

Changing THE WORLD



SUMMER 2021

A MESSAGE FROM DAVID BEHRING



Dear Friends,

Our feature story in this newsletter is about three volunteers who have worked tirelessly to raise funds on our behalf. Don and Josh Routh and Bill Wheeler have traveled to 20 countries to give out wheelchairs and increase awareness about the need for wheelchairs to tens of thousands of local students of all ages. I have had the pleasure of both knowing them as friends for two decades and the honor of traveling with them in Latin America and Vietnam.

There is no question that, when one of your traveling volunteers has spent his life in a wheelchair, his presence greatly affects the insight and perspective of other travelers, volunteers and recipients. I witnessed this change with both young people and adults. At the beginning of a wheelchair distribution trip Don Routh will talk about the challenges and rewards of raising a child with disabilities and about how he always encouraged Josh to be independent. Josh would then talk about his life and travels abroad which taught us about the lack of curbs and elevators, stairs, bathroom access, transportation problems and other issues most of us don't think about. After watching how Josh handled the physical demands of traveling to a developing country and how well he interacted with the recipients, the group travelers would comment on "the personable, inspirational leadership and bonding friendship provided by Josh".

There is one ritual between father and son that never changed during their 37 trips together. When they finished dinner, they would recap the day's events and conclude with this emotional exchange:

"Dad, we did miracles today."

"Josh, we don't do miracles. Only God does. We just do good stuff."

On behalf of the Wheelchair Foundation, I want to thank Don, Josh and Bill for all of the "good stuff" they have done for 20 years and for teaching the "spirit of mobility" to so many tens of thousands of our students.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Behring".

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.....	3,675	Mauritania.....	100
Bangladesh.....	350	Mexico.....	176,398
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.....	1,958	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.....	3,525
Chile.....	11,668	Palestinian Territories.....	1,906
China.....	469,672	Panama.....	16,620
Colombia.....	13,612	Papua New Guinea.....	2,420
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the.....	205	Paraguay.....	2,614
Costa Rica.....	9,883	Peru.....	14,837
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.....	9,543	Russia.....	2,230
East Timor.....	110	Rwanda.....	2,440
Ecuador.....	10,669	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.....	2,850	Solomon Islands.....	110
Greece.....	520	Somalia.....	88
Grenada.....	280	South Africa.....	23,800
Guam.....	250	Spain.....	500
Guatemala.....	10,908	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Guyana.....	250	Sudan.....	280
Haiti.....	5,660	Suriname.....	520
Honduras.....	8,594	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.....	4,990	Turkmenistan.....	520
Japan.....	1,750	Uganda.....	11,224
Jordan.....	5,022	Ukraine.....	5,900
Kazakhstan.....	1,510	United States.....	39,975
Kenya.....	3,170	Uruguay.....	1,862
Kiribati.....	375	Uzbekistan.....	1,240
Korea, North.....	1,352	Vanuatu.....	250
Korea, South.....	5,700	Venezuela.....	3,980
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.....1,136,094

Holiday Distributions in Mexicali, Mexico - Rotary Districts 4100, 5300 and 5330 Bring Good Cheer!



On Saturday, December 5th at the Center for Fairs Events and Exhibitions in Mexicali, Mexico, Rotarians and DIF held a wheelchair distribution for the disabled and less fortunate.

District 4100 Rotarians from Calafia, Cantinela, Empersarial, Industrial, Oriente and Oeste Rotary Clubs joined with DIF – the National System for Integral Family Development - to distribute wheelchairs to children and adults with disabilities and limited resources. Wheelchair recipients were greeted individually, one car at a time, to receive their brand new wheelchairs.

These wheelchairs were sponsored and funded by the Rotary Club of Apple Valley, California, in a partnership between Rotary Districts 5330 and 5300 and Wheelchair Foundation. Thank you to everyone involved!

Supporting Operation Free Ride and Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra



Our modern electronic world allows us to respond to local domestic need quicker than ever. Text messaging has replaced the multiple phone calls and voicemail messages of the past, and coordinating a response to a request for wheelchairs has become easier.

When our friend and longtime supporter, Kay Collier, reaches out with an identified need for wheelchairs, we are happy to respond. Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES) put out the text “call” for wheelchairs for their “Operation Free Ride” which provides access and short-term wheelchair use at numerous locations free-of-charge. DSES provides adaptive sports and therapeutic outdoor recreation for people of all ages with disabilities as well as supporting the National Wounded Warrior Center at Mammoth Lakes, California. This work allows those who would otherwise not have the chance, opportunities to learn and achieve their outdoor recreation goals.

We strive to support the access to mobility wherever it is needed, and are honored when we get to answer the “text message” for help from anyone seeking to enjoy the beautiful California great outdoors.

TRES AMIGOS CON CORAZON! (THREE FRIENDS WITH HEART)

Contributed by: David Behring



This is a tale about a father, his son and their friend who, together, heard Ken Behring make a speech about the Wheelchair Foundation, then decided to not only raise funds for the organization, but also to personally travel and distribute those wheelchairs to the people who need them. During the last 18 years these “*Tres Amigos Con Corazon*” have accomplished the following incredible feats:

- They have been instrumental in sponsoring over 17,000 wheelchairs (62 containers)
- Made 37 trips outside the United States delivering wheelchairs, and
- Personally gave out wheelchairs in 20 countries (18 in Latin America along with Uganda and Vietnam)

The story begins with Josh Routh, Don’s son, who has cerebral palsy and has spent most of his 37 years in a wheelchair. From an early age, Don made sure he could provide whatever therapy Josh needed and endeavored to make him feel not “disabled,” but rather face his future with a positive outlook, a desire to help others and a strong willingness to reach his goals and overcome any obstacles along the way. Josh has worked for over 20 years at the same grocery store, saved his money to purchase a car and lived independently. He has never been afraid to travel to a less developed country where ADA rules don’t exist.

ABOVE: >>> Bill Wheeler, Don Routh and Josh Routh, *Tres Amigos Con Corazon!* - Founders of *Del Corazon* - *From the Heart Schools* Program and 2020 recipients of the Wheelchair Foundation's *Spirit of Mobility* award - Our highest honor to those who choose to pursue giving the gift of mobility and share the experience for the betterment of themselves and mankind. >>>



CLOCKWISE ABOVE: >>> Josh is truly a global ambassador for the Wheelchair Foundation. Don and Josh in Uganda distributing wheelchairs. >>> Josh in Peru, getting some help from the locals following a canoe trip upriver to a remote indigenous village to deliver wheelchairs and soccer balls. >>> Josh at Serrano Glacier in southern Chile, the first to reach this spot riding a wheelchair. >>> LOWER RIGHT: >>> Don Routh in Uganda. Seeing an overwhelming need for wheelchairs in Uganda has inspired Don to raise tens-of-thousands more dollars to send additional wheelchairs to the land-locked African nation. >>>

Josh is recognized as the first wheelchair user to achieve the following milestones:

- Reached the base of the Serrano Glacier at the southern tip of Chile;
- Climbed the steps in his wheelchair to the Temple of the Sun at Machu Picchu in Peru;
- Was carried up a long, steep and muddy path in Uganda to spend time with the gorillas; and
- Traveled by canoe to a remote village in Panama with 157 indigenous inhabitants where he was carried by four young men, up 72 steps, to meet the Chief and receive an honorary knife, after giving one of their paralyzed members a wheelchair.

When the recipients and their families see Josh come into a venue, there is an instantaneous sense of seeing an American in a wheelchair. His empathy for them, his warm smile and the twinkle in his eye act as a magnet and Josh will not leave until he hugs or shakes hands with all of the people needing a wheelchair that day. On our Vietnam trip in late 2019, one of our Veterans on the trip, Joe Callaway, described Josh's indelible imprint more articulately than I could: "Josh's unwavering personal strength, kind gentle spirit, perseverance and positive attitude made us all better, more thoughtful and tolerant travelers. We started looking for the better angels within ourselves, and elevated our trip with a sense of harmony and good will. We were all humbled and proud to be called Josh's Friend."

The apple certainly doesn't fall far from the tree. After Don spent a long and successful career with PriceWaterhouseCoopers where he was a Partner living and working in different parts of the world, he retired and became a strong advocate for people with disabilities. Don has served on numerous non-profit Boards over the years and helped push legislation through in California to insure early intervention services for children with disabilities. In 2005, Don began supporting the Wheelchair Foundation and took Josh on his first wheelchair distribution trip to Mexico. They have never looked back and have made it part of their mission in life to personally provide mobility, freedom and independence to as many people as possible. Don contributed an enormous amount of his own resources and reached out to friends, business associates, Rotary clubs and other organizations to help fund 62 containers of wheelchairs.





Don is a big man with an even bigger heart. He is known to become emotional during distributions and he cannot stand to see someone deprived of a wheelchair. The next two stories illustrate his compassion. "In 2017, in Uganda, a man crawled to the distribution, quietly watched and listened and then crawled away when it was over because he was not on the list of recipients. Josh and I could not get the image out of our minds. We contacted our Rotarian hosts in Uganda and told them that if they could find this gentleman we would raise another \$42,000 for another container of wheelchairs for them. Sure enough they found him and he later received one of our wheelchairs.



"A few years earlier, in El Salvador, Don's group came across a man, named Eduardo, in an old wheelchair going down a road with his family. They found out that when Eduardo had a doctor's appointment three miles from their home, his son would walk to the clinic, borrow a wheelchair and take it three miles back. The family would then put their father in it, make the three-mile journey, return home with him and then take the wheelchair back to the clinic. All told it was an 18-mile process. Don took a spare wheelchair out of the van and presented it to Eduardo and his family. Needless to say, it was an emotional moment for everyone."

The third amigo, Bill Wheeler, is a true entrepreneur who created one of the most successful transportation companies in northern California after beginning his career as a limousine driver. He learned about our organization through Rotary. Bill delivered his first wheelchair in Tulancingo, Mexico, in 2002 and made two more trips to Chile before recruiting Don and Josh to become his traveling companions. You will be hard-pressed to find someone more fun-loving, adventurous, gregarious and compassionate than Bill. It never takes him long to make friends in foreign countries – especially during his motorcycle trips when he schedules to stop at wheelchair distribution ceremonies. Known for his laugh and story telling ability, Bill loves to socialize and spend quality time with the recipients and their families. He also acts as Josh's right hand man – particularly when traversing difficult terrain.

COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Pulling over to help a stranger results in relieving a family of an 18 mile walk to borrow a wheelchair. >>> Don Routh is charmed by a young girl receiving a wheelchair. >>> Bill Wheeler likes traveling cross-continent on his motorcycle and doing humanitarian aid work along the way. His trips are highlighted by interacting with people along the way and getting to spend time with families and making friends with new recipients. >>>



ABOVE: >>> *From the Heart - Schools Program* promises an emmerisive experience for students and faculty alike. Teachers find the experience so valuable, they too return year-after-year to participate. >>> RIGHT: >>> A selection of the 12 cohorts to travel abroad and distribute wheelchairs over the past eight years. Ecuador is the latest destination, but Mexico, Costa Rica and Peru are just a few of the other countries receiving mobility *from the heart*. >>>



The Amigos launched “From the Heart – Del Corazon” Schools Program in 2013. In an age rife with social media bullying, they wanted to sensitize students to the issues faced by people with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. They have introduced a disabilities awareness curriculum to more than 70 schools in the U.S. and abroad and reached more than 150,000 students and 4000 teachers. Students learn to create their own year-long fundraising projects and then travel during the summer and help provide wheelchairs to recipients. The 12th From the Heart - Student/Teacher trip will be to Ecuador, this July. They will work alongside local Rotarians, practice their Spanish and learn about Ecuadorian food and culture, and most importantly, provide mobility for 280 Ecuadorians in need.

The favorite part of each trip for “*Tres Amigos*” is “Special Moments” on the final night before they return home. Each traveler will share a treasured story or experience from the week. Tears of sadness will flow as they recount heartbreaking stories about how disease, violence or accidents had immobilized a recipient. There would also be smiles and tears of joy as they described the hugs and warm handshakes they received from the recipients and family members for transforming a life.

You can see now why we are proud to bestow the “Spirit of Mobility” award on Don, Josh and Bill. They are extraordinarily dedicated volunteers and have used their hearts to improve the world in so many different ways.

WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION

21ST ANNIVERSARY
BLACKHAWK MUSEUM

CELEBRATING OUR 2020 SPIRIT OF MOBILITY HONOREES

Don Routh, Josh Ruth & Bill Wheeler



the spirit of mobility

season highlights

CHANGING THE WORLD



COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> 1.21 Gigawatts worth of DeLoreans graced Blackhawk Museum as members of the Norcal DeLorean Motor Club suddenly appeared, and were gone in a flash! We welcome all who wish to share in the love of the motorcar. Check our events calendar at www.blackhawkmuseum.org for club dates. Travel to www.ncdmc.org to remember the DeLorean! >>> Don and Josh Routh talk to school kids about disability, student activism and fundraising. Their *From the Heart Schools Program* is free online on our website. >>> Volunteers help spread wheelchairs across Nevada as Nevada Wheelchair Foundation plans for the receipt and distribution of 1,000 more wheelchairs for the State. >>> Josh Roth leads a parade in Peru celebrating people with disabilities as well as providing wheelchairs to people in need. Josh is a wonderful and valuable advocate for Wheelchair Foundation and we are proud to have his support. >>> Wheelchairs for recipients waiting for relief in Jeremie, Haiti. Many partners work together to empower Haitians to help one another. Providing mobility where it is need is empowering to all. >>>





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> *Spirit of Mobility* award recipient shows us why he excels at what he does - Josh Routh with tribesmen in Panama. Out of his wheelchair and into canoe for a river trip to give wheelchairs to the locals. Of course, Josh did not forget to bring soccer balls which were greatly appreciated too. >>> In appreciation for the effort to bring soccer balls to the children, the children in return immediately began to play soccer. >>> Rotary and *The National System for Integral Family Development* (DIF) partner to distribute wheelchairs in Mexicali, Mexico. Volunteers masked up and arrived early to unload, unbox and stage wheelchairs for distribution. >>> When the Fire Department calls and asks if you can provide wheelchairs for their vaccination clinics, and for the folks who can't get vaccinated otherwise, John Williams says, "send a truck!" Nevada Wheelchair Foundation is proud to support our essential service providers, our Fire Fighters and others, in any way we can. >>> Mexicali, Mexico - Covid-19 pre-vaccine wheelchair distribution goes from in-home delivery to car-side pickup in an effort to meet the demand. Rotarians offer incredible support in a time of great need and provide a exemplary example of *service above self*. Thank you all for your efforts and support! >>>



CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING AND THE ROTARY CLUB OF FREEPORT REACHING OUT TO GRAND BAHAMA

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Last October 23rd, a flurry of e-mail back-and-forth touched off an effort to transport 25 wheelchairs to the island of Grand Bahama. Stephen Gunn from the Rotary Club of Freeport, had received requests for wheelchairs for individuals and families impacted by the devastation wrought by hurricane Dorian, in September of 2019. Efforts had been put forth to supply hundreds of wheelchairs, but the process, from funding to actually getting a container of wheelchairs to Grand Bahama, would take months – if not half the year.

Stephen called Jack Drury in Ft. Lauderdale, and arrangements were made by Wheelchair Foundation Florida to provide 25 wheelchairs as soon as possible. Soon, five pallets of five wheelchairs each were wrapped and prepped for shipment. The five pallets were delivered to the Center for Independent Living of Broward, to Brian Johnson. Brian and Jack Drury are long time friends and have a history of helping people in need of mobility, together. Brian is a wheelchair rider himself, and understands the difficulty facing those who need wheelchairs for daily mobility, but without a wheelchair to use.

Brian and his staff worked their magic, patiently navigating a difficult scenario dealing with Covid-19 and its effects on all processes, including international shipping of durable medical goods. By mid-December everything seemed to come together and the wheelchairs began their journey.

Today we are happy to report that the first wheelchair has been provided to a waiting recipient. Mrs. Grant, a 45-year-old multiple stroke victim, received a wheelchair. This wheelchair will help her husband with his caretaker duties, assisting and tending to his wife's needs. Mr. Grant has been unable to return to work following hurricane Dorian, and the family is without the means to acquire a wheelchair on their own.

Thank you for the efforts of all involved. Keep up the good work and stay safe!



ROTARY CLUB FREEPORT





CUISINE FOR A CAUSE



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: >>> The beautiful grounds of *Castillo di Amorosa*. On September 28th 2020, the castle and surrounding grounds were in the path of wildfire. Although the castle survived, the main store of bottled wines was burned completely, at a loss of more than 120,000 bottles valued at nearly five million dollars. >>> We shot our event with iPhones! Darren, Tiffany, David and Jeff watch the cooks. >>> Mary and Vincenzo made cooking fun, and deserve their own show. The pasta and wine were fantastic! >>>

Like a great deal of America, we spent our Spring cooped up at home, missing friends and camaraderie, and wanting to somehow help others during this pandemic. On Thursday, February 25th, we took a step into the live-virtual-event world and hosted "Wine and Cuisine for the Cause."

In Napa County, California, nestled between the towns of St. Helena and Calistoga, is a full-on 13th century Tuscan castle winery. *Castello di Amorosa*, the creation and passion of fourth-generation winemaker Dario Sattui, has long supported Wheelchair Foundation with generous donations for our events, auctions and efforts to provide mobility to people in need.

"Let us do whatever we can do, to help," was the response from Dario and his staff.

We agreed to host a live one-hour fundraiser online, broadcast from the castle and hosted by brothers David and Jeff Behring, with a cooking segment featuring Sommelier Mary Davidek and Master Chef and fine food purveyor, Vincenzo Coppola. *Castello di Amorosa* provided beautiful bottles of 2019 Pinot Bianco and 2017 Voyager Sangiovese, cheeses, Leonessa pasta and chocolates and shipped everything to the homes of our participants.

David and Jeff toasted everyone who joined us live online. We broke bread and were treated to stories of how the gift of mobility is life-changing for everyone involved. As the hour passed we were seduced by the aroma of garlic, fresh basil and tomato, as Vincenzo cooked *Leonessa Bucatini* and Mary described the wine and cheese pairing being shared across time zones throughout the United States, and elsewhere.

Proceeds from this event will provide wheelchairs to the people and business of Napa and Sonoma counties, and others in Northern California affected by the recent wildfires. Our event was an amazing success, and we aim to do more in the future.

For information on how to host your own *Wine for Wheels* events please visit www.wineforwheels.org - For fine wines and provisions visit www.castillodiamorosa.com



CONTINUING RELIEF FOR HAITI



COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Wheelchairs arrive in Jeremie, Haiti, a relatively isolated town of 31,000. *Fondation Tous Ensemble* and *Hope for Haiti* reach out into the disabled community here to help those most in need of mobility. >>> New red wheelchairs help those who crawl otherwise. Services are improving and more opportunities are becoming available as Haitians take a leading roll in caring for each other. Support from international groups, like Rotary and others, still helps and all who benefit are grateful. >>>

Near the end of February 2020, the Rotary Club of Naples, Florida funded 280 wheelchairs for the people of southern Haiti. By May the wheelchairs had been manufactured and were in transit from Asia to Haiti, a journey that would take until late September.

The Rotary Club of Naples has a long history of helping others and focuses on core needs like promoting peace, health initiatives, education and clean water, as well as providing wheelchairs and assisting with their distribution. The Club's extensive work in the Caribbean has fostered some very good partnerships with like-minded organizations. For their work in Haiti they have partnered with *Hope for Haiti*, a Naples, Florida, based NGO with almost 40 years of experience in the often forgotten and lesser-served areas of southern Haiti.

This shipment of wheelchairs was prompted in response to continuing accounts of need for those effected by Hurricane *Matthew* in 2016, a storm which displaced 35,000 people, leaving them homeless. This shipment would also arrive following Tropical Storm *Laura*, which struck Haiti on August 20, 2020. Tropical Storm *Laura* hit Haiti with 50 mile-per-hour winds and destroyed thousands of homes, left some 700,000 without power, and 1.5 million without clean drinking water. By the time it made landfall in the United States, on the coast of Louisiana, *Laura* would be recorded as a Category 4 hurricane, the strongest to hit land since the 1865 *Last Island* Hurricane.

Les Cayes, Haiti, is a city of nearly 80,000 on the southern coast of the island. The city is at the mouth of Ravine du Sud river and is the home of *Fondation Tous Ensemble Rehabilitation Center* (FONTEN). Since 2001, efforts to provide prosthetic and orthotic services for disabled citizens have grown through international support. *Medical Teams International* trained and worked alongside staff and eventually passed resources and responsibility to FONTEN in 2016.

Today the clinic serves 16,000 patients annually and provides physical rehabilitation treatment and therapy as well as prosthetics, orthotics and patient support. The doctors, clinicians and staff are primarily Haitian and understand the necessity of community outreach and personal contact, so they offer a variety of mobile outreach and access opportunities including in-home services and disability rights advocacy. Haiti is a country where congenital defects are more common than the developed world. Efforts have been made to bolster limited local and national resources and as social awareness and normalization continue, those who need mobility devices, like wheelchairs, are finally receiving them.

Thank you to all involved in this effort to provide mobility to those who would otherwise go unnoticed, unserved and continuing to hope for help.

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

HEDCO REACHES OUT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE TARANGIRE-MANYANA REGION OF TANZANIA



ABOVE: >>> Living beyond the reach of government services leaves many disabled in rural Tanzania dependent upon the kindness of others. Here a disabled village woman receives a wheelchair unexpectedly, instantly changing her ability to care for herself, boosting her self-esteem and granting her mobility. *Chem Chem Association's* presence in rural Africa allows for such meaningful work. >>> This wheelchair distribution was made possible by HEDCO Foundation. HEDCO Foundation is a private grant-making foundation who has sponsored wheelchairs for people in need in Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and South Africa. We appreciate their support and their efforts to assist those rehabilitating and protecting wilderness areas of Tanzania. Because many of these areas are so remote, the impact and significance of these wheelchairs is magnified and rejoiced! >>>

On behalf of all the members of the *Chem Chem Association* and all of the Tanzanian beneficiaries, we wish to deeply thank you for your generous donation of the 250 wheelchairs, and to show a special appreciation to HEDCO Foundation for making this happen. This donation will make a positive difference in the communities of the Tarangire-Maryana ecosystem.

The 250 wheelchairs were received by the Tanzanian beneficiaries with warm hearts and great smiles. The photos included show one of the beneficiaries receiving her wheelchair; the impact on her life and on her family's living conditions is the real achievement from this donation.

SCAN TO CONTRIBUTE



Tarangire-Maryana is an isolated part of Tanzania, where the support from the Tanzanian government is very much limited. *Chem Chem Association* is the only NGO present in this remote area, and without your donation, its aim to build a more inclusive community could not progress.

People with physical disabilities here are often forced to stay hidden away in their homes, restricting their lives in too many ways. At *Chem Chem Association* we believe that everyone should have access to the dignity and independence that mobility can bring. The wheelchair donation has been a real-life changer for so many people and we are hoping that with your help we can continue this positive path.

Yours Sincerely,
Andrea Frey
Chem Chem Association



NEVADA WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION

IN THE STATE WITH THE MOTTOS "*BATTLE BORN*" AND "*ALL FOR OUR COUNTRY*" - JOHN WILLIAMS AND HIS TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS ARE BUSIER THAN EVER!



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> John Williams and his crew after unloading a container of wheelchairs in Las Vegas. >>> Wheelchair Foundation Restoration Affiliates, Design Builders and Las Vegas Rotary Club help local workers provide a wheelchair to a coworker after his leg surgery. >>> Mr. Velazquez, who contracted Covid-19 in August, and is dealing with neuropathy as an after effect, sent a letter of appreciation for a wheelchair for his rehabilitation. >>> John and Ivy talking about Nevada Wheelchair Foundation's work in the city of Las Vegas and surrounding area with Las Vegas Sheriff, Joseph Lombardo. >>> The new livery on our Nevada Wheelchair Foundation delivery truck. John and this truck have 1,000 more wheelchairs coming for the people of Nevada and they both seem ready! >>>

As we all start to emerge from our pandemic isolation and slowly work to get back to normal, we are noting a surge in the need for wheelchairs domestically. Durable medical devices, like wheelchairs, have been harder to get due to supply chain slow-downs and down-right lack of inventory. The number of inquiries we receive has increased exponentially, and we are redoubling our efforts to help.

We've had a lot of good things happening and a few new plans for the future. We are increasing our fundraising and awareness work, mostly by word-of-mouth, e-mailing and by being available to the public when needed. Somehow, we have become a nexus of communication for those in need of mobility throughout the State. Many tell us it is because we actually respond when they ask for help!

Our volunteer base has grown! We have been seen on Spirit of Nevada, thanks to Richard Harris Law Firm, in a feature titled "Love on Wheels." But most of all, we have been able to share the joy of giving with others here in Nevada in a time when small gestures of kindness mean so much! You see and feel the value of the work you are doing when you help someone who is really in need.



Do you live in Nevada and need a wheelchair?

Nevada Wheelchair Foundation

Program Director: John Williams

916 West Owens Avenue

Las Vegas, NV 89106

Phone Number 702-847-6250

E-mail: john@nevadawheelchairfoundation.org

www.wheelchairfoundation.org/program/nevada

WHEELS FOR WHEELCHAIRS



1915 Model T Roadster used in the movie *The Professionals* gift of James R. Trierweiler to *Mobility for America*. Collectors, aficionados and their families have the chance to honor their passion and share the gift of mobility with thousands of Americans in need of wheelchairs.

Contact - Jon Snyder 925-736-2277 x 100 e-mail: donate@blackhawkmuseum.org



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Blackhawk Country Club Wheelchair Foundation



WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION 21st Anniversary Party

Saturday, October 23rd
Blackhawk Museum

Celebrating 21 years of the *Spirit of Mobility*
Honoring our new award recipients.
Come help us celebrate 21 years of giving the gift of mobility and receiving the gift of joy!
Attendance will be limited.

Details at www.wheelchairfoundation.org



Wheelchair FOUNDATION

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WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

By becoming a member of Wheelchair Foundation's "*Champions of Mobility*" you are joining an elite group of passionate supporters that have teamed up with Wheelchair Foundation to support the mission of delivering a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult who needs one, but cannot afford one. Together, we create awareness of the needs of people with disabilities and promote the joy of giving!

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT



\$13 MONTHLY
(.41¢/day)

Will provide **1 wheelchair** a year to an individual that lacks the basic human right of mobility.



\$25 MONTHLY
(.82¢/day)

Your donation provides **2 wheelchairs** a year to people who need one.



\$75 MONTHLY
(\$2.47/day)

Your donation provides **6 wheelchairs** a year to people around the world.



\$150 MONTHLY
(\$4.93/day)

Your monthly contribution provides **12 wheelchairs** a year to people around the world.

More than 100 million people around the world could benefit from the use of a wheelchair, but have no access or means to acquire one. *The impact of your gift is up to you.* Any amount helps one of the millions of good people in need of mobility.

TO JOIN OUR CHAMPIONS OF MOBILITY
VISIT WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG



SCAN FOR MORE INFO