

SUMMER 2006

Changing

THE WORLD



500,000 wheelchairs

AND COUNTING...



A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



Last month on June 13, 2006 we hit a few milestones with the Wheelchair Foundation:

- >> The Wheelchair Foundation's 6th Anniversary
- >> The Wheelchair Foundation crossed the one-half million wheelchair mark

When I think of these milestones listed above and as we continue to travel the world distributing wheelchairs and changing lives, I first want to thank all of our global partners who have contributed in some way to help

the Foundation get to where it is today. From the \$75 donation to sponsor one wheelchair to Vietnam to the \$1 million contribution we just received from my dear friend Ken Hofmann, which I personally matched, to send 20,000 wheelchairs to Mexico. Each donation is greatly appreciated and makes a difference in the lives of others.

I'm looking forward to traveling to Mexico in August to do the largest wheelchair distribution in our six year history. We will be distributing 2,000-plus wheelchairs in Mexico City with our friends President Vicente Fox and his lovely wife First Lady Marta Sahagun de Fox.

Giving away one-half million (500,000) wheelchairs is a great accomplishment that we can all celebrate together. However, I don't want to dwell on or relish in the past. I want to continue to push forward with our mission to eradicate immobility around the world. Let's see if we can raise the bar, do a little more, and be a little better.

Please help us celebrate our sixth anniversary by making a generous contribution to the Wheelchair Foundation today.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Behring
Founder & 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 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 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.

Wheelchair Foundation

"Serving the World"



Changing the World
is published by the
Wheelchair Foundation,
3820 Blackhawk Road,
Danville, California
94506 USA. Copyright
2006 Wheelchair
Foundation. All rights
reserved. Summer
2006 Issue. Written and
edited by Joel Hodge,
Program Director.
Contributing writers:
Eva Brook, Matt
Montague, Chris Lewis.

Contact Us

Wheelchair Foundation (877) 378-3839
– info@wheelchairfoundation.org
Wheelchair Foundation Canada (866) 666-2411
– info-ca@wheelchairfoundation.ca
Wheelchair Foundation Australia (13) 0076 0581
– info-au@wheelchairfoundation.org.au
Wheelchair Foundation UK (44) 1 937 580 725
– info-uk@wheelchairfoundation.org
www.wheelchairfoundation.org

Getting Involved...Success Stories



Chevron

Chevron continues its generous support of Wheelchair Foundation through a designated grant through United Way of the San Francisco Bay Area. This grant of \$84,000 will send over 800 wheelchairs, sports wheelchairs and three-wheeled carts to the disabled and less fortunate of Angola. Chevron is forging lasting relationships throughout communities in over 180 countries to improve the lives of the people who live there. Chevron's priorities include helping individuals become more self sufficient through access to health care and education, strengthening nonprofit organizations that provide critical services, and assisting small businesses. Chevron has sponsored over 3,500 wheelchairs for Angola to date.



Fresno Regional Foundation

Created in 1966, this year marks 40 years of philanthropic giving in communities throughout the region by the Fresno Regional Foundation (FRF). As a nonprofit community foundation, FRF provides unique opportunities for individual donors, families, businesses, and other foundations to invest in programs and services that address a wide spectrum of economic, social, educational, cultural and environmental needs. Over the past six months the Wheelchair Foundation has been fortunate to have received \$45,000 from FRF to sponsor wheelchairs throughout the world. Because of the generosity of FRF hundreds of lives have been changed with the gift of a free wheelchair.

The Fresno Regional Foundation recognizes the importance of its role in building strong communities by fulfilling the objectives of the donors while connecting philanthropic contributions to the critical needs of the community.



Rock the Block

Rock the Block was held on April 8th, 2006 at Brigham Young University and proceeds from the event benefited the Wheelchair Foundation. Eric Chambers, Jordan Wheeler, and Scott Cramer, all students at BYU, put together the amazing show. Kendell Burdett was the D.J. Almost 3,000 students packed the streets of Provo, Utah to dance and enjoy the music of several local student bands. The University District Rotary Club of Seattle and the Pro Sports Club of Bellevue partnered with the BYU students to send a container of 280 wheelchairs to Peru. Along with the container of wheelchairs, they also plan on delivering other medical supplies and firetrucks. The students will be travelling to Peru in April 2007 to personally deliver the aid.



AutoAffair Event

Miguel Sala and Michael Ponte from AutoAffair Exotics of Danville, California organized and put together a high caliber auto show on April 29, 2006 at the Danville Livery. There was an exciting collection of exotic automobiles on hand. More than 150 museum quality cars ranging from unique vintage cars to modern exotics. Alfa Romeo, Aston Martin, Bentley, Corvette, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Lotus, Maserati, Porsche, Viper and other fine marques were represented. Additionally, there was a display of vintage and modern race cars. Also present were IRL drivers

and representatives of Russell Racing School and Laguna Seca Mazda Raceway. Mr. Sala is from Peru, and he wanted to not only host an event but he wanted an event with a meaningful purpose. The Wheelchair Foundation is grateful that Miguel and Michael selected the Foundation as their charity of choice. Proceeds raised from this event will be used to send 280 wheelchairs to the physically disabled of Peru. We look forward to another exciting AutoAffair Exotics event next year.

GET INVOLVED AND TELL US ABOUT IT!

THESE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION. WE WOULD LOVE TO HELP YOU GET INVOLVED TOO. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HEAR YOUR SUCCESS STORIES OF RAISING FUNDS TO SEND WHEELCHAIRS TO PEOPLE IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD. WAYS TO GET INVOLVED INCLUDE HOSTING AN EVENT, MAKING AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION, INCLUDING THE FOUNDATION IN YOUR WILL, DONATING STOCK, ETC. PLEASE CONTACT MATT MONTAGUE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS, AT (925) 791-2316 OR MMONTAGUE@WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG TO LEARN MORE AND TO SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORIES. YOU COULD BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER!



Pilgrimage and Mobility

The roughly 65,000 Knights of Columbus in the state of California embraced the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation in its 2005-2006 Columbian year by sponsoring the delivery of more than 1,680 wheelchairs to needy recipients in Mexico and Poland.

As a hands on mission of mercy and spiritual revitalization, 30 Knights and their wives from California journeyed to Mexico City recently to help deliver several hundred of the 560 wheelchairs that they sponsored to the area, and to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



In the course of delivering over 75,000 wheelchairs to Mexico since 2000, the Wheelchair Foundation has established a wonderful distribution relationship with the Rotary Clubs of Mexico. Working as our local agents to coordinate the distribution of each 280-wheelchair container

in their areas, the Rotarians have become an invaluable resource to our humanitarian mission. Members of the Rotary Club of Texcoco de Gante and their dedicated spouses have helped deliver thousands of wheelchairs in the Mexico City area, and acted as coordinators for the Knights wheelchair distributions on this trip.

The first distribution took place in a church courtyard in the city of Texcoco, where more than 150 children, teens and adults received brand new wheelchairs. For many visiting Knights, this was the first time they had experienced the heartfelt elation from recipients and their families when they receive their first wheelchair. The experiences of the day were very moving and memorable.

The local Knights of Columbus from Mexico hosted a reception that evening at the Metropolitan



Cathedral in Mexico City, which culminated with a private tour of the inner chambers of the church, and the viewing of historical treasures that date back to the 16th century.

The next morning the visiting Knights from California joined the local Knights and Texcoco Rotarians at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe for a mass in their honor. The Monsignor of the Cathedral and California State Deputy Gary Nelson placed several children into their new wheelchairs on the altar during the mass. The group then proceeded across the courtyard and distributed another 150 wheelchairs to recipients from the Mexico City area. "This has been one of the most inspirational experiences of my life," said Gary Nelson, "and I wish everyone who helped sponsor these wheelchairs could experience this feeling."

2006 has seen the establishment of Knights councils for the first time in Poland. The Supreme Council sponsored the delivery of 560 wheelchairs to Warsaw and Krakow earlier this year, and 560 wheelchairs from the California Council will follow those in several months.

The Wheelchair Foundation is grateful for the leadership and dedication of the California State officers and volunteers who have helped us change so many lives, and started the ball rolling toward many more wheelchairs being delivered throughout the world because of their sincere efforts.

Please visit our website to watch the video of the "Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: WHEELCHAIR RECIPIENTS IN THE COURTYARD OF THE GUADALUPE CATHEDRALS >>> CASE NELSON SAYS HIS LIFE WAS CHANGED BY THIS EXPERIENCE >>> NEW MOBILITY FOR THIS 19-YEAR-OLD FROM MEXICO CITY >>> CHILDREN'S LIVES CHANGED BY THE GIFT OF A WHEELCHAIR >>> CA STATE OFFICERS THOM RANDLE, GARY NELSON, JIM SCROGGINS AND EMILIO MOURE WITH A 17TH CENTURY VESTMENT AT THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL





A Smile is Free

by Eva Brook



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JOHN MARSHALL LEE, PAST PRESIDENT OF MDRT FOUNDATION, AND HIS FRIEND ANDRES AGUILAR, FOUNDER OF RISATERAPIA >>> WHEELCHAIR TRAIN >>> A SPECIAL MOMENT BETWEEN JOHN MARSHALL LEE AND A WHEELCHAIR RECIPIENT >>> FUN TIMES AS A RECIPIENT RECEIVES HER NEW WHEELCHAIR >>> CLOWNING AROUND

Clowning around in Mexico City was an entirely fun experience for John Marshall Lee, Past President of Million Dollar Roundtable (MDRT) Foundation and

me. On a sunny and warm Saturday morning at the National Rehabilitation Center, we watched and laughed as colorful clowns carried the wheelchair boxes to a central location, unpacked them, and did the simple assembly necessary. The fun never ended that day as more than 60 clowns of all ages and backgrounds (volunteers from a creative non-profit organization called Risaterapia in Mexico City) directed the wheelchair distribution. Everyone laughed as they arrived, whether carried, on crutches, or in a borrowed wheelchair. The clowns entertained the waiting beneficiaries and families, engaging them in movement, making them laugh and giggle. They then led the beneficiaries to the appropriate wheelchairs, seated them, and rolled them around for photo-taking. Everyone was given a red nose as a present from Risaterapia, which is a real honor in the clowning profession.

MDRT Foundation generously supported this wheelchair mission with a grant of nearly \$212,000 in 2003 after the founder of Wheelchair Foundation Kenneth Behring spoke at the MDRT Convention in Las Vegas. MDRT Foundation, the heart of MDRT, raises funds mainly from its members and supports projects all over the world. MDRT members (there are over 37,000 in some 70 countries) joined Wheelchair Foundation for a memorable distribution in Jamaica, while containers of wheelchairs were also sent to



Colombia, South Africa, Nepal, Israel, Philippines, Rwanda and Mexico as part of their donation. Wheelchair Foundation is extremely grateful for the financial support and commitment MDRT Foundation has offered in our humanitarian endeavor.

It is this kind of caring that makes the world a better place!

So how did the clowns get into the act, you wonder? John Marshall Lee met Andres Aguilar, the founder of Risaterapia, several years ago during a white water rafting trip in Idaho. Andres passionately told him about the wonderful not-for-profit organization he had just started in Mexico City and they kept in touch. Andres Aguilar is a professionally-trained clown who has performed with top circus companies around the world but felt compelled to do something even better and perhaps more meaningful with his skills - something that would make his heart and mind happy every day as he would be able to lighten the days of others. Risaterapia, now a rapidly growing organization throughout Mexico, is training a community of volunteers to become the colorful clown doctors and nurses who cheer up sick children and everyone else that sees them in action! And as they say, "A Smile is Free."

When John Marshall Lee and I discussed sending a container of

wheelchairs to Mexico, it was very clear that he wanted Risaterapia to distribute the wheelchairs. It took us many months to arrange the logistics but finally on April 8, 2006, everything fell marvelously into place with fun, laughter and lots of gratitude from the wheelchair recipients and their families. It was impressive to see that Risaterapia had taken the instructions I had sent beforehand and trained all their volunteers, so when the time came to unpack the wheelchairs, they knew exactly what to do, including how to seat the recipients and show them the features of the wheelchair. The distribution was not only fun but was carried out in an excellent fashion.

As John Marshall Lee commented, "This was just another example of a great partnership by combining the resources of people, funding, and talent. I was very happy to see one of the last three wheelchair containers distributed, and see a donor's money become an active part in someone's life!"





SISTER CITIES: WHEELCHAIRS FOR PEACE



LEFT >>> COUNCILWOMAN BECKY HASKIN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAE FERGUSON FROM FT. WORTH SISTER CITIES DELIVERY MOBILITY IN MBABANE, SWAZILAND

RIGHT >>> MAYOR GARY PETERSON AND DOLORES STRAND FROM THE COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MINNESOTA SISTER CITIES DISTRIBUTING WHEELCHAIRS IN LOMIANKI, POLAND

History of Wheelchairs for Peace Program

Since 2002, Sister Cities International and Wheelchair Foundation have partnered to deliver wheelchairs to Sister City communities throughout the world. Already, thousands of wheelchairs have been shipped through the “Wheelchairs for Peace” program, making a huge difference in the lives of the recipients, their families, and the communities in which they live. Sister City communities in Argentina, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Turkey, and elsewhere have already seen what this program can do for people without mobility.

To celebrate 50 years of citizen diplomacy, as part of Sister Cities International’s 50th Anniversary, Sister Cities International and the Wheelchair Foundation are embarking on a new initiative; “50 wheelchairs, 50 communities for the 50th Anniversary.” The aim is to involve 50 communities to raise the funds to provide at least 2,500 wheelchairs to individuals without mobility! As of today, seven Sister City programs are already working on this important cause. Your community can do the same! This program focuses on China, Latin America, as well as other developing countries. We welcome any communities who are interested in being part of the “Wheelchairs for Peace” program and encourage them to get involved.

History of Sister Cities International

Sister City, county and state affiliations between the United States and similar jurisdictions around the world, began shortly after World War II and developed into a national initiative when, at a White House conference in 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed a formalized people-to-people program. Originally a part of the National League of Cities, Sister Cities International became a

separate, nonprofit organization in 1967, due to the tremendous growth and popularity of the sister city movement. Today, Sister Cities International promotes and supports new sister city partnerships in all corners of the globe, reaching areas traditionally underserved by other community development organizations. Headquartered in Washington, DC, Sister Cities International promotes sustainable development, youth involvement, education, cultural understanding, and humanitarian assistance. The Sister Cities International network represents more than 2,500 communities in 134 countries around the world.

Wheelchair Distribution Experiences of Some Sister Cities Communities

Colombia Heights, Minnesota Sister Cities distribution in Lomianki, Poland

“We were all touched emotionally during the distribution of the wheelchairs. The young children and teenagers (I have ten grandchildren, ages 2-17) especially moved me! Their faces were beaming with smiles and bright eyes. They would proudly wheel about to show their parents and our group what they could do in their new wheelchair.

An elderly gentleman with tears in his eyes approached me as I left the stage. He took my hand and repeatedly kissed it in appreciation for what was accomplished. After getting more hugs from some women, I, too, was moved to tears! All the time, effort and hard work melted away when they so very sincerely expressed their appreciation and gratitude.”

-Dolores Puente Strand,
Minnesota Sister Cities State Coordinator



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT >>> School children assist at the distribution in Zhenjiang, China >>> A wheelchair recipient embraces President Dick Neuheisel >>> Mother and daughter are so thankful for the new wheelchair >>> Betty Cutts gives mobility in Yangshou, China >>> Maria Jensen of Santa Clara, California Sister Cities distributes wheelchairs in Coimbra, Portugal

Tempe, Arizona Sister Cities distribution in Zhenjiang, China

“We were welcomed like dignitaries, with a 40-piece band, thousands of spectators in this beautiful city square, and 240 wheelchair recipients waiting to greet us in their brand new wheelchairs in Zhenjiang. We shook the people’s hands, some hugged us, and my wife, Jane, had tears streaming down her cheeks the whole time. It was so touching to see the gratitude and affection from these people. The people told us their stories through our interpreter, and we learned that many had not been out of their homes for five to eight years because they could not afford a wheelchair. This day proved to me that we are able to make a difference in people’s lives, and the world, and it is a wonderful blessing.”

-Dick Neuheisel, President Tempe Sister Cities

Morehead, Kentucky distribution in Yangshou, China

“I could not hold back the tears when I saw two grown men waddling on their feet like ducks to reach their new chairs. They held their ankles and moved their feet one foot at a time. Others had brought little stools that they used like walkers or used crutches to reach their chairs. Most people had relatives or friends to help them



move, but the young people wearing sashes also helped the handicapped people reach their chairs. Later our van passed one man who had taken off down the road. He was several miles from where the ceremony took place. The most outstanding thing to me was seeing our desk clerk’s husband receive a wheelchair. She had been very kind to the Sister Cities teachers last summer and now we were able to see her husband receive his very own wheelchair.

She was so grateful and thanked us profusely. It was a moving ceremony for all involved and worth all the effort to raise the money.”

-Betty Cutts, Chairperson of the Yangshuo Committee of Morehead Sister Cities

Pleasant Hill, California Sister Cities distribution in Merzifon, Turkey

“I was introduced to the Wheelchair Foundation through our Sister City Program with Merzifon, Turkey. I don’t know of another charity in which a small amount of money has such a major impact. The total cost of a Wheelchair is \$150. A \$75 donation only costs \$50 if you are in the 33% tax bracket. Then the Wheelchair Foundation combines funds to cover the remaining cost of the wheelchair which on average is about \$75. The bottom line is that your \$50 donation (net of taxes) generates a \$150 wheelchair, a 3:1 investment return. Where else can you get this much “Bang for the Buck?” The Wheelchair Foundation is now my “Charity of Choice.” The Wheelchair Foundation has solved my gift giving problem. I now donate wheelchairs instead. It is easy, inexpensive and helps to spread the word. Having been a businessman for 36 years, it is now increasingly important to me that I make a difference and that the world be just a little bit better because of me.”

-Earl Rupp, President Friends of Merzifon (Sister Cities)





500,000 wheelchairs

THIS PAGE, COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: >>> Dr. Robert A. Schuller from the Crystal Cathedral and Hour of Power making dreams come true in Africa >>> Recipient suffered from gangrene in his knee in Guatemala >>> Gary Winters from LDS Charities in South Africa with a recipient >>> First official wheelchair distribution in Vietnam >>> Jack Drury, Ed McMahon, and Wayne Huizinga at an event in support of the Wheelchair Foundation >>> Miguel Tejada gives hope in the Dominican Republic >>> David Behring lifts a wheelchair recipient into her new wheelchair in Vietnam





THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: >>> Rotary International Past Presidents Frank Devlyn, Cliff Dochterman, Carlos Canseco, and Rick King distribute wheelchairs in Mexico >>> Nelson Mandela visits with recipients in South Africa >>> Pope John Paul II gives his blessing on the work of the Wheelchair Foundation >>> Ken Behring on the Today Show >>> Deng Pufang signs an agreement between the Wheelchair Foundation and the CDPF >>> MLB All-Stars José Vidro and Ivan Rodríguez give children mobility in Puerto Rico >>> Rotary Volunteer Dr. Jon Grant presents a check to provide wheelchairs throughout China >>> Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt and his wife, Jackie, join Ken Behring to distribute wheelchairs in Utah >>> Sammy Sosa and First Lady of New York Libby Pataki give hope



Millions of Lives Changed





KEN HOFMANN, PRESIDENT VICENTE FOX, FIRST LADY MARTA SAHAGUN DE FOX, AND KEN BEHRING CELEBRATE MOBILITY IN MEXICO

20,000 Wheelchairs Mobility and Friendship for Mexico Campaign

Homebuilder, sportsman and philanthropist Ken Hofmann donated one million dollars to the Wheelchair Foundation to help fund an initial 20,000 wheelchairs for physically disabled people in Mexico as part of a major new “Mobility and Friendship for Mexico” campaign. The contribution was matched by Wheelchair Foundation founder Kenneth E. Behring, for a total donation of two million dollars. This is all part of a plan by Hofmann to contribute millions more to the Foundation, as long as it is matched by donors in Mexico.

“I have always loved Mexico and its people,” said Hofmann, the founder of Hofmann Construction Co., a homebuilder based in Concord, California and former co-owner of the Oakland A’s

baseball team. “It is important for Americans to show our Mexican neighbors that we care about them.”

“This initiative is a result of Ken Hofmann’s leadership,” said Ken Behring. “I am pleased to kick off this campaign by matching Ken’s generosity. I promise we will work hard to find other donors to match his planned giving and the fulfillment of this major commitment to the physically disabled people in Mexico.”

The donation and the campaign were announced in a private meeting at Los Pinos, the Presidential Compound in Mexico City, attended by the president of Mexico, Vicente Fox, and his wife, Marta. The First Lady agreed to spearhead the 20,000 wheelchair project, and to mobilize Mexican donors to match the Hofmann-

Behring funds. Hofmann said that as long as the Mexican donors continue to match his contributions, he will continue to make them.

Hofmann, Behring, and President and Mrs. Fox agreed that the first 20,000 wheelchairs will be distributed in August, which will be designated “Mobility Month” in Mexico. The wheelchairs are to be distributed in all 31 Mexican states in addition to Mexico City. President Vicente Fox, the First Lady, Mr. Hofmann and Mr. Behring will kick off the mobility program in early August by presiding over a 2,000-plus wheelchair distribution in Mexico City.

This donation is the largest in the Wheelchair Foundation’s history. While 20,000 wheelchairs is a most amazing number, they are already designated for recipients. The Mexican governmental organization DIF, which participates in a mandate to help the disabled, already has a waiting list of over 20,000 people in need of wheelchairs. Mr. Hofmann’s offer to help exemplifies his generosity, but will only be fully realized if it is matched by those Mexicans who can also afford to help. With an ever-growing population currently over 100 million people, it is evident that the need for wheelchairs in Mexico is great.

Behring and Hofmann never think small, and they have stated as their goal to end immobility in Mexico. The challenge is out for Mexican businessmen and philanthropists to come forward to match the Hofmann-Behring donation to provide mobility and freedom for everyone in Mexico!

Wheelchair Foundation Reaches the 500,000th Mark

On June 14th, the Wheelchair Foundation committed to delivering its 500,000th wheelchair. While this latest container of wheelchairs won’t actually arrive for a few months, the Foundation has delivered or committed delivery of half a million wheelchairs to those who need them. Since the Foundation opened its doors in 2000, the number of wheelchairs delivered or committed is 501,276.

Through it all, the Wheelchair Foundation remains committed to its mission: to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one. We could not have reached this mark without the help of a large number of generous people. On behalf of those who need wheelchairs but cannot afford one, thank you very much.

WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED SINCE 2000

Afghanistan	5,810	Lebanon	2,150
Albania	550	Lesotho	500
Algeria	640	Liberia	780
Angola	4,590	Lithuania	1,090
Antigua and Barbuda	280	Macedonia	480
Argentina	6,531	Madagascar	1,030
Armenia	2,684	Malawi	1,920
Australia	292	Malaysia	2,260
Bahamas	1,200	Mali	240
Bangladesh	240	Malta	240
Barbados	280	Marshall Islands	140
Belarus	990	Mexico	77,389
Belgium	280	Micronesia	1,390
Belize	2,420	Moldova	1,720
Bolivia	3,524	Mongolia	1,320
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1,480	Montenegro	120
Botswana	1,128	Morocco	2,030
Brazil	2,305	Mozambique	1,380
Bulgaria	530	Myanmar (Burma)	500
Burundi	240	Namibia	466
Cambodia	2,550	Nepal	2,265
Canada	280	Nicaragua	4,445
Cape Verde	780	Niger	240
Central African Rep.	240	Nigeria	1,310
Chile	6,668	N. Mariana Islands	410
China	128,354	Oman	280
Colombia	5,500	Pakistan	3,175
Costa Rica	5,095	Palestinians/Israel	1,906
Croatia	1,300	Panama	5,020
Cuba	1,520	Papua New Guinea	1,240
Cyprus	280	Paraguay	1,544
Czech Republic	597	Peru	5,360
Dominica	280	Philippines	5,900
Dominican Republic	8,178	Poland	1,600
Ecuador	4,493	Portugal	530
Egypt	1,058	Puerto Rico	490
El Salvador	4,585	Romania	2,692
Eritrea	250	Russia	2,110
Estonia	500	Rwanda	1,080
Ethiopia	2,928	Saint Lucia (UK)	560
Fiji	1,620	Samoa	1,080
France	560	Serbia	1,250
French Polynesia	280	Sierra Leone	1,840
Georgia	1,030	Somalia	88
Ghana	1,960	South Africa	10,240
Greece	240	Spain	500
Grenada	280	Sri Lanka	2,890
Guam	250	Suriname	240
Guatemala	6,503	Swaziland	1,580
Guyana	250	Syria	641
Haiti	1,820	Taiwan	756
Honduras	4,904	Tajikistan	240
Hong Kong	970	Tanzania	2,468
Hungary	120	Thailand	4,700
India	2,716	Tibet	331
Indonesia	2,540	Tonga	500
Iran	3,880	Trinidad & Tobago	2,164
Iraq	2,620	Turkey	4,320
Israel	5,210	Turkmenistan	240
Italy	580	Uganda	2,904
Jamaica	2,160	Ukraine	3,620
Japan	1,750	United States	26,280
Jordan	4,742	Uruguay	1,632
Kazakhstan	1,510	Uzbekistan	1,240
Kenya	2,540	Vanuatu	250
Kiribati	250	Venezuela	1,040
Korea, North	552	Vietnam	10,136
Korea, South	5,020	Virgin Islands (UK)	284
Kosovo	1,300	Virgin Islands (US)	280
Kyrgystan	1,240	Western Sahara	153
Laos	780	Zambia	960
Latvia	740	Zimbabwe	2,050

TOTAL COUNTRIES 144

TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS 501,276

For current totals visit wheelchairfoundation.org

Fiesta de Servicio



Since March of 2001, Rotary Clubs and Rotarians have sponsored the delivery of over 125,000 wheelchairs to more than 100 countries worldwide. The roughly 32,000 Rotary Clubs around the world are arranged in some 530 Rotary Districts that consist of an average of 60 clubs each. Each club and district have international service projects. Many clubs have chosen to adopt the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation as their service project, and some go above and way beyond the rest.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico was the location for the North Texas Rotary District 5810 conference this year from April 26th-30th. District Governor Tom Ryan and his wife Ginny chose Puerto Vallarta as the location for their "Fiesta de Servicio." This conference was built around the service of helping others.

Now everyone knows that things are larger in Texas, and so were Governor Tom's ideas. His plan was to have the conference attendees participate in the hands on delivery of 560 wheelchairs. Not in one location, but in eight different locations, a distance of up to three hours by bus or van from Puerto Vallarta. Oh, and the distributions were simultaneous. The plan was to have over 100 Rotarians and their guests board buses, starting at 6:30am to start up the coast, over highways or through winding roads of the Mexican states of Jalisco and Nayarit to reach their assigned distribution locations within one to three hours.

Rotary District 4150 and DIVAC (Discapacitados de Vallarta, A.C.), headed by its President Ivan Applegate, coordinated with the local agencies to identify wheelchair recipients. They arranged all logistics and movement of people and wheelchairs to the eight distribution locations and coordinated the participation of the Rotary Clubs in the Puerto Vallarta area, as well as a later distribution at the DIVAC facility.

The Rotarians departed for San Pedro Lagunillas, Compostela, San Juan de Abajo, Talpa de Allende, Mascota, San Sebastian, El Tuito and Tomatlan in the early morning hours of the 27th, and some did not return until almost 11:00 pm that night. The stories and experiences of helping people in their own local villages was a very heart-warming experience for every participant. Some were hosted for lunch or dinner in private homes or in local restaurants, and new friends were made very easily.

A man with one leg who left his house on home made crutches



FROM TOP LEFT DOWN: DG TOM AND GINNY RYAN WITH DIVAC PRESIDENT IVAN APPLGATE >>> PDG MARK HEALY AND A YOUNG VOLUNTEER HELP THIS MAN IN EL TUITO >>> ROTARIAN TOM HARMON KNOWS THE VALUE OF NEW-FOUND MOBILITY

four hours before he thought the wheelchair distribution was to start in his village. He arrived at the center of the village just minutes before the final van was to leave after the distribution was finished. One of the Texas Rotarians noticed him coming down a steep hill and sent one of the local Rotarians to talk to him. He had misunderstood the time to be there, but fortunately his

assigned wheelchair was in the back of a van, and the man received his new wheelchair. They then drove him twenty minutes up the hill to his house, and he began his new life with easier mobility and smiles on the faces of everyone who witnessed.

North Texas District 5810 has been the most supportive Rotary District in the Wheelchair Foundation's history. Well over 12,000 wheelchairs have been sponsored by clubs and individuals who believe in the gift of mobility for people worldwide. The volunteers who have coordinated the wheelchair effort have given much of themselves to help others, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Edwards, Oran Bain, Debi Holley and countless others who have helped us change so many lives through the gift of a wheelchair. The District Governors and their wives who lead by the example of "service above self" are Jim Tow 2001-02, Pete and Sherry Snyder 2002-03, Mark and Jen Healy 2003-04, Gilbert and Linda Brown 2004-05 and Tom and Ginny Ryan 2005-06. Governors Kim Holland 2006-07 and Richard Gilman 2007-08 were present in Puerto Vallarta and actively involved in the wheelchair distributions. We thank you all, the clubs, Rotarians and citizens of the Northern half of the great state of Texas, for leading the world by example, and caring so much to improve the quality of life of your fellow man with physical disabilities.



Far East Foray

---BY PAUL HERTELENDY



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: RECIPIENT IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF SANDY MERRITT >>> HERTELENDY FAMILY ENJOYS THE DISTRIBUTION IN BEIJING >>> DELEGATION SIGHTSEEING IN SHANGHAI >>> VAL AND BELIA NUNES GIVE NEW LIFE >>> WHEELCHAIR CEREMONY OF OVER 200 WHEELCHAIRS

Beijing, China - As if on signal, the overnight rains stopped, and the ceremonies began in an inviting outdoor space generously ringed by willows.

Because it wasn't going to rain on the wheelchair parade. Not this day, not after close to 20 Californians traveled to Beijing to witness and participate in the wheelchair distribution.

The Chinese hosts pulled out all the stops for the occasion at the Nationalities Museum, with dignitaries, spokespeople for the recipients and lively entertainment. The event was held May 21, the 16th National Day of the Handicapped.

Three hundred sturdy chairs, all made in China, were distributed to a grateful group of local citizens who bridged all language differences through the warmth of their handshakes and smiles on greeting Kenneth Behring and the other American visitors representing the Wheelchair Foundation.

"We are proud to be here," Behring emphasized in his address to the recipients, citing the 125,000 wheelchairs already distributed to China in this millennium.

"The impetus is to give hope, freedom and dignity to disabled people that they deserve, he noted, adding, "The only thing I want from you is to see a smile on your face."

Deng Pufang, the president of the Chinese Disabled Persons' Federation, pointed out, "Helping the disabled is an important part of building a society." And he knows only too well the need for wheelchairs, neglecting to mention that he has himself been disabled since he was bodily thrown out a window during the violence of the Cultural Revolution.

Various of the handicapped had suffered accidents and childhood illnesses. But still, their mood was upbeat. Typical was Lin Wei, 47, who described herself as very happy that day as she was learning to

use her first wheelchair.

"I want to be mobile," she explained through an interpreter. "I am young at heart. I sing a lot, and exercise. I want to play ping-pong.

"My advice for others? Be active, don't be afraid. And communicate with the outside world!"

The dignitaries addressing the group included Zhao Chun Luan, of the Commission for the Promotion of the Disabled in Beijing.

The entertainment that followed was a testament to what can be accomplished by those as motivated as Lin Wei. The concert featured 16 disabled members of the Federation's Drum Corps in musical selections notable for their stunning group unity. In addition there were dances by ethnic Chinese minorities, and soulful duets by a soprano and tenor - she, in a wheelchair, he blind.

At the same function Jon Grant of Foster City turned over a separate check of \$75,000 raised by Rotary Clubs toward providing wheelchairs.



Pete Petrovich

A Member of the Team

What do the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Kiribati, and all the other tiny islands in the Pacific have in common? If you answered “They all have cable television and radio stations” then you are thinking like Pete Petrovich.

Mr. Petrovich is a long term resident of Brentwood, California and a supporter of Wheelchair Foundation. “When I moved out to Brentwood back in 1980 there were only 1,836 people living there. Now the population is around 45,000 and growing.” And he has made the best of his time in Brentwood serving almost ten years on the Brentwood City Council, being active in the Historical Society, and a Board Member of the Brentwood Unified School District Educational Foundation to name a few.

“I love hockey,” Pete will tell you from a comfy chair in PEE WEE MULDOON’S sports bar which he opened in 1999. He will also tell you “I love sushi,” and so he opened DAI-ICHI SUSHI on Valentine’s Day in 2003. Now there are six other sushi restaurants in Brentwood.”

Born in Hershey, Pennsylvania to a Yugoslavian father and Italian mother, Pete chose to serve his country as a Communications Technician in the Navy from 1964 through 1967. It was during this time that he first began to travel among, and befriend the people of, the small and often forgotten islands in the Pacific Ocean. Upon leaving the Navy he turned his experiences into a career by setting up cable, television and radio stations, towers and equipment throughout the vast network of Pacific islands.

It was through the Brentwood City Council that Pete met and befriended Steve Beinke. In 1999, Steve told Pete about Ken Behring’s new humanitarian project “Wheelchair Foundation” and Pete said that he wanted to help. In 2000 Pete suggested to Steve, Steve’s son Matt Beinke, Earl Callison and a handful of others that they should organize a charitable golf tournament. And so they did. “We overbooked the first tournament with contractors, builders and



developer friends from Brentwood and elsewhere. I just told everyone ‘It’s no big deal, we’ll get through it, relax.’” And the tournament was a great success. Pete became the Chairman of the annual “Drive Fore Mobility” golf tournament and the following year the tournament was sold out again. The tournament has been successful ever since, raising over \$300,000 last year alone.

When asked why he works so hard coordinating the efforts of the team that volunteers to put on this tournament, he answers, “Because what Wheelchair Foundation does is not a gimmick. The wheelchairs are given away free of charge all over the world. I was

“If I ever decided to quit everything else and get just one full time job, I’d want to work for the Wheelchair Foundation.”

hooked the very first time I put a child in a wheelchair and saw that smile. I one hundred percent enjoy participating and I feel like I helped get Wheelchair Foundation established.”

Mr. Petrovich is no stranger to the task of distributing wheelchairs, having traveled to distributions in Cuba, Mexico, Colombia, and China, to name a few. Pete recently took Rhonda, his wife of 33 years, to La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico to participate in her first wheelchair distribution. Now she is volunteering as a team member working on the golf tournament.

On June 7, 2003, Wheelchair Foundation held a distribution on the island of Guam and distributed nearly 240 wheelchairs to people in need. One of the local sponsors for the event was the television station KUAM TV 11, owned by the Calvo family, personal friends of Pete’s from his island hopping days of yore.

This year you will likely be able to spot Pete sauntering around the golf tournament motivating his team members as usual. When asked why he doesn’t play in the golf tournament himself, he replies, “I want everyone to have an experience to remember and hospitality is my number one priority. I want the golfers to have a good time and come back next year. Besides, when I play golf I have to get a court order to warn everyone within a ten-mile radius that I’m teeing off!”

Wheelchair Foundation is proud to have the support of Mr. Pete Petrovich and we thank him for his continued commitment to our mission.



LEFT: KEN BEHRING AND PETE PETROVICH AT THE “DRIVE FORE MOBILITY” GOLF TOURNAMENT

Upcoming Wheelchair Foundation Events



2nd Annual Willie McCovey Invitational

Round Hill Country Club, Alamo, California
Monday, July 10th, 2006

- >> Meet and greet San Francisco Giants Hall of Famer Willie McCovey and other Giants players.
- >> Enjoy a round of golf at the private Round Hill Country Club golf course with vendors on each hole providing free food, drinks, and prizes
- >> Later that evening, there will be a silent and live auction, and an elegant dinner.



"A Majestic Evening of Hope"

Fremont Marriott, Fremont, California
Friday, July 28th, 2006

- >> Enjoy a "Meet and Greet" with Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine of Yugoslavia, NBA All-Stars Peja Stojakovic and Vlade Divac, Founder of Wheelchair Foundation Kenneth E. Behring, Past Rotary International President Richard King, and many more.
- >> Enjoy a wonderful night of food and entertainment, a silent and live auction, and compelling speeches from the V.I.P.s listed above.
- >> To learn more and/or purchase tickets for this event, please visit <http://www.majesticevening.com>.



5th Annual Drive for Mobility Golf Tournament

Brentwood Golf Club, Brentwood, California
Monday, August 14th, 2006

- >> Enjoy a fun-filled day of golf at the beautiful Brentwood Golf Club golf course.
- >> Vendors will be on each hole providing free food, drinks, and prizes.
- >> There will also be a silent and live auction, and an elegant dinner following the tournament.



Rockin' H Ranch

6614 Lakeville Road, Petaluma, California
Saturday, October 14th, 2006

Come on Cats, Let's "Swing" at the Hendricks Rockin' H Ranch...For a Jumping, Jitterbug, Boogie-Woogie Blow Out!

- >> You don't want to miss the party of the year to help raise money for those in need of mobility!
- >> Come a few days early or stay a couple of days after the "Swing" to enjoy the Wine Country, San Francisco Bay, Lake Tahoe, Golf, Ocean and so much more!



Viet Nam Wheel and Grace

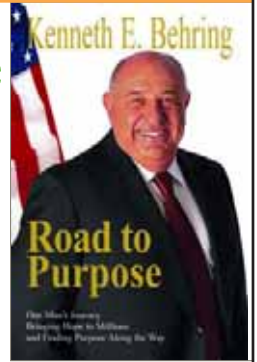
Blackhawk Museum, Danville, California
Saturday, October 21st, 2006

- >> VNHELP will again partner with the Wheelchair Foundation to raise funds for the needy and disabled of Viet Nam.
- >> Each ticket includes dinner and entertainment and will provide for one wheelchair.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS RELATING TO THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG](http://www.wheelchairfoundation.org).



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



an account of 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 CERTIFICATE OF THANKS WITH A PICTURE OF A WHEELCHAIR RECIPIENT IN YOUR NAME OR DEDICATED TO YOUR LOVED ONE. YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF ROAD TO PURPOSE. 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



3820 Blackhawk Road
 Danville, CA 94506-4652 USA

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 260
 DANVILLE, CA