

Changing THE WORLD



FALL 2020

A MESSAGE FROM DAVID BEHRING



Dear Friends,

I just turned 65 and applied for Medicare. Fortunately, I have been in excellent health and have never spent a night in the hospital or needed surgery. Most of my friends are also active and healthy. I grew up adjacent to a large retirement community where the "active adults" played shuffleboard and bingo instead of the biking, hiking and skiing that we do. Our Baby Boomer generation, along with the Greatest Generation, have created an exponential growth in the "65 and over" age bracket, 55 million Americans, and nearly two billion seniors worldwide.

Our elders are living longer and their sheer numbers will create a much greater demand for mobility assistance devices like wheelchairs. Many who need one, will not be able to afford one. In addition to neurological conditions like strokes, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's and post-polio syndrome, they will be heavily impacted by orthopedic ailments such as arthritis and diabetes amputations. Knees and hips will also be wearing out – even for people that were superb athletes in their youth - as was with the case with my father who needed a walker and cart the last 7 years of his life.

Of the almost 40,000 wheelchairs we have given out to people in the United States, over two-thirds were given to people in this age category. The Wheelchair Foundation has worked with all types of veteran groups including hospitals, Veteran Centers, Honor Flights and outpatient clinics. One of my greatest honors was to accompany 25 WWII Veterans in our red wheelchairs back to Washington, DC. We have also distributed thousands of wheelchairs to Independent Living Centers across the country and replaced the wheelchairs for many of the elderly who lost their wheelchairs during Hurricane Katrina.

The provision of the wheelchair is a very effective way to alleviate the impact of any mobility limitations for my "new" group. Let's work together this holiday season to increase their independence, improve their daily living and lower their probability of placement into a long-term care facility.

David E. Behring
President

Mission and Goals

Our Mission

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

Our Goal

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

Mobility

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

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WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED

Afghanistan.....	7,150	Lithuania.....	1,090
Albania.....	550	Macedonia.....	760
Algeria.....	1,480	Madagascar.....	1,270
Angola.....	6,790	Malawi.....	3,530
Antigua and Barbuda.....	280	Malaysia.....	4,040
Argentina.....	11,569	Maldives.....	10
Armenia.....	3,244	Mali.....	1,060
Australia.....	292	Malta.....	240
Azerbaijan.....	280	Marshall Islands.....	140
Bahamas.....	3,115	Mauritania.....	100
Bangladesh.....	350	Mexico.....	174,373
Barbados.....	1,750	Micronesia.....	1,265
Belarus.....	990	Moldova.....	1,720
Belgium.....	280	Mongolia.....	1,320
Belize.....	3,355	Montenegro.....	120
Benin.....	280	Morocco.....	5,470
Bolivia.....	6,364	Mozambique.....	1,660
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	2,040	Myanmar (Burma).....	1,100
Botswana.....	1,688	Namibia.....	466
Brazil.....	2,305	Nepal.....	3,810
Bulgaria.....	530	Nicaragua.....	9,439
Burundi.....	520	Niger.....	240
Cambodia.....	3,840	Nigeria.....	1,420
Canada.....	560	Northern Mariana Islands.....	410
Cape Verde.....	780	Oman.....	280
Central African Republic.....	240	Pakistan.....	3,285
Chile.....	11,668	Palestinian Territories.....	1,906
China.....	466,313	Panama.....	16,620
Colombia.....	13,612	Papua New Guinea.....	2,180
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the.....	205	Paraguay.....	2,614
Costa Rica.....	9,883	Peru.....	14,357
Croatia.....	1,300	Philippines.....	11,345
Cuba.....	1,800	Poland.....	2,700
Cyprus.....	280	Portugal.....	990
Czech Republic.....	597	Puerto Rico.....	490
Dominica.....	280	Romania.....	3,851
Dominican Republic.....	9,303	Russia.....	2,230
East Timor.....	110	Rwanda.....	2,440
Ecuador.....	10,385	Saint Lucia.....	1,070
Egypt.....	1,168	Saint Petersburg.....	120
El Salvador.....	11,075	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	935
Eritrea.....	250	Samoa.....	1,360
Estonia.....	500	Saudi Arabia.....	20
Ethiopia.....	3,468	Senegal.....	630
Fiji.....	2,520	Serbia.....	2,370
France.....	560	Seychelles.....	30
French Polynesia.....	280	Sierra Leone.....	2,610
Georgia.....	1,030	Slovenia.....	110
Ghana.....	2,610	Solomon Islands.....	110
Greece.....	520	Somalia.....	88
Grenada.....	280	South Africa.....	23,560
Guam.....	250	Spain.....	500
Guatemala.....	10,908	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Guyana.....	250	Sudan.....	280
Haiti.....	5,660	Suriname.....	520
Honduras.....	8,314	Swaziland.....	1,970
Hungary.....	120	Syria.....	641
India.....	2,716	Tajikistan.....	480
Indonesia.....	3,340	Tanzania.....	4,778
Iran.....	3,880	Thailand.....	8,640
Iraq.....	4,300	Tonga.....	500
Israel.....	8,110	Trinidad & Tobago.....	6,235
Italy.....	580	Turkey.....	5,550
Jamaica.....	4,710	Turkmenistan.....	520
Japan.....	1,750	Uganda.....	11,224
Jordan.....	5,022	Ukraine.....	5,630
Kazakhstan.....	1,510	United States.....	39,305
Kenya.....	3,170	Uruguay.....	1,862
Kiribati.....	375	Uzbekistan.....	1,240
Korea, North.....	1,352	Vanuatu.....	250
Korea, South.....	5,700	Venezuela.....	3,740
Kosovo.....	1,300	Vietnam.....	14,936
Kyrgyzstan.....	1,500	Virgin Islands (UK).....	284
Laos.....	780	Virgin Islands (US).....	280
Latvia.....	740	Western Sahara.....	153
Lebanon.....	2,430	Zambia.....	2,646
Lesotho.....	1,060	Zimbabwe.....	3,340
Liberia.....	780		

TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.....150+
TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS.....1,126,180

"Becoming People of Action" - District 9350 Rotary Club Melkbos distributes wheelchairs in rural South Africa.



"The wheelchairs we received from Wheelchair Foundation have almost all been distributed. There is a huge need for them here," Rotarian Andrew Thomson informs us. "Distribution has only been slowed by the Covid-19 pandemic and my ability to process all the requests."

He also shares this message from a recipient:

"My name is Ms. MJongolo, I am from Qonce (Eastern Cape, South Africa). I wish what you have done for me, you can also do for others. God Bless you all. I would like to thank you for this and would like to pray a little. -Heavenly Father thank you for the person who has done this for us, and the good heart you have given them. You see this old woman who cannot walk, I thank you so much. I thank you so much, Jesus Christ, who died for me."

Amen.

Chair the Love provides Student Support Services of Seminole County Public Schools in Sanford, Florida, with 85 wheelchairs.



These wheelchairs will be utilized in every school clinic, and to support students with physical disabilities in accessing their classrooms, campuses, and provide safe support while being transported to and from school.

FLORIDA

JACK DRURY IS LIVING PROOF THAT YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE - IT'S ALL ABOUT SEIZING OPPORTUNITY!

Jack Drury moved his family to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in August of 1960 at the request of the owners of *Bell & Stanton*, the public relations firm he was working for in New York City. He would be working with one of their largest clients, Gill Hotels. Famous for such icons as The Escape Hotel, the first hotel with a swimming pool and year-round operation, and the Jolly Roger Hotel, the first on the beach with air conditioning, Gill Hotels also owned the British Colonial Hotel in Nassau, Bahamas.

The early 1960's were heady times in Fort Lauderdale. The New York Yankees held their spring training camp there and tourists would flock in to see America's Baseball Team. The warm weather also attracted the wealthy and famous from the north, who would come to escape the bitter winter cold to frolic in the warm sun. When they arrived, waiting for them in sunglasses, a smart sport coat and a smile, would be Jack Drury.

Jack Drury had a natural way of networking and he was never afraid to introduce himself or lend a helping hand to generate a new lead or foster a relationship. Often times he was the catalyst that brought celebrities and their eventual sponsors together. His motto: "Seize opportunities!" and his pitch - "I might be able to help you make some money. I don't want anything from you now, but if we are successful I want a percentage."

Jack had a knack with celebrity, but he had a masterful gift for selling the city of Ft. Lauderdale. Not only did he entice sports and movie stars to his city, he also convinced major celebrities and their television networks to host their programs there. Bob Hope, Regis Philbin, and others fell in love with the weather, the location and the ease of doing business.



ABOVE LEFT: >>> Jack poses with client, Jane Mansfield. This was 1960's Ft. Lauderdale. Jack Drury had helped attract Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon. He hosted Jane Mansfield, and spend a night ship-wrecked on Rose Island, off the coast of Nassau, with her and her husband Mickey Hargitay (a former Mr. Universe). >>> RIGHT: >>> Two great men brought together by Jack Drury: Ken Behring (center) and Jackie Gleason (right) announce a golf community project called "The Great One." The cost of the project, at one billion dollars, led to its demise. >>>



When Jack moved from New Jersey to Florida, he needed a home for his family. He happened across a new development near the Coral Ridge Country Club, and stopped to see the model home. Inside, he found a man sitting alone at a card table. Jack recalls that the gentleman at the table was steely-eyed and didn't say much. Before he left, he had purchased that exact house from the man he would come to know as Ken Behring. Jack moved his family in and Ken built his next model



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Buffalo Bob Smith, Howdy Doody and Jack Drury celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Howdy Doody Show and touring New York to promote the New Howdy Doody Show in 1998. >>> RIGHT: >>> Friend Ed McMahon lends his help to Wheelchair Foundation and supports Jack's fundraising and P/R efforts. Ed was a fixture at Jack's Honda Classic golf tournament and always happy to lend a hand. >>> BOTTOM: >>> Jack is honored with a star on Ft. Lauderdale's Walk of Fame for his promotion the city and support for its people. >>>

home directly behind Jack's house. In the evening they would talk over the fence and soon became friendly. Jack began advertising for Ken, and when Ken embarked on his biggest building project, creating the city of Tamarac, Jack bought one of the first homes and moved his family into the community.

In the 1970's and 80's he busied himself with Wendy's restaurant founder Dave Thomas and his square-patty burger joints. He managed Billy Jean King at the height of her tennis career and was instrumental in a famous tennis match known as the Battle of the Sexes, between Billy Jean King and Bobby Riggs. Following the tennis match he had a falling out with Ms. King, so they parted ways, and he immediately picked up Bobby Riggs, who would go on to be a Wendy's spokesperson and a client for years. The rich and famous clientele ebbed and flowed; Johnny



Carson, Jackie Gleason, Arnold Palmer, Joe Namath, Cary Grant, Buffalo Bob Smith and Howdy Doody, the list is long. In 1987, Jack convinced Bob Hope to bring his Christmas Television Special to Ft. Lauderdale. Later he got Regis Philbin involved with the Ft. Lauderdale Winterfest Boat Parade. His networking never ceased.

Then, in 2000, Jack happened across an article in the newspaper which mentioned Ken Behring's new humanitarian aid project, Wheelchair Foundation. Jack recalls, "So, I phoned Ken. When he picked up the phone on the other end of the line the first thing he said was, 'I'd heard you died?!'"

Jack flew to California to meet with Ken. He left representing Wheelchair Foundation in Florida and the Southeast United States. Jack began reaching out to his friends and clients and was able to get the attention of substantial individuals who donated generously to the cause.

Nassau, Bahamas, was dear to his heart, so Jack reached out to his good friend 1964 gold medal Olympian Sir Durward Knowles. He raised the funds for his first container of wheelchairs and traveled to Nassau for what would be the first of many wheelchair distributions. He confessed, "It only took helping one child into a wheelchair to know that this was the right thing to be doing." Soon he was working his magic throughout the Southeast.





He worked out a deal to supply the USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy with wheelchairs for their South American medical junkets. He got the Florida Marlins and Panthers involved, with players donating wheelchairs to children at games. He still evangelizes Wheelchair Foundation to Rotary Clubs, and service organizations alike.

One of the first Wheelchair Foundation partnerships Jack established in Florida was with the Center for Independent Living of Broward county. CIL was founded in Berkeley, California, and is attributed with the introduction of curb-cuts, ramps in sidewalks allowing easy access for wheelchair riders and others with mobility issues. CIL of Broward has created a unique loan closet of new and gently used wheelchairs and assistive devices for all people with disabilities.

In addition to wheelchairs, the center offers classes to help clients transition to independence, education, job skills training, life skills training, housing placement and many other resources. Many of the clients who use their services are either street youth or the elderly, and the staff notes that they rarely have anywhere else to turn, having exhausted all other resources.

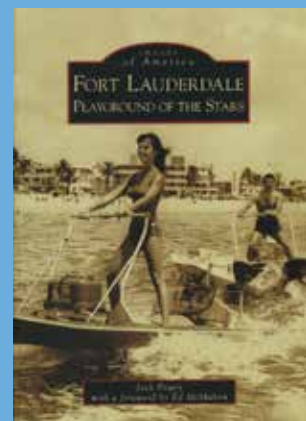
Twenty years on and Jack is still going strong. On

November 11th of this year Jack turned 90-years-old. He admits that he has lived a blessed life, and he attributes strong faith and always working for good to his longevity. But, it has not been all glitz and glamor. Jack and his wife lost their home to Hurricane Irma in 2017. They lost their belongings and were forced out of their demolished home, along with thousands of other Floridians. Then his wife Marie passed away. Through all of these trials, Jack has persevered.

For incredible a life he has led, he remains a humble person. It is easy to listen to his stories and feel his excitement and love for his work. When Jack is selling you an idea, you only become aware of it after the fact. His delivery and pitch are genuine because he honestly believes in what he is selling, and often times that product is *you*. He will encourage you, and check in on you. His enthusiasm motivates you. We are lucky to have him as a champion of our cause. Thank you very much, Jack!



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: >>> Jack Drury, Ed McMahon and Wayne Huizenga owner of the Florida Marlins and Panthers sports teams. >>> Children's Hospitals throughout Florida receive wheelchairs for their patients because of Jack's efforts. >>> Jack wrote a book about it! *Fort Lauderdale - Playground of the Stars*. Look for it at:
www.arcadiapublishing.com
 IBSN- 13 978-0-7385-5351-1 >>> CIL of Broward helping those in need with loan of free adaptive equipment for all in need contact: www.cilbroward.org >>>



NEVADA WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION CONTINUES EFFORTS TO REACH OUT INTO THE STATE AS ROTARIANS JOIN IN TO HELP



ABOVE: >>> There is no greater joy than serving other people - Service Above Self - a mantra of Rotarians worldwide, and certainly true of the men and women of the Rotary Club of Las Vegas. Once again, Past President, Jim Hunt, steps up and answers the call for help distributing wheelchairs to Nevadans in need. Thank you Rotarians! >>>

Nevada Wheelchair Foundation is proud to say that one container of 280 new wheelchairs has been distributed to Nevada residents that could not afford one. The Wheelchair Foundation and The Rotary Club of Las Vegas have once again renewed our 20-year relationship and are teaming up to provide wheelchairs to those in need in Southern Nevada.

In 2001, during Jim Hunt's term as President of The Las Vegas Rotary Club, the organization held a fundraiser to purchase 110 wheelchairs. Disabled southern Nevadans in need of a new wheelchair were then identified through radio and television public service announcements, and Rotarians from the Las Vegas Club made deliveries to all 110 recipients identified through this outreach.

Please take a look at our website www.wheelchairfoundation.org and read a few letters from recipients, maybe your State has disabled folks who could benefit from the gift of mobility, too? Are you a Nevada business interested in sponsoring John's work, or joining his network? Matched-Funding opportunities available! Find us on Facebook - Tune in to John's POD Cast to learn more!

Now, in 2020, we are again in need of assistance to deliver even more wheelchairs. Naturally John Williams of the Wheelchair Foundation Nevada reached out to Rotarian Jim Hunt. Hunt in turn has assembled a Las Vegas Rotary Club Wheelchair Delivery Team. Assisting him in the deliveries are Rotarians Russ Swain, Howie Hopkinson, Brock Frasier and Randy Donald.

At a time when there are more folks in need of help than ever before, Rotarians and the Wheelchair Foundation are stepping up to the plate to ensure the freedom of mobility is easily available to recipients who have permanent disabilities and cannot afford a new chair.

Hunt reports that for the members of the Rotarian Wheelchair Delivery Team, personally delivering the wheelchairs has been a humbling and spiritually rewarding experience that has warmed the hearts of everyone involved, donor and recipient alike.

Covid-19 has put the skids to getting out and talking to folks about Wheelchair Foundation, but it has done nothing to diminish the demand. One thing that we have noticed is that the elderly and vulnerable are experiencing an incredible level of isolation. Many older people are suffering without the help of an advocate, when they need someone to go to bat for them. Something as simple as a wheelchair might as well be impossible to acquire if you are older and don't have the internet or the skills to find one otherwise. We want to help!

Do you live in Nevada and need a wheelchair? Nevada Wheelchair Foundation

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www.wheelchairfoundation.org/program/nevada

season highlights

CHANGING THE WORLD



COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> After an unusually active hurricane season and all that comes with it, a brand new red wheelchair brings an honest smile to the face of a recipient in need of a replacement wheelchair on Grand Bahama island. >>> South Korea's most famous mountain climber, Um Gil-om, accepts a certificate on behalf of everyone involved in getting wheelchairs to kids in need in Nepal in October. >>> Take an undersea journey to Blackhawk Museum's new World of Nature gallery, now open to the public! >>> Rotarian Russ Swain makes a home delivery in Nevada as Las Vegas Rotary helps deliver wheelchairs statewide. >>> Doing our duty to honor those who fought and served in the United States Military, Wheelchair Foundation is making a concerted effort to fulfill the needs of any Veteran or Veteran's organization who can benefit from our wheelchairs. Through Mobility for America we hope to answer the call, in like kind. Thank you for your service. >>>





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Diabetes affects so many in the United States today, we are challenged to help those impacted by this disease. Rotarian Howie Hopkinson delivers a wheelchair to Anissa Kenney in Nevada in the hope that her new red wheelchair will give her greater independence. >>> Mr. Dendi Sherpa from CDCA Kathmandu helps distribute wheelchairs in Nepal. ROC Warriors and numerous partners worked tirelessly to make this donation happen. Thank you to all involved. >>> Young Rotarians from Rotary District 9350 reach out into their communities to assist the vulnerable in Eastern Cape, South Africa. >>> Smiles and good cheer! We successfully liberated another shipment of wheelchairs and started distribution in Bolivia. >>> Thank you to Park Heedahl and David Yong Sik Hwang of Tiny Share of Field Activity for their continued support of our efforts worldwide. With help from the Um Hong Gil Human Foundation and ROC Warriors, Wheelchair Foundation and our partners are able to assist those who are victims of natural disasters. As Kathmandu and other areas of Nepal rise from the rubble of the 2015 earthquake, those injured are adapting to the new landscape amid a global pandemic. >>>



FROM THE HEART SCHOOLS PROGRAM

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



In the middle of June, I took over as the new Director of Community Outreach for the *From the Heart* schools program. I moved into the place once lead by Barbara Bosse who said "It has been the best job I've ever had". Definitely a plus when you are considering a position. However, I didn't take the job to settle into a "what's in it for me" mind-set. No, I took the job because of the Wheelchair Foundation's powerful message of hope.

I have worked with youth, headed committees, lead many humanitarian efforts to Mexico and currently serve on the Board of Directors for a local non-profit. But never have I been a part of an organization that has such a far reaching and systemic impact. As I connect with volunteers and hear the stories of gratitude and hope from wheelchair recipients, it solidifies for me that the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation and the *From the Heart* schools program is one that unifies us as human and gives us hope.

Of course, I have stepped into this role in the middle of a strange time. However, Covid-19 has not forced us into a stand-still. In fact, it has created an inertia into a direction that we hope will give us a greater reach to spread our message.

Currently, we are finishing a new series of video-based presentations to deliver the *From the Heart* schools program to students in Northern California and beyond. This online window will further enable us to help teachers reach students in the midst of virtual learning, and be an asset to bring in new schools and expand our reach. Thank you for helping us move forward with our powerful message as, together, we impact lives here in the US and abroad.

We've updated our website to include helpful tools for Students and Teachers

Tips on Designing Your School Program

Ability Awareness Lesson Plans

Considerations for using a wheelchair at your school

Teacher, Student and wheelchair recipient testimonials and other great information!

Check out our website to find out more about *From the Heart*. Plus, view our new series of video-based presentations as well as photos and video of our "virtual" distribution in Guatemala.



www.wheelchairfoundation.org/FTH/

IN MEMORY OF SEÑOR BOB

CONTRIBUTED BY EVA CARLETON

When I joined the Wheelchair Foundation's *Latin America Program* in 2003, one of the first donors I had the pleasure to meet was Bob Athenour. His Rotary Club of Pleasanton, California, had sponsored a container of wheelchairs to Tulancingo, Mexico. Bob had co-founded the Pleasanton/Tulancingo *Sister Cities Association* many years back to create cultural exchange and understanding. The Sister Cities and Rotary Clubs quickly adopted the wheelchair program creating many beautiful and moving memories and friendships.

I quickly connected with Bob over our love for Mexico and Latin America, the Spanish language and the care we felt for others. Wheelchair Foundation's mission is to *circle the globe giving mobility and creating friendships* and that describes Bob.

He was a friend, a beautiful friend, who truly cared for other cultures and was able to connect with everyone and make everyone feel appreciated and welcome. Bob was fluent in Spanish and it allowed him to create an even deeper rapport with wheelchair recipients. His generous spirit and warm smile were always in demand.



Bob, or Señor Bob as he was affectionately called, was involved with delivering at least 8,000 wheelchairs all over Latin America. He went on every distribution and I most fondly remember our wheelchair adventure in the Peruvian highlands. Bob's motto was always – let us go where no one else wants to go. If there is a need for mobility, we will be there, and we will keep working to raise more money.

Bob was dear to my heart. I am very sad that this beautiful person is not amongst us anymore but very grateful for having known Bob and having shared beautiful memories helping others.

R.I.P. Robert Germain Athenour - June 8, 1920 - August 10, 2020.

A MULTI-NATIONAL EFFORT TO ASSIST DISABLED KIDS IN NEPAL



ABOVE LEFT: >>> Mr. Dendi Sherpa from The Center for Disabled Children Assistance is happy to make home delivery of a wheelchair for a young man unable to get out of his home. >>> Mr. Um Hong-gil founder of Um Hong Gil Human Foundation with wheelchair recipients and their families October 7th of this year in Kathmandu, Nepal. Thank you to the National Disabled Fund and National Federation of the Physical Disabled-Nepal for their assistance in distribution and assistance to those in need of mobility in Nepal. Thank you as well to Tiny Share of Field Activity and Mr. Hee Park for his continued support. >>>

In Boseman, Montana, last November 11th - Veterans Day 2019, Reach Out & Care (ROC) Warriors, a Veteran's program co-created by Eric Donoho and Wayne Hanson, held its biggest fundraiser ever. The purpose was to raise enough money to buy wheelchairs for a partner organization, The Center for Disabled Children Assistance (CDCA), in Kathmandu Nepal. In just 36 days they reached their goal of \$42,000.

In January 2020, ROC Warriors began working with both the Wheelchair Foundation and CDCA, to identify each of the 200 children that would be receiving one of these wheelchairs. By the beginning of February we had all the information we needed and ordered the manufacture of the wheelchairs. ROC began to work on identifying the Veterans who would travel to Nepal to assist with distribution and seating. They had identified several Veteran Physical Therapists who were prepared to come help fit the children into their new wheelchairs. ROC started talking with Wounded Warrior Project, who also sought an opportunity to be a part of this distribution. It was very exciting to see this hard work finally coming together.

With the global pandemic it became very clear, very fast, that wasn't going to be the case. Nepal announced that it was closing all borders. ROC Warriors wasn't able to take Veterans to Nepal this year. Fortunately, the government of Nepal still allowed humanitarian shipments in, so we became focused and determined to make sure this delivery would still happen despite Covid-19.

In Nepal, none other than Mr. Um Hong-gil, retired Alpinist who bears the distinction of summiting fourteen - 8,000 meter peaks in the Himalayas as well as Mount Everest thrice, is receiving our shipment of wheelchairs. He is the founder of The Center for Disabled Children Assistance. His time in the Himalayas created a great connection to the children of the Sherpas and mountain folk who live isolated lives with little or no opportunity.

Um is South Korean, but was recently granted honorary citizenship by the Nepalese government. Since 2009 his Um Hong Gil Human Foundation (UHGHF) has built 15 schools and introduced the Himalayan Scholarship Programme for the children of Sherpas who lose their lives in the line of work. He has also supported the Mountain Medicine Institute and provided support to rebuild monasteries damaged in the 2015 earthquake.

Thank you ROC Warriors for starting this incredible effort. Thank you to Um Hong-gil and The Center for Disabled Children Assistance for seeing it through to the end.



CONTINUING IN THE SPIRIT OF KENNETH E. BEHRING WHEELCHAIRS FOR RURAL AFRICA



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: >>> In Tanzania, along "Mosquito's River," Conservation Foundation Trust works with local tribal communities to reach disabled children, adults and elderly in an area seldom visited by aid organizations. Traditional rural trade routes meet in areas where multiple Tribes have settled. In villages like Mto Wa Bbu, like any major cultural hub, people from all stations of life do business together and take part in caring for one another. >>> Lions Club of Harare West present wheelchairs to individuals and institutions in need of wheelchair mobility. >>> Recipients and their families gather to celebrate the gift of a wheelchair. >>> Lots of excited and happy recipients take a moment to thank the Lions for their efforts to assist the people of Zimbabwe. >>>

For more than 20 years Wheelchair Foundation has been providing wheelchairs to partner organizations whose speciality is to reach deep into rural areas not frequented by other aid organizations.

Mto Wa Mbu is a small village a little over 75 miles due west from Arusha, Tanzania. The name "Mto Wa Mbu" means "Mosquitos' River." Here locals grow bananas and host tourists who pass through on their treks to Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park. The populace is made up of members of some 150 unique tribes with nearly as many languages spoken.

Conservation Foundation Trust (CFT) is committed to supporting communities in and around wildlife reserves and protected areas. The community support is part of a partnership with the villages to conserve the natural resources and ensure that they receive tangible benefits from the sustainable use of wildlife in the protected areas. On behalf of Wheelchair Foundation, CFT was able to distribute 20 wheelchairs to the disabled people of Mto Wa Mbu bordering Monduli Juu Open Area.

South of Tanzania, in Zimbabwe, the Lions Club of Harare West has been a wheelchair distribution partner helping to reach the disabled near Harare. Although grateful for the privilege to serve their community through assistance rendered through the receipt of wheelchairs, their work has revealed greater demand than they have supply. Economic constraints within the country and early effects of the global pandemic may very well continue to increase the demand for wheelchairs.

As with many distribution efforts, in the process of identifying individuals in need of a wheelchair, when the word spreads, suddenly the demand rises above the number of wheelchairs available. Many partner organizations maintain lists of people in need, in the hope that more wheelchairs will arrive. In Africa, there is always a need. It may just take more effort to reach those waiting for relief.

We are thankful for our partners, their families and our donors, all who keep making our work possible.

WORLD OF NATURE



Blackhawk Museum is proud to open our newest gallery *World of Nature*!

In 2017, Kenneth E. Behring tore down a wall in a classroom in the lower gallery space inside Blackhawk Museum's west wing. He wanted to build a space for his great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, to learn about all of the animals of the world... and dinosaurs.

Inspired by the Mega Museums he was helping create throughout China, Ken set out to build a world-class showcase of modern, museum quality dioramas in a small natural history gallery. He sought to surround and immerse visitors in a manner that transported them to other environments in his favorite locations around the world.

To bring his vision to life, Ken invited in some of the world's finest artists and spent more than two years in the process of creating a truly beautiful and unique space where everyone can learn about animals, fish, birds, reptiles, insects, and dinosaurs!

We invite you to come see and learn in one of the most fantastic natural history displays in the western United States – *World of Nature* at Blackhawk Museum!

ABOVE LEFT: >>> In 2017, Behring Global Educational Foundation was the recipient of the L. Irvin Barnhart Avian Collection, containing more than 450 representative species from five continents. >>> ABOVE: Built with education in mind, the *World of Nature* provides tools to teach about some of the world's greatest migrations, including Salmon and the Bears that eat them. >>> BELOW: >>> Artist Roxana Santos De Hayden provided realistic murals. Blackhawk Media developed *Wild Scape* - a proprietary audio system recreating nature with realistic audio that comes to life. Prairie Mountain Wildlife Studio created authentic habitat, trees, rocks and water which are hard to distinguish from the real thing. We acknowledge and thank these individuals, teams and talented artists for their efforts, integrity and for sharing their skills. >>>

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