will, gifts of life insurance and charitable trusts.

Case Study: Why a Will Is Important

Beverly H., who was widowed at a young age, worked hard and invested wisely all of her adult life so that she could retire with financial security. Her long-range plan was to eventually divide her estate between a daughter and two sons—while leaving a substantial bequest to the Wheelchair Foundation.

Beverly first heard about the Foundation in 2002 through the husband of a close friend. "This is a wonderful organization," was her initial thought, after learning of the Foundation's mission to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one.

Soon, Beverly was making regular donations to the Foundation, with the major donation—the one that would cement her lifelong commitment to caring for others—to come at her passing.

Unfortunately, Beverly suddenly fell ill and died at age 67 – before she got around to making out her will.

The state then stepped in and divided Beverly's estate among her children but made no provision for the Wheelchair Foundation. As a result of Beverly not having a will, a bequest that would have given the precious gift of hope and mobility to many deserving people was never made.

And the legacy of caring and concern that Beverly so wanted to establish was never realized.

Have you drawn up your will or estate plan?

Matching Gift

Your gift can help twice as much.

You may be able to double the amounts of your recent and future gifts to the Wheelchair Foundation if you work for an organization that has an employee matching gift program.

To make your match, simply obtain a form from your company's matching gift coordinator (usually in the personnel or community relations department) and send it to the Wheelchair Foundation at the address listed. Your company's matching gift coordinator can also answer questions about this program.

Your company may have a matching gift program even if you haven't heard about it. Please ask.

It is very easy; so double your gift by taking advantage of your company's matching gift program today.

The case studies above are simply examples of ways one can donate. Please consult your tax professional or attorney for specific instructions.

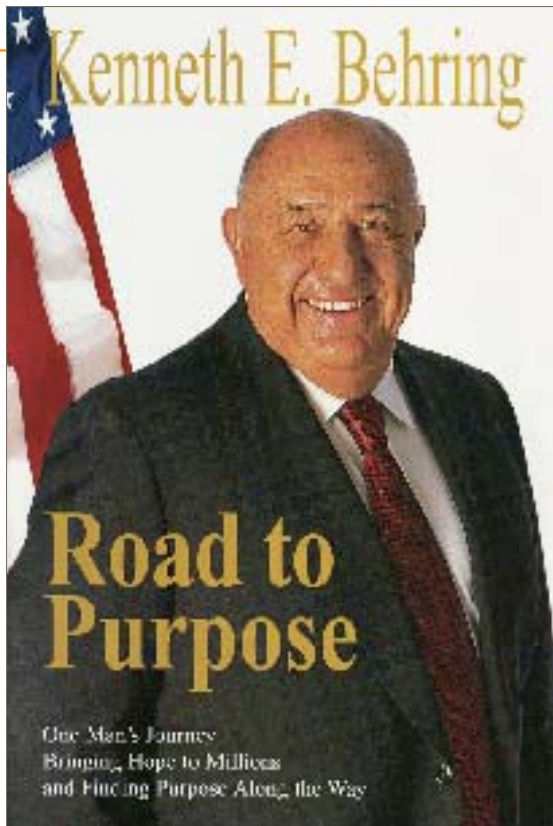
Please visit our website at www.wheelchairfoundation.org for additional information about planned giving and matching gifts. Select "Planned Giving" from the "Quick Links" on left navigation bar.

Please visit our website

WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG for:

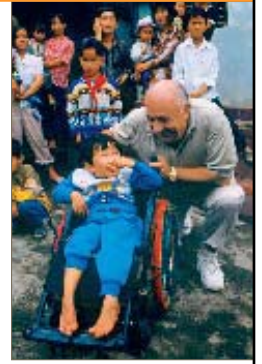
- Donation and Planned Giving Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Upcoming Events
- Our Annual Report
- Travel to Wheelchair Distributions
- Team Contact Information
- Shopping to Benefit the Wheelchair Foundation
- Videos

Or call us toll-free (877) 378-3839



YOU can change a life
in the name of a loved one
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free copy of **Ken Behring's**
new book
Road to Purpose

—his personal journey that led to
the creation of the Wheelchair Foundation,
and the stories of people
we have touched.



EACH \$75 DONATION WILL DELIVER A WHEELCHAIR AND GREATLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR A CHILD, TEEN OR ADULT WITHOUT MOBILITY. YOU WILL RECEIVE A BEAUTIFUL PRESENTATION FOLDER WITH A PICTURE OF A WHEELCHAIR RECIPIENT AND A CERTIFICATE OF THANKS IN YOUR NAME OR DEDICATED TO YOUR LOVED ONE. YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF ROAD TO PURPOSE UNTIL DECEMBER 31. DONATE TWO WHEELCHAIRS AND RECEIVE A SIGNED COPY.



Sample Presentation Folder

**CALL US NOW AT (877) 378-3839
OR DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG**



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