

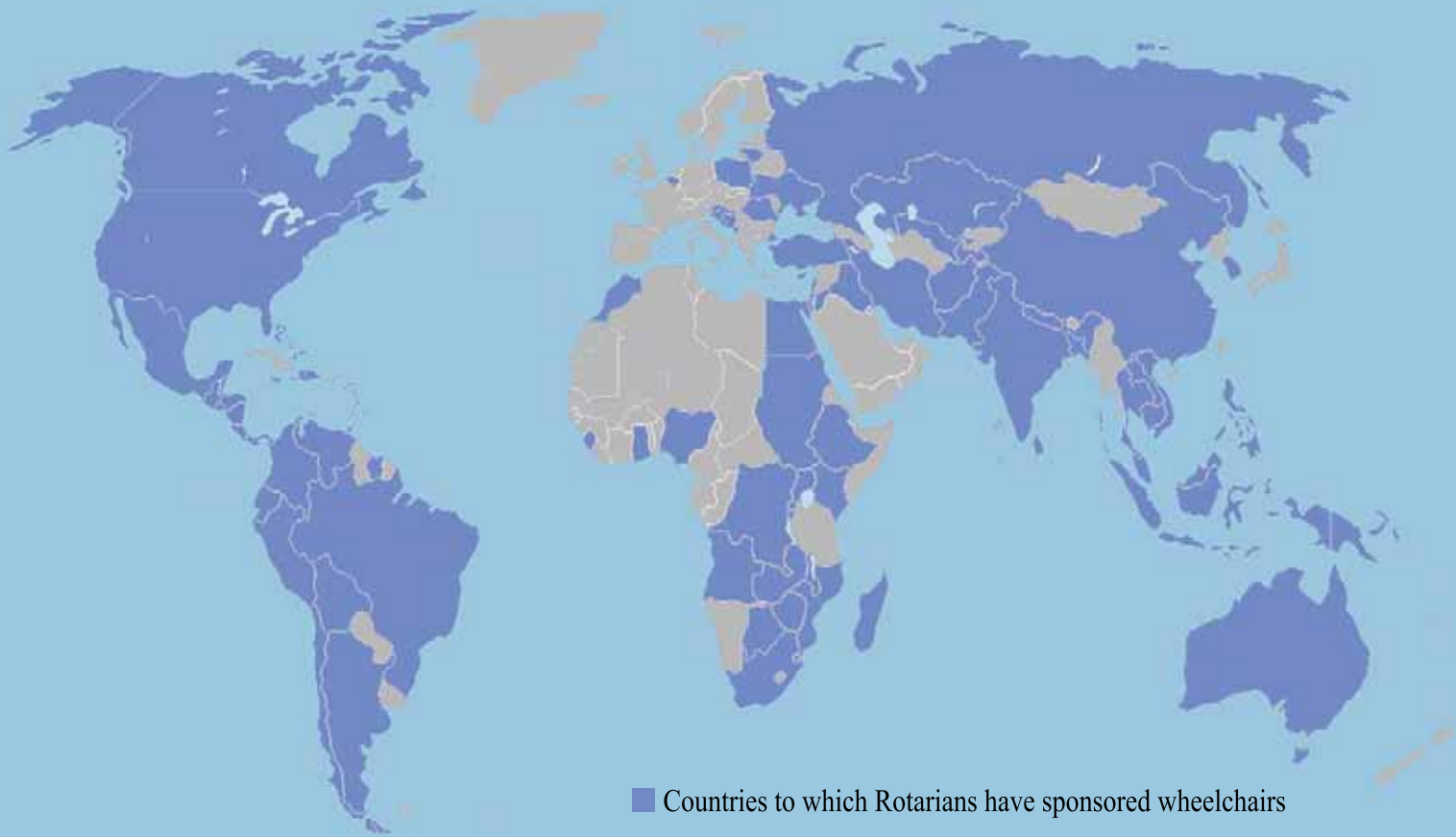
SUMMER 2007

Changing

THE WORLD



ROTARIANS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



■ Countries to which Rotarians have sponsored wheelchairs

140,000 WHEELCHAIRS
120 COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

AND COUNTING...

New Wheelchair Angel
Program Takes Flight!
See Page 11



A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



I recently returned to the United States from Europe and Asia. Along the way I had the opportunity to stop by and say "Hello" to some old friends like His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Orthodox Christian Church in Constantinople. We were welcomed with open arms and were able to make a donation of wheelchairs to individuals in need in Turkey. And although we have met on several occasions, it is always an honor to be in the presence of a man of such great conviction.

I also had the honor and privilege to introduce some new friends to the work Wheelchair Foundation is doing to assist the disabled and less fortunate of the world. In China I participated in the distribution of 200 wheelchairs with members of the Keiretsu Forum. It was wonderful to be able to show others the joy of giving and relate to them how this work has afforded me a sense of purpose.

Tens of thousands of individuals continue to donate \$75 at a time to provide wheelchairs to people in need. Many give more than \$75, like Rotarians from around the world who pool their funds to help others. Rotarians alone have enabled us to give away nearly 140,000 wheelchairs for free. And with Rotary we have friends all over the world who are happy to greet us and help us in our efforts.

This month, with the launch of our new Wheelchair Angel Program, we will be giving 30 motivated friends the opportunity to volunteer and travel with me to either China or Latin America in 2008 and to participate in a wheelchair distribution. It will be an opportunity to explore the world in a very unique way, help others who are in need and maybe discover just where your own road to purpose could lead you.

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"



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WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED

Afghanistan	6,370	Liberia.....	780
Albania	550	Lithuania.....	1,090
Algeria	640	Macedonia.....	480
Angola	4,590	Madagascar.....	1,030
Antigua and Barbuda	280	Malawi	1,920
Argentina	7,331	Malaysia	3,940
Armenia	2,964	Mali.....	240
Australia	292	Malta.....	240
Bahamas	1,200	Marshall Islands	140
Bangladesh	240	Mexico	85,229
Barbados	280	Micronesia	1,390
Belarus	990	Moldova.....	1,720
Belgium	280	Monaco.....	560
Belize	2,420	Mongolia.....	1,320
Bolivia.....	4,084	Montenegro.....	120
Bosnia-Herzegovina..	1,480	Morocco.....	3,410
Botswana.....	1,688	Mozambique.....	1,660
Brazil.....	2,305	Myanmar (Burma).....	500
Bulgaria	530	Namibia	466
Burundi.....	520	Nepal	2,545
Cambodia	2,810	Nicaragua.....	5,565
Canada	560	Niger.....	240
Cape Verde.....	780	Nigeria	1,310
Central African Rep.....	240	N. Mariana Islands.....	410
Chile	7,508	Oman.....	280
China	164,559	Pakistan.....	3,175
Colombia	7,720	Palestinians/Israel.....	1,906
Congo, The Democratic		Panama	5,841
Republic of the	205	Papua New Guinea.....	2,080
Costa Rica.....	5,655	Paraguay	1,824
Croatia.....	1,300	Peru.....	6,721
Cuba.....	1,520	Philippines.....	6,180
Cyprus.....	280	Poland	2,160
Czech Republic.....	597	Portugal.....	810
Dominica.....	280	Puerto Rico	490
Dominican Republic ..	8,458	Romania.....	2,692
Ecuador.....	6,139	Russia.....	2,110
Egypt.....	1,058	Rwanda.....	2,200
El Salvador.....	4,965	Saint Lucia	560
Eritrea.....	250	Saint Petersburg.....	120
Estonia.....	500	Saint Vincent and the	
Ethiopia	2,928	Grenadines.....	280
Fiji.....	1,620	Samoa.....	1,080
France.....	560	Senegal.....	520
French Polynesia.....	280	Serbia.....	1,530
Georgia.....	1,030	Sierra Leone.....	1,840
Ghana.....	2,240	Somalia.....	88
Greece.....	520	South Africa.....	11,900
Grenada.....	280	Spain.....	500
Guam.....	250	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Guatamala.....	7,063	Sudan.....	280
Guyana.....	250	Suriname.....	240
Haiti.....	1,820	Swaziland.....	1,860
Honduras.....	5,744	Syria.....	641
Hong Kong.....	970	Taiwan.....	756
Hungary.....	120	Tajikistan.....	480
India.....	2,716	Tanzania.....	3,008
Indonesia.....	3,100	Thailand.....	5,240
Iran.....	3,880	Tibet.....	331
Iraq.....	4,020	Tonga.....	500
Israel.....	6,890	Trinidad & Tobago.....	2,164
Italy.....	580	Turkey.....	4,710
Jamaica.....	3,000	Turkmenistan.....	520
Japan.....	1,750	Uganda.....	3,184
Jordan.....	5,022	Ukraine.....	3,900
Kazakhstan.....	1,510	United States.....	27,115
Kenya.....	2,540	Uruguay.....	1,632
Kiribati.....	250	Uzbekistan.....	1,240
Korea, North.....	552	Vanuatu.....	250
Korea, South.....	5,140	Venezuela.....	1,320
Kosovo.....	1,300	Vietnam.....	11,846
Kyrgystan.....	1,240	Virgin Islands (UK).....	284
Laos.....	780	Virgin Islands (US).....	280
Latvia.....	740	Western Sahara.....	153
Lebanon.....	2,430	Zambia.....	1,240
Lesotho.....	500	Zimbabwe.....	2,050

TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS 150

TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS 580,869

For current totals visit wheelchairfoundation.org.

Newslines

Highlights from the Middle East

By Daru Kawalkowski

We did a heart-warming wheelchair distribution at the Turkish Disabled Association in Constantinople and had the great privilege of meeting His All Holiness Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church. We then flew to Amman, Jordan to be greeted and hosted by Princess Majda Raad, then distributed wheelchairs to the Al Hussein Society where the kids melted our hearts by singing Happy Birthday in two languages. From there, we flew to Israel and toured the Yad Sarah Facility, which provides home care for the elderly and where skilled retirees repair and rebuild wheelchairs. The idea is to give to them, but they give you back ten-fold.



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP RIGHT: THE GROUP POSES IN FRONT OF THE TREASURY IN PETRA, JORDAN >>> BURJ AL ARAB HOTEL IN DUBAI >>> GROUP WITH THE ARCHBISHOP IN ISTANBUL >>> CHARLI BUTTERFIELD, PRINCE RAED BIN ZAID AND KEN BEHRING >>> THE GROUP IN AMMAN, JORDAN





Getting Involved

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events that benefit the Wheelchair Foundation!

Roses for Mobility Charity Ball

June 15, 2007

RiverPlace Hotel, Portland, Oregon



Third Annual McCovey's Invitational Golf Tournament

July 16, 2007

Round Hill Country Club, Alamo, California



Drive Fore Mobility Golf Tournament

August 13, 2007

Brentwood Golf Club, Brentwood, California

Fifth Annual Music on Eagle Ridge

September 22, 2007

Blackhawk, Danville, California

The Inaugural ERA Wheelchair Foundation Dinner

October 26, 2007

Trump National Golf Club, Rancho Palos Verdes, California



Please visit our website at www.wheelchairfoundation.org for more details about these events!

Gordon Holmes - Changing a Life, One Wheelchair (or case) at a Time

Gordon Holmes, publisher of *Research Magazine* and *Buyside Magazine*, achieved a dream with Lookout Ridge Winery. Lookout Ridge was recently named the Next Generation Cult Winery – and its pinot noir was the only pinot to receive the Cult Wine award. Gordon and Kari Holmes, owners of Lookout Ridge Winery, have a deep, heartfelt connection to those deprived of independence and mobility. In the last six months they have donated over 200 wheelchairs to needy recipients in Mexico and Bolivia. Now, the Holmeses are helping others dream with the Wine for Wheels program. For each case of wine someone buys of their Lookout Ridge wine, the Holmes family graciously donates a wheelchair in the buyer's name.



“The Spirit of Giving” by George Sumner

George Sumner is a world renowned artist known for promoting environmental causes. He is an environmental impressionist painter whose unique style, attitude and talent have brought him international acclaim and the opportunity to share and influence his vision with millions of people. George Sumner and his wife Donnalei have turned their talents to promoting and helping the Wheelchair Foundation bring Hope, Mobility and Freedom to the world. In recent years they have raised tens of thousands of dollars for the immobile through the sale of their art. On April 29th George celebrated his 67th birthday with wine, music and the magic of giving. All of Sumner's family, friends and clients were requested to purchase wheelchairs for those in need.



Rotary Matching Grants

Rotarians have been working with the Wheelchair Foundation to provide mobility and hope since December 2000 – less than six months after the Wheelchair Foundation was founded. Rotary International President Frank Devlyn was asked by Ken Behring to serve on the Wheelchair Foundation Board of Advisors and Frank invited Rotarians to participate through his “Jobs for Disabled Persons Task Force” and The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Matching Grants.

Since 2000 Rotarians have written over 60 TRF Matching Grants to 30 different countries from A to Z – Argentina to Zambia. Mexico, Philippines, several countries in the Caribbean, Panama, Paraguay, Nepal, Rwanda and China have also received multiple containers of wheelchairs, to name just a few. TRF Matching Grants are a wonderful way for Rotarians to work with other Rotary Clubs, truly get a synergistic effect from their contributions, receive Paul Harris credit for their donations, utilize District Designated Funds (DDF) and receive funding from The Rotary Foundation to further our mission to provide mobility to those in need.

The Rotary Foundation limits ANY cooperating organization to eight TRF Matching Grants applications a year. Recently, the Rotary volunteers working with the Wheelchair Foundation have tried to maximize the eight Grants we are allowed by writing them for four or more containers each and distributing the Grant requests to all parts of the Rotary world - rather than concentrating one or two particular areas. This year we wrote TRF Grants to Morocco, Jordan, Colombia, Thailand / Cambodia, Malaysia, South Africa / Botswana / Swaziland / Mozambique, Peru and Uganda.

Rotarians have suggested El Salvador, Lithuania, Bosnia and Indonesia for the 2007-2008 applications. Where would you like to go? Please contact Rotary Volunteers Jon and Linda Grant who can help you with information about participating in this collaborative effort: JonBGrant@aol.com or call (650) 574-0520.



Wheelchair Foundation In Great Britain And Ireland

The commencement of the Rotary year saw the beginning of a partnership with the 29 Rotary Districts that form Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) selecting the Wheelchair Foundation UK as a preferred charity.

A small team of volunteer speakers have spread themselves over the four countries, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, promoting the program.

The partnership had an excellent start with a delivery of a 280-wheelchair container to Turkey, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ayr in Scotland, followed by a delivery to Bulgaria for the benefit of Multiple Sclerosis victims screened by the MS society in that country. Four additional containers have been ordered for deliveries to the Ukraine, Malawi, and South Africa. RYLA team members in Harrogate, Yorkshire sponsored fifty-percent of the Ukraine delivery. At the time of this article's publishing, it is anticipated that orders will have been placed for Benin, Lesotho, South

Africa, and Turkey. The most ambitious project has to be a joint district program coordinated by District 1060 in England to send a shipment of ten 280-wheelchair containers to District 9200, which covers Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, by applying for a competitive matching grant from the Rotary Foundation. The response from the participants has been such that the number of containers has now doubled to an anticipated 20 containers. Eritrea and Ethiopia are two countries plagued by millions of landmines and pieces of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Schools, churches and other members of the Rotary family have undertaken many novel fundraising projects. Sponsored walks, runs and cycle rides, wheelchair time trials, supermarket packing, balls, dinners, raffles, antique sales, 'Nights at the Races,' coffee mornings, etc., have all led to the sponsorship of wheelchairs.

Ireland has been particularly busy, with the Rotary Club of Enniskillen raising £18,250 (US\$35,800), their goal being a wheelchair for every day of the year, and they succeeded!



To date, since the launch on July 1, 2006, over £260,000 (\$510,000) has been banked, ensuring the guaranteed delivery of 6,800 wheelchairs.

The success of this launch of Wheelchair Foundation UK, under the banner of Wheelchair Foundation Great Britain and Ireland, was celebrated on the weekend of the 13th-15th of April, when Wheelchair Foundation founder Ken Behring was a keynote speaker at the Annual Conference of RIBI in Bournemouth on the south coast of England. Ken addressed an audience in excess of 3,000 delegates and was led onto the stage by a delegation of the 29 District Governors, each pushing a wheelchair. Ken was then kept busy over the remaining weekend signing copies of his book for the many new supporters of this vital work.

One of the wheelchairs used on stage immediately headed for Morocco for a physically disabled teenager whose life will be forever changed by the gift of mobility.

Rotarians in RIBI began to see the fruits of their recent work and generosity with the commencement of deliveries at the same time as the conference was in session, the start of a constant supply of aid to the people of Africa and Eastern Europe.

Many Rotarians from the four countries are now preparing to travel to the points of delivery to be actively involved in the wheelchair distributions.

When the President of RIBI Peter Offer and Milton Frary were in Lesotho in October of 2005, they made a promise to the people through Queen Masenate, that they would make further deliveries to her country. This promise will be fulfilled in September to coincide with the District 9320 Conference which is being held in Lesotho at the very venue this promise was made.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: THE MINISTER OF HEALTH FOR LESOTHO SITS IN THE BACK OF A TRUCK FULL OF HAPPY PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST RECEIVED NEW WHEELCHAIRS >>> L TO R, JANIS OFFER, PRESIDENT OF RIBI PETER OFFER, QUEEN MASENATE, MILTON FRARY, AND ELAINE FRARY >>> KEN BEHRING, FOUNDER OF THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION, ADDRESSES A LARGE GROUP OF ROTARIANS IN GREAT BRITAIN IN APRIL 2007



Rotarians Make Dreams Come True



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT >>> MARTA IS A 57-YEAR-OLD LADY WHO LOST BOTH OF HER LEGS TO DIABETES AND SELLS SCRAP METAL FOR A LIVING >>> ROTARY CLUB OF TEXCOCO, MEXICO PRESIDENT DANIEL TELIZ AND HIS WIFE LUPITA HELP CHANGE LIVES IN PUEBLA, MEXICO >>> ROTARIANS REGISTER THE RECIPIENTS OF EACH WHEELCHAIR FOR FUTURE CONTACT >>> NOW MARIA CAN TAKE HER OLDER BROTHER FOR A WALK IN HIS NEW WHEELCHAIR >>> 6110 DISTRICT GOVERNOR PEGGY GEORGE AND TULSA PRESIDENT LINDA BRADSHAW DELIVER MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN MASAYA, NICARAGUA



For nearly 100 years Rotary clubs and districts have been sponsoring the delivery of life changing aid to the needy people of our world.

In 1952, more than 350,000 children were paralyzed worldwide by polio, 58,000 of them in the United States. Today, because of Rotary International's Polio Plus campaign which began in 1988, the incidence of polio has dropped by 99 percent and is in the final stages of global eradication.

But in the wake of polio and other infectious diseases, accidents, birth defects, war, landmines, natural disasters, lack of basic health care and aging, more than 100 million people of all ages worldwide are physically disabled and lack mobility. For many of these people, the only answer to their plight is a wheelchair.

Since March of 2001, Rotarians have delivered some 140,000 brand new wheelchairs to children, teens and adults in more than 120 countries. With a new wheelchair, physically disabled children can go to school for the first time and live up to their great potential in life; adults can go to work and provide for their families, or stay at home with the kids so the other parent can get a job and bring home an income; and the elderly can get out of a bed that they may have lived in for dozens of years, going outside to sit in the sun, visit with neighbors, or once again attend worship services. Many thousands of these wheelchairs have gone to the victims of polio, who were left physically disabled in its cruel wake.



Some Rotary clubs and districts provide funding for wheelchairs, some handle all of the distribution responsibilities in the country of destination and some do both.

Recently, a delegation from the Rotary Club of Tulsa,

Oklahoma and clubs of District 6110 traveled to Nicaragua on a multi-pronged humanitarian mission. They were delivering medical supplies and educational equipment, drilling water wells, and delivering 280 brand new wheelchairs. This brings the number of wheelchairs donated to the people of Nicaragua to over 5,500.

Tulsa Rotarian Tom Payne commented, "All of the projects work in harmony with each other. Medical supplies and clean water improve health. Water provides irrigation for crops and reduces disease that can result in physical disability or any number of maladies." Wheelchairs bring the forgotten souls out of the back of their houses and back into society. They can go to school and use the educational equipment that has been donated to benefit their future, and go to the water wells to bring clean drinking water home to their families.

The Rotary Club of Masaya, Nicaragua has a long relationship with the Tulsa club and District 6110. They have successfully drilled over 50 water wells around the country in recent years, and Masaya president Angeles Bermudez Perez is now functioning as the Wheelchair Foundation's official distribution partner for this part of Nicaragua. "The wheelchair project is a great addition to our water well project. A girl who was disabled by polio was one of the first to get a wheelchair on this trip. She lives near one of our wells in an agricultural field, but before today she was never able to go to the well and bring water back to her home. Her new wheelchair has brought a new life with meaning and a future," Angeles said.

The addition of 280 brand new wheelchairs to the ongoing relief missions in Nicaragua has enhanced the hands-on component of the humanitarian experience. Rotarians from District 6110 were able to lift the people into



their new wheelchairs, grasp their hands and feel their gratitude and happiness transcend any barriers of language that may have existed. The happiness of the families and friends who help people with physical disabilities in the course of their every day existence was very evident and wonderful to observe. This hands-on nature of giving a tangible life-changing wheelchair to a person and a family helped make the travel to Nicaragua all that much more memorable. Rotary Club of Tulsa President Linda Bradshaw commented, "People have the dignity of mobility now. Their great struggle is over and the tears in their eyes tell the story. It is an incredible win-win situation; when you give, you get, and we have gotten so much out of this experience."

And as is always the case, when 280 wheelchairs are delivered to a community, there are requests for another 280 immediately following. Never before in these people's lives could they have considered that someone would just give them a brand new wheelchair to solve their mobility needs. This type of wheelchair would sell for more than \$500 in Nicaragua, far out of the reach of people that earn as little as a dollar a day. But once communities have seen wheelchairs distributed, then thousands of people are discovered who never expressed the need for a life-changing wheelchair because there was never a possibility of receiving one. This is why it is so hard to estimate the number of wheelchairs needed worldwide, and why our mission is so important to so many people.

Some of the greatest challenges to communities in developing countries suddenly seem a bit more manageable by sister club relationships between Rotarians in North America and other parts of the world. The fact that people care enough to donate medical supplies and educational equipment or drill water wells and deliver wheelchairs to the most forgotten segment of our global population provides the foundation upon which trust and friendship can be built between people of all nations. District 6110 Governor Peggy George was at a distribution in Nicaragua and said, "There were so many smiles and so many hugs for us because of the gifts of mobil-

ity and dignity that we were able to give to these families." It is estimated that for each wheelchair delivered ten lives are changed. As an example, family members, friends and neighbors who are involved in caring for an elderly person without mobility can now more easily help them go outside, or take them on a walk to be with family and friends. This simple gift makes dreams come true, and we are told over and over that we have answered their prayers. How quickly would anyone reading this article donate \$75 to sponsor a wheelchair if they knew that it would be the answer to someone's prayers? We know the answer, because the global participation in our mission is allowing us to deliver up to 10,000 wheelchairs every month, and we are just getting started!

There are many ways that Rotarians are helping us reach the forgotten citizens of communities around the world. One of the most important is by using their existing club-to-club relationships and incorporating wheelchairs into the projects that they already have established. Literacy projects that incorporate wheelchairs allow many children to go to school for the first time who were previously unable to because of their mobility problems. Clean water can be transported by a person in a wheelchair, but without a wheelchair, that person could not contribute to the daily needs of family life. When medical supplies are delivered and surgeries are performed, the very capable people in the wheelchairs are the ones that assist and care for local patients. Wheelchairs bring people back to life who have fallen from trees when harvesting fruit, or stepped on a landmine and lost a leg. Before those tragedies, these people had been very able students, workers, husbands, wives or parents who were accustomed to long days of work to provide for their loved ones. We now see thousands of examples worldwide of people who are compelled to give back to the less fortunate when they have been given their lives back with the gift of a wheelchair. And they want to help the Rotarians and their projects because that the source of their wheelchairs. As Linda Bradshaw said, "This is a win-win situation."

The Wheelchair Foundation thanks Rotarians worldwide for helping us touch so many lives in a positive and long lasting way. Together we are answering prayers and making dreams come true. You can join us in this mission that is changing the world for so many.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT >>> Tulsa President Linda Bradshaw sharing the joy with a woman in Nicaragua >>> Erika (15) will now be able to go outside and play with friends during recess >>> This man in Masaya salutes a new life of freedom >>> 4-year-old Juanito now has a wheelchair that will take him to school >>> Rotarians enjoy the hands-on experience of changing people's lives >>> Rotarians and villagers celebrate the successful drilling of a water well in Nicaragua

season highlights



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: >>> This man happily exchanges his crutches for a wheelchair >>> New-found mobility brings happy smiles >>> A Rotarian helps this Cambodian woman familiarize herself with the new wheelchair





THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: A mother in Guatemala is happy for a mobile son who can even give his little sister rides on his new wheelchair >>> Recipients in Pakistan receive Rotary-sponsored wheelchairs >>> Wheelchairs can change lives >>> Happy to have a Rotary-sponsored wheelchair in South Africa >>> Kandahar, Afghanistan receives wheelchairs >>> This boy gives a thumbs-up for the gift of a new wheelchair >>> Foldable wheelchairs are very important to many people >>> This Mexican mother happily carries her children on her lap as she moves around in her new wheelchair >>> A New Wheelchair and flowers to brighten her day in Vietnam





THIS PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT >>> STEVE PITTENDRIGH AND 16 YEAR OLD THAO IN HO CHI MINH CITY >>> KATHIE AND LEE SWANSON MEET AN 18 YEAR OLD BOY WHO WANTS TO LEARN COMPUTERS >>> YOUNG GIRL NAMED SUNNY WHO READ A LETTER OF THANKS IN GUANGZHOU >>> ROGER FERRELL, STEVE PITTENDRIGH AND LEE SWANSON AT THE KIDS FIRST VILLAGE IN DONG HA

Electronic Retailing Association Joining Hands in China and Vietnam

The Electronic Retailing Association is the trade association that represents many organizations involved in direct response marketing or “electronic retailing” on television, online, on radio and in print.

During a recent trip to Hong Kong to attend the ERA 2007 Asia Conference, eighteen ERA members, staff and family spent a very wet day on a bus traveling to the city of Guangzhou to participate in a wheelchair distribution.

The Guangzhou Charity Federation arranged to deliver some 40 wheelchairs to a facility that assists children with intellectual and physical disabilities. The wheelchairs were part of a 350-wheelchair donation that was provided by the ERA for residents of Guangzhou, and pushed the number of wheelchairs provided worldwide by the ERA to over 2,500 in just over one year.

ERA President and CEO Barbara Tulipane spoke on behalf of the ERA at the distribution ceremony which was attended by Wheelchair Foundation chairman Ken Behring and a group of supporters that he brought with him from Hawaii.

Several days later Steve Pittendrigh, Founder and CEO of InPulse Response Group, its President Lee Swanson, his wife Kathie and Electronic Retailer magazine publisher Gina Mullins-Cohen traveled to Vietnam to help distribute 260 wheelchairs sponsored by InPulse Response Group and their new parent company West Corporation.

The trip to Vietnam was the first for all of the attendees except for Lee Swanson. He was returning for the first time since being stationed in Vietnam some 38 years ago as an army lieutenant. This was quite a different reason to be interacting with the people of Vietnam. Lee and Steve jumped right in when people started arriving to receive their new wheelchairs. If carrying or lifting was needed, Lee and Steve were the first ones there. During the seating process and the speeches by the host organization (SAPP) and our distribution partner Roger Ferrell of Kid First Vietnam, it was clear to everyone there that Lee was enjoying this visit. Lee spoke to the audience of wheelchair recipients, family members and dignitaries about the positive feeling he had in just being

there, and there was enthusiastic applause welcoming him and our team as friends of the people in need. The team received an equal welcome from an 81-year-old veteran of the French war who was wearing his military decorations on his pajamas when we arrived at his home. As it turned out, his wife had been unable to walk for many years, but his hip injury was very recent. Now the new wheelchair will be used by both husband and wife for their mobility needs.

The team traveled north to the city of Hue, situated near the banks of the Perfume River. This beautiful city was our gathering point prior to visiting the Kids First Village in Dong Ha and homes of people in need of wheelchairs.

The distribution of wheelchairs at the Kids First Village resulted in great stories being told of new lives ahead because of the wheelchairs. The newly designed mountain bike tires on the wheelchairs allowed for great speeds to be achieved during several wheelchair sprints across the terrace. An 18-year-old man told us that now he could try to find work somewhere in the field of computers. It was believed by several in attendance that his physical disabilities since birth were a genetic result of the chemical remnants of war in the region.

On the way back from Dong Ha the team was allowed to enter a Vietnamese veterans cemetery and memorial. It is a place of peaceful meditation for many visitors in the course of a week, month or year. But to the observers of Lee Swanson it was a reflective time in a place that he felt very strongly about visiting. The events of the previous days allowed Lee to connect on a very human level with people that suffered the struggles of immobility in their lives until his group arrived to change all that. The gratitude and happiness in the eyes of the wheelchair recipients and their families told Lee, Kathie, Steve and Gina that gestures of peace and friendship need no translation or explanation. It is tempting to be selfish and hold onto the handshakes and hugs for longer than they last, but the truth is that there are more to be had every time we reach out and change the life of a person and family in need of mobility.

INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW

Wheelchair Angel Program

The Wheelchair Foundation is proud to announce the brand new Wheelchair Angel Program. The Wheelchair Angel Program is a referral program that allows you to share the joy of giving with your friends and family by encouraging them to give the gift of hope and mobility to people in need around the world.

The program also provides 30 special donors with the unique opportunity to volunteer on a scheduled wheelchair distribution trip to China or Latin America in 2008! These donors will be invited to accompany Mr. Kenneth E. Behring, Chairman of the Board and founder of the Wheelchair Foundation, aboard his private MD87 jet.

On the trip, donors will carry out the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation by distributing wheelchairs and visiting the communities that the Wheelchair Foundation helps. The trip includes hotel accommodations, sightseeing and the opportunity to change lives by delivering wheelchairs!

How do I become a Wheelchair Angel?

Do the following:

1. Make a donation of \$75 (or more) using the enclosed envelope or online at www.wheelchairfoundation.org. Be sure to check the box to indicate you want to sign up for the program.
2. We'll mail (and email) you a Wheelchair Angel Member Card with your official Wheelchair Angel Member Number.
3. Get three other people to donate \$75 (or more) each and reference your Angel Member Number.

It's that easy! When we receive your third referral donation, you will become an official Wheelchair Angel and receive your Wheelchair Angel Wings lapel pin!

How do I get credit for my referrals?

When you make your first donation of \$75 to join the program, you will be given a membership number. Share your member number with your friends and family. **YOUR REFERRALS MUST REFERENCE YOUR MEMBER NUMBER WHEN MAKING THEIR DONATIONS IN ORDER FOR YOU TO GET CREDIT.**

How will Wheelchair Angels receive recognition?

Once we receive three donations referencing your member number, you will receive a special Wheelchair Angel lapel pin so that others know you are a TRUE WHEELCHAIR ANGEL.

"This has been one of the most inspirational experiences of my life and I wish everyone who helped sponsor these wheelchairs could experience this feeling."

-Gary Nelson

Wheelchair Foundation



When we have received ten referral donations with your member number, you will receive our official Wheelchair Angel crystal cube.

Each month, the Wheelchair Angel with the most referral donations will be recognized as **"Wheelchair Angel of the Month"** on the Wheelchair Foundation website!

How do I get invited to volunteer on the trip?

The Wheelchair Angel with the most referrals at the end of the Wheelchair Angel Program year (ending April 2008) will receive special recognition as **"Wheelchair Angel of the Year"**. This

A message relayed from our more than half-million wheelchair recipients: "Thank you. Thank you for giving. Thank you for making the effort to help us. Thank you for not forgetting about us when everyone else has."

person will be invited to volunteer on a scheduled wheelchair distribution trip of their choice in either China or Latin America!

The top 30 Wheelchair Angels, with the greatest number of referrals by April 30th, 2008, will be recognized as **"Guardian Angels"** and will be invited to volunteer on a wheelchair distribution trip in mid-2008! You must have 50 or more referral donations to qualify for "Guardian Angel" status and become eligible for an invitation to attend the official distributions.

For complete details, please call toll free 1-877-378-3839 or visit our website at www.wheelchairfoundation.org. Thank you for your continued support in helping people in need of mobility!



Rotarians Extend Their Reach FROM FLORIDA TO THE WORLD



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: DISTRIBUTION OF WHEELCHAIRS IN JAMAICA >>> JACK DRURY, PRESIDENT OF SE REGION OF THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION (LEFT) AT A BAHAMAS DISTRIBUTION ALONG WITH SIR DURWARD KNOWLES, PRESIDENT OF THE BAHAMAS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED (RIGHT) >>> ARRIVAL OF WHEELCHAIRS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION IN JAMAICA



Florida is second home to many Rotarians from the mid-west and northeast. While spending the winters in the Sunshine State, they visit Florida Rotaries to do their “make-ups.” This presented an opportunity to Jack Drury, President of our six-year-old Florida office. “Whenever I would hear the visitor’s name, I would whip out my business card and introduce myself,” stated Drury. “Many of these ‘snowbirds’ as we call them, took the initiative and started developing Wheelchair programs at their home clubs.”

Peru

Lee Convery spends his winter in Ft. Lauderdale and met Drury at one of the Rotary meetings. He called back home to Martha’s Vineyard and talked with Paul Watts, who was finalizing his wheelchair fundraiser for Peru, but only had half of the needed \$21,000. Convery told Watts that Drury had another group in Florida that wanted to help Peruvians. The Martha’s Vineyard Club had participated in a distribution with the Rotary Club of San Borja in Lima, Peru the year before. The result was another container to Peru.

Malawki & Jamaica

New York State resident John Fisher of District 7120 spends his time on the west coast of Florida and set up a meeting with Alan Yott of the Wheelchair Foundation Florida office when he vacationed in Florida a year ago. They developed a game plan which included

John lining up several speakers and volunteers throughout the District. Alan sent brochures, DVDs, and also a couple of wheelchairs to use at meetings. He also attended their annual District Conference. It wasn’t too long before District 7120 had not only raised enough for one container to go to Malawi, but additional dollars to complete another container to Jamaica.

The NGO in Jamaica is another Rotarian in Kingston, Dr. Lloyd Eubank-Green, with the St. Andrews Club. “This was a very successful program for our District, and it all started with the planning meeting in Florida,” stated John Fisher.

Dr. Lloyd Eubank-Green, Past President of the Rotary Club of St. Andrew, Jamaica, has worked with the Wheelchair Foundation Florida office and relates his experiences:

“Soon after that contact, I received an email from President Jack Drury of the Wheelchair Foundation’s Southeast Region, asking if I would be prepared to distribute wheelchairs to the needy in Jamaica if they were to send a container. That is how our relationship started. The Wheelchair Foundation wanted to penetrate and widen its reach among the disabled communities in Jamaica. At the same time, the Rotary Club of St. Andrew wanted to achieve its mandate of ‘Service Above Self’ by extending its reach in the disabled communities in Jamaica.

This relationship has been going and growing for over four years now. We make a ceremony out of each distribution and our partners usually play a part. Representatives Alan Yott from the Wheelchair Foundation, Gregory Dix from New Jersey, Mark McLean from Wellington in Florida, and Kate Gaskill from Dania Beach, have taken part in our distributions. Local sponsors/partners such as: Jamaica Broilers Group, Jamaica National Building Society, Operation Friendship, the Ministry of Health and the Media have all played a very important role in making the Wheelchair Project a reality in Jamaica.



Since the start of the partnership, four years ago, we have distributed over 800 wheelchairs to needy Jamaicans and will have distributed over 1,000 by the end of 2007. No Government in the world can satisfy all the needs of its constituents, so this partnership with the Wheelchair Foundation is filling an important gap in Jamaica.”

Costa Rica

Alan Yott never thought that his speaking engagement at the Pensacola Florida Rotary, a relatively small club, would bring the results it did. At the meeting was Pastor Carl Dickerson of the St. Luke United Methodist Church, who had a desire to help the disabled of Costa Rica. Teaming up with the Wheelchair Foundation, the Alajuela Rotary in Costa Rica, and fellow Methodists, Pastor Carl has already participated in the delivery of two containers to Costa Rica and he's not done yet!

Portugal, Bahamas, Venezuela, Haiti, etc.

Rotaries throughout Florida have caught the fever and excitement of being a part of the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation. Reaching into their pockets, they helped send gifts of hope and mobility to various countries in the world.

Walter Bost of the Ft. Lauderdale Rotary had a friend in the Rotary Club of Lisbon, Portugal. Walter led the fundraising campaign and eight people from his club, the Portugal club and others flew from Florida to attend the distribution.

Rotarian Oscar Zayas Bazan of Venezuela has a business in Miami and took time to meet with Drury when in the states. Working with three different Rotary Clubs in the Caracas area, Oscar raised enough funds for one container.

The Coral Gables Rotary Club selected Haiti for their blessing.

The Nassau Rotary Club helped provide the third container to the Bahamas Association for the Disabled (see photo). “The love and dedication of Rotarians continues to flourish here in Florida and the nearby islands,” concluded Drury.

New Rugged Terrain Wheelchair Option

To better serve wheelchair recipients who live in rural areas of the world, the Wheelchair Foundation is now offering our qualified distribution partners the choice of either 260 rugged terrain wheelchairs equipped with pneumatic mountain bike tires or 280 standard wheelchairs with solid tires.

Whether traversing cobblestone streets, dirt paths, sand or generally uneven terrain, wider treaded mountain bike tires make the task easier by providing better grip and greater surface area. Additionally, air-filled pneumatic tires also offers a softer, more forgiving ride for the wheelchair user.

Each new rugged terrain wheelchair comes with a frame-mounted air pump, a tire repair kit and a wheelchair adjustment tool. These wheelchairs also feature powder coated steel frames, 8" x 2" castors with reinforced front forks, heavy duty nylon seating with seat back pockets, removable desk length arm rests, swing-away foot rests that are height adjustable and removable, and the wheelchairs fold for easy transport.

Wheelchair Foundation Operations Staff are making the rugged terrain wheelchair option available to qualified distribution partners world wide. For organizations that deal with wheelchair recipients in rural areas where there are few, if any, improved roads or provisions to accommodate wheelchair users, we feel this new wheelchair option will allow for increased mobility. Our Operations Staff will work with qualified distribution partners to determine which wheelchairs are more appropriate for their regions, either the new rugged terrain wheelchair option or our standard solid tire wheelchairs.

These new rugged terrain wheelchairs are only available in full container quantities of 260 wheelchairs. A 260-wheelchair container of rugged terrain wheelchairs costs the same as a 280-wheelchair container of our standard wheelchairs. Like our standard solid tire wheelchairs, the rugged terrain wheelchair is available in five sizes, with seat widths ranging from 12" to 20".





Charity, Fraternity & Changing Lives



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: CALIFORNIA KNIGHT JOE SALAIZ (LEFT) AND SUPREME KNIGHT CARL ANDERSON MEET EDUARDO AND HIS GRANDMA >>> L TO R - TEXCOCO ROTARY PRESIDENT DANIEL TELIZ WITH FUNY, CARL ANDERSON AND FR. JOHN GRACE AT THE BASILICA OF GUADALUPE >>> CALIFORNIA STATE CHAPLAIN FR. JOHN GRACE BLESSING A WHEELCHAIR RECIPIENT IN PUEBLA >>> A WOMAN THANKS SUPREME KNIGHT CARL ANDERSON >>> WHEELCHAIRS WERE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON THE ALTAR OF THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DURING A MASS THAT WAS CELEBRATED IN THE KNIGHTS' HONOR



April 2007 marked several historic events for the Knights of Columbus wheelchair distribution program. This was the second year that a contingent of some 25 Knights and their wives traveled from California to Mexico City to distribute wheelchairs on the grounds of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The wheelchairs and the mission of the Knights were prominently featured as a part of the high mass on a Sunday morning, including the first reading delivered by Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight of the global order. This mass was televised to more than 75 million homes in North and Central America, and was presided over by the Vicar General and Rector of the Basilica de Santa Maria de Guadalupe, Monsignor Diego Monroy Ponce.

the wheelchairs. Overseeing the activity of the Mexican Knights was William Olivera, State Deputy for Southern Mexico, who assisted greatly in the success of the mission.

Since 2001, the Rotary Club of Texcoco de Gante has served as the Wheelchair Foundation's primary distribution partner for the Mexico City area, and has coordinated the efficient and successful delivery of more than 3,000 wheelchairs. The Rotarians have worked for two years now with the Knights from California and Mexico to handle all aspects of the wheelchair distributions with the utmost care and professionalism. Club President Dr. Daniel Teliz spoke eloquently at the distribution ceremony about how organizations working together to benefit people in need can achieve extraordinary goals.

California State Deputy Emilio Moure, Supreme Master Joseph Schultz and State Chaplain Fr. John Grace led the California delegation that included a number of veterans as well as many first time participants in the wheelchair program.

This event brought the number of wheelchairs sponsored by the Knights of Columbus to nearly 10,000 worldwide, and opened doors to an increased level of cooperation between Knights in North America and Knights in other parts of the world. The Mexican councils have now pledged to raise the funds for half of the 280 wheelchairs per container to their local areas, and the Knights in North America will provide the balance. The Rotarians have vowed to continue working with the Knights in the distribution process, and have offered to teach them proven techniques so the Knights can eventually handle distributions on their own.

The Wheelchair Foundation team is very gratified to see great working relationships between organizations that serve as the common thread upon which we are all providing Hope, Mobility, Freedom, Dignity and Independence to those in need.



This event was very special and inspirational on its own, but then came the wheelchair distribution. Monsignor Ponce and Mr. Anderson participated in the hands-on distribution of the wheelchairs, as did Mr. Anderson's wife and daughter, who accompanied him on this, his first

wheelchair distribution. It was an emotional and heart-warming event. A teenage girl named Funy, who received her first wheelchair last year on the altar during the mass, read a letter to Mr. Anderson that described the love and affection she not only feels for the Knights, but that she feels from them. She described the Knights, the Rotarians that serve as the distribution partners, and the Wheelchair Foundation as "angels."

This event was also the inaugural participation of the new Knights of Columbus council located at the Basilica of Guadalupe. An enormous amount of effort went into the successful coordination of the mass and all of the special events that surrounded the distribution of



Guatemala: *Salvation Arrives on Wheels*

By Gus Ruchman



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: THE GROUP POSES BEFORE SETTING OFF ON THE FIRST EVER WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION BY TRAIN >>> DAVID BEHRING AND GUS RUCHMAN ASSEMBLE A WHEELCHAIR >>> WHEELCHAIRS BRING JOY TO PREVIOUSLY IMMOBILE PEOPLE

From March 13 to 17 of 2007, the Princeton University Class of 1977 teamed up with the Wheelchair Foundation and local Rotary groups in Guatemala to deliver 560 wheelchairs to people in need. Guatemala is a country of 12.3 million people, 80% of whom live below the poverty line, with 7.6 million living in “extreme poverty.” About half the population is under eighteen years of age. Out of every thousand live births, nearly thirty-seven infants die. The literacy rate in Guatemala is 70.6%, and in addition to Spanish, twenty-four indigenous languages are spoken.

Drastic poverty is just one of the problems that the people of Guatemala face. A lack of clean drinking water accounts for 80% of the diseases that make the use of wheelchairs necessary, and malnutrition is pervasive. Deficient prenatal care may explain the extraordinary incidence of spina bifida, perhaps the highest in the world. A thirty-six year guerrilla civil war, which ended in 1996, left the country war-torn and unstable, and violent crime is prevalent.

On our first day of wheelchair distributions, we departed by bus from the colonial city of Antigua and subsequently switched over to train, courtesy of Ferrovias de Guatemala. The rails to Guastatoya,



our destination, were lined with shacks and small villages. Against the backdrop of a welcoming band and homemade fireworks, we distributed wheelchairs, toys, and bracelets to our first group of recipients, most of whom were either very old or very young, and who exhibited a variety of disabilities. After another rail ride through the desert, we arrived at El Rancho for our second distribution.

Sede de las Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro, we distributed wheelchairs to children with severe mental and physical conditions. Many of the patients at this facility live there because they were abandoned by their parents. When we visited the elderly homes of Casa Maria and Cabecitas de Algodón, we were surprised to learn that sometimes grown children abandon their parents as well. Some of the elderly with whom we visited were deserted by their families because of their disabilities.

We finished the day with an excursion to P.A.V.A., an organization that provides scholarships to promising students in a country where continuing studies past the third grade is a celebration and going to high school is extremely rare. Students participating in P.A.V.A. often need to help support their families or travel long distances to school, examples of the difficulties that young Guatemalans confront.

On our final day of deliveries, we went to the Church of Tzumpango. There we distributed 102 wheelchairs, mostly to indigenous people, many of whom were picking up the chairs for relatives who were unable to come from outlying villages. After visiting an orphanage, we proceeded to Guatemala City for a final distribution at the presidential palace.

The Wheelchair Foundation has delivered almost 580,000 wheelchairs in 150 countries. Thanks to the Princeton Class of ‘77, there are now another 560 fully functional wheelchairs helping bring mobility to the people of Guatemala.



WHEELCHAIR PRICING STRUCTURE UPDATE

Due to the extraordinary generosity of our donors, the Wheelchair Foundation has delivered nearly 600,000 wheelchairs to children, teens and adults in 150 countries around the world since its establishment in June of 2000.

Our program of delivering wheelchairs to developing countries for a donation of \$75 each has been accomplished in part by volume purchasing from competitive manufacturers at a rate of up to 10,000 wheelchairs per month. Despite rising costs of transportation and other expenses, we have worked very hard to keep the donation amount needed to sponsor a wheelchair constant over the past seven years.

Several factors now necessitate a change in our wheelchair sponsorship structure, effective July 1, 2007. The combinable funds that enabled our rapid growth in recent years are no longer granted to our program. The expense of delivering wheelchairs by ocean freight has sharply risen due to the enormous increases in fuel and other costs.

We are happy to announce that you can still sponsor the delivery of a wheelchair for only \$75 to many developing countries of the world. Your support of our humanitarian mission will continue to allow us to provide hope, mobility, freedom, independence and dignity to people and their families worldwide. That same \$75 donation will make it possible for children to go to school, adults to go to work to provide for their families, and give the elderly, who have been confined to a bed for years at a time, the opportunity to rejoin society.

For groups and organizations that would like to designate entire containers of 260* or 280** wheelchairs to specific locations, we have developed a revised pricing structure that will allow these humanitarian efforts to continue, and cover the costs of our established program. For details, visit our website at www.wheelchairfoundation.org, or contact our Operations Staff at 925.791.2340.

*Pneumatic mountain bike tires

**Solid rubber tires



CALL US NOW AT (877) 378-3839

OR DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG



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