# Changing





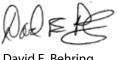
# A MESSAGE FROM DAVID BEHRING



Dear Friends,

Disaster. We normally think of the natural type which can be an earthquake, tornado, hurricane, tsunami, flood or fire. Wheelchair Foundation has responded to the increased need for wheelchairs caused by these events because of injuries, loss of a previous wheelchair or damage to an entire facility. The severity of damage in the less developed countries is usually owed to inadequately constructed buildings which collapse on top of the occupants. We witnessed this in Bam, Iran in 2003 and in Tangshan, China in 1976 in which over 85% of all buildings were damaged with more than 200,000 injuries. More recently we saw the extensive damage caused by the 7.1 earthquake in Haiti which left over 300,000 people injured. Our organization sent thousands of new wheelchairs to these countries to both replace destroyed or lost wheelchairs and to provide wheelchairs to the new people who lost limbs or were paralyzed due to falling debris. My brother Jeff and his group, Plane to Haiti, saw this firsthand as they delivered wheelchairs and other medical supplies within a week after this massive quake devastated the country. Hurricane Katrina was one of the largest natural disasters in our country's history and we helped out by shipping 3000 wheelchairs to the Gulf Region.

Now we are confronted with a man-made disaster: Putin's invasion of Ukraine with its relentless shelling, bombing and missile strikes on cities across the country. Hospitals, schools, apartment buildings, elderly care facilities and theatres are not spared. In addition to the hundreds of thousands injured in these brutal attacks, over 7 million people have been displaced with two-thirds of that number physically leaving Ukraine as refugees. Five million have fled to Poland while 750,000 entered Romania and almost 500,000 now call Moldova their temporary home. This is "a humanitarian crisis within a crisis" for the 2,700,000 physically disabled people because they have little evacuation support and they face daunting obstacles such as crowded train stations, buses and underground shelters. Wheelchair Foundation is currently in the process of shipping 500 wheelchairs to Romania and one container (half of which are specialized pediatric wheelchairs) to Ukraine. We hope soon to have partners in Poland and you can designate "Ukrainian Refugees" on any contribution you make to Wheelchair Foundation so we can do more.



David E. Behring President

# oals

### 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.

# and

### 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.

# Mission

### 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

WHEELCHAIRS	<u>COMI</u>
Afghanistan	
Albania Algeria	1,480
Angola	6 790
Antigua and Barbuda Argentina	280 11.829
Armenia	3,244
Australia Azerbaijan	292
Bahamas	3,955
Bangladesh Barbados	350
Belarus	990
Belgium Belize	280
Benin	280
Bolivia Bosnia-Herzegovina	6,364
Botswana	2,040
Brazil	2,305
Bulgaria Burundi	530
Cambodia	3,840
Canada Cape Verde	780
Central African Republ	ic 240
Chile China	11.668
Colombia	13 852
Congo, The Democrati Republic of the	C 205
Costa Rica	10.123
CroatiaCuba	1,300
Cyprus Czech Republic	280
Czech Republic	597
Dominica Dominican Republic	9,543
East Timor	110
Ecuador Egypt	10,669
Egypt El Salvador	11,315
Eritrea Estonia	250
Ethiopia	3,468
Fiji France	2,520
French Polynesia	280
Georgia Ghana	1,030 2,850
Greece	520
Grenada Guam	280 250
Guatemala	10,908
Guyana Haiti	250
Honduras	9,114
Hungary India	120
Indonesia	3,340
IranIraq	3,880
Israel	8,390
Italy	580
Jamaica Japan	4,990
Japan Jordan	5,022
Kazakhstan Kenya	1,510 3,170
Kiribati	375
Korea, North Korea, South	1,352 5.700
Kosovo	1,300
Kyrgystan Laos	1,500
Latvia	740
Lebanon Lesotho	
Liberia	

TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS......150+

TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS......1,158,695

TTED OR DELIVERED		
Lithuania		
Macedonia Madagascar	760	
Malawi	3.530	
Malaysia	4,040	
Maldives	10	
Malta		
Marshall Islands	140	
Mauritania	100	
MexicoMicronesia	1.265	
Moldova Mongolia	1,720	
Mongolia Montenegro	1,320 120	
Morocco	5,470	
Mozambique	1 660	
Myanmar (Burma) Namibia Nepal	1,100	
Nepal	4,045	
Nicaragua	9,679	
Niger Nigeria	240 1 420	
Northern Mariana Island	ds410	
Oman	280	
Pakistan Palestinian Territories	3,/65 1 906	
Panama	17.180	
Papua New Guinea	2,420	
Paraguay	2,614	
PeruPhilippines	11,345	
Poland Portugal	2,700	
Puerto Rico	490	
Romania	4,091	
RussiaRwanda	2,230	
Saint Lucia	1.070	
Saint Petersburg Saint Vincent and the	120	
Grenadines	935	
Samoa	1,360	
Saudi ArabiaSenegal		
Serbia	2,625	
SeychellesSierra Leone	30	
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Slovenia	110	
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### ELEPHANT HAVEN PROVIDES 287 WHEELCHAIRS TO LOCAL CITIZENS IN MIRAPENE REGION, BOTSWANA



Elephant Haven, an orphanage and refuge for abandoned elephants, has partnered with Wheelchair Foundation to provide wheelchairs to people with disabilities living in rural Botswana. Located north of Maun, Elephant Haven fosters elephants and trains care-takers. Longtime Wheelchair Foundation supporter Kay Collier was instrumental in making this donation happen. Along with 287 wheelchairs, Elephant Haven supports schools with uniforms, safe transport to-and-from school for students, water wells, community education and the creation of jobs for locals. Thank you for your efforts!

# ENCOUNTERING AN OLD FRIEND IN THE FIELD AND THE CHANCE TO UPDATE MOBILITY EOUIPMENT





During one of many wheelchair distribution efforts in Peru this Spring, volunteers happened across a previous wheelchair recipient who had gotten 'good use' out of her chair. She was asked if she would like a new wheelchair to replace her worn one, and she graceously accepted. The wheelchair she was riding had been gifted to her by students from the *From The Heart* Schools Program. The kids had raised the funds for the distribution of the wheelchairs and traveled to Peru years earlier to help present wheelchairs to their new owners.

# Wheelchair Foundation, Airline Ambassadors and Kiwanis El Salvador partner to provide wheelchairs with The Fund for the Protection of the Crippled and Disabled as a Consequence of the Armed Conflict in El Salvador

Contributed by Matt Beinke



ABOVE: >>> Wheelchair Foundation's own Matt Beinke with representatives from Airline Ambassadors are able to provide mobility to women in need of a new wheelchair as a result of armed conflict in El Salvador. Airline Ambassadors participates in the Denton Program, allowing private U.S. citizens and organizations to use space available on U.S. military cargo planes to transport humanitarian goods to countries in need, like El Salvador. Thank you to all of the Service Men and Women who helped make this donation possible. >>>

n early December of 2021 I was offered the opportunity to travel to El Salvador to represent Wheelchair Foundation and distribute wheelchairs to local Veterans. El Salvador was the scene of a 12-year civil war, which cost about 75,000 lives, and was finally brought to a close in 1992. El Salvador is beset with one of the world's highest homicide rates and pervasive criminal gangs. Great strides are being made to improve conditions for all and move the country forward.

The delivery was directed by the president of the Board of Directors of INABVE (Administrator Institute of the Benefits

of Veterans and Ex-combatants) and ad honorem president of The Fund for the Protection of the Crippled and Disabled as a Consequences of the Armed Conflict (FOPROLYD), Eng. Juan Alberto Ortiz Hernández, within the framework of The National and International Day of the Person with Disability. The donation, which was made at the Parque Cuscatlán facilities in San Salvador, was attended by friendly organizations such as the Wheelchair Foundation, Kiwanis El Salvador, Airline Ambassadors and the Embassy of the United States, who support the efforts that institutions such as FOPROLYD provide for people with disabilities in El Salvador.



means of assistance used to improve personal mobility, a precondition for enjoying human rights and a dignified life, which also helps people with disabilities to become more productive members of their families and communities; therefore, a wheelchair can be the first step towards inclusion and participation in our society"

- Ing. Ortiz

FOPROLYD is an autonomous government institution responsible for the care and monitoring of the rehabilitation process, productive reinsertion, the timely granting of economic and in-kind benefits to people who were injured and disabled as a result of the armed conflict that took place in El Salvador; as well as the relatives of combatants who died in said conflict, who lost their family protection, through the delivery of the benefits contemplated in the Benefit Law for the Protection of the Wounded and Disabled as a Consequence of the Armed Conflict.

Thank you to all involved in making this possible, with special thanks to Airline Ambassadors, the Denton Program and US Army Southern Command - who transported for this aid in support of efforts of the government of El Salvador.









CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: >>> A wheelchair for when he is tired of using crutches - a Veteran receives mobility in rural El Salvador. >>> Nancy and David Rivard of Airline Ambassadors embrace a new wheelchair recipient. >>> Dr. Pablo Guzman, Matt Beinke, and Luis Urrea with a shy wheelchair recipient in San Salvador. >>> Wheelchairs, canes, walkers and other mobilty devices were delivered to El Salvador utilizing space-available transport provided by the United States Military and the Denton Program. Thank you all involved. >>>

# SPARKING JOY ON GRAND BAHAMA WITH CHAIR THE LOVE AND ROYALTY

Contributed by Glen Mather

"The hurricanes last year have turned our Bahamian Islands upside down, and we have desperate need for wheelchairs."

We got the e-mail back in November 2020, right in the teeth of Covid-19. Due to the pandemic and logistics difficulties we were unable to respond, but we could feel the desperation in their message.

The note came from the area Rotarians on Grand Bahama. Rotarians, who are always willing to help and partner with Chair the Love worldwide, to assist us in providing mobility to the neediest. Unable to ignore their plea, our generous donors pulled together funds, combined with resources from the Wheelchair Foundation, to purchase an entire container of Wheelchairs (280) to be delivered directly from the factory in Asia to the Bahamas.

Covid restrictions discouraged large crowds and gatherings, so the chairs were given out one-by-one at the homes of the recipients. Our Rotarian friends provided Chair the Love with a continual stream of photos of the distribution process, each one more touching than the last.

One of the distributions resulted in two wheelchairs winding up at The Grand Bahama Children's Home in Freeport. Since it was established in 1977 by the local community, the home has cared for over 900 children, and provides a loving home environment to vulnerable youth who are not able to live with their families. Currently it is home to around 30 kids ranging in age from one-year-old to 17-years-of-age. It is at the Children's Home that our donated wheelchair, and its dear young rider, met Prince William, Duke of Cambridge.

It seems that the Duke, together with Duchess Kate, were in the Bahamas for a goodwill tour of several Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean. Evidently, Prince William was taken with this young man and his joy. The story and photos were featured on Yahoo and Fox News.

This chance meeting serves to underscore the potential that each one of our donors has to change the lives of others, mostly outside the purview of a Duke and Duchess. The smiling faces we see at every wheelchair distribution are due to our donor's generosity. We will give thousands more of that very same gift thoughtout this year.





ABOVE: The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visit The Grand Bahama Children's Home in Freeport. >>> Prince William, Duke of Cambridge plays with a young wheelchair rider who received his wheelchair due to the efforts of Rotary, Chair the Love and Wheelchair Foundation. Numerous efforts are supplying mobility aid following devestating hurricanes in the past few years. >>>





# season highlight





COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Peru is a land of beautiful people. The amazing tapestries they weave and the colorful garmets they wear offer shocking contrast to cobble-stone streets and colonial architecture. >>> A smile says a lot. CFT's rurual Tanzania outreach has spread delivery of wheelchairs throughout some of the most remote areas, reaching thousands. Thank you HEDCO and CFT for working with us to accomplish such great work. >>> Dr. Pablo Guzman, Luis Urrea and Wheelchair Foundation's own Matt Beinke visit a local cooking school in El Salvador. Culinary Arts allow locals without other resources to learn sellable skills that help them advance economically. >>> New outreach vehicles enter the fleet of Nevada Wheelchair Foundation. Having received 600 wheelchairs this Spring, John and Ivy are on the road a lot spreading wheelchairs across the city of Las Vegas and the State. Keep up the good work! >>> In Tanzania, motorcycle taxis are one way to get around the flat terrain. Here, new wheelchair recipients have their chairs secured and are making the trip back home. Some go to great lengths to gain the gift of mobility. >>>









CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> South of Lima, in the southerncentral part of Peru, volunteers came upon an Artist riding in a Wheelchair Foundation wheelchair. He had received the wheelchair through Chair the Love a few years earlier. We were happy to see it has enabled him to pursue his passions. >>> A young woman in need of mobility receives a wheelchair and a lesson in how to use it, as family and fellow villagers look on in Tanzania. >>> Rotarians in Peru answer the call of the government, and focus on supplying wheelchairs to hospitals and clinics overwhelmed by Covid-19 cases. Rotarians step up and serve their communties selflessly in times of need, and conditions in Peru wanrrant their assistance. Thank you all for your help. >>> Wheelchairs unloaded and unboxed in Rukwa Region, Tanzania. Continuing efforts to reach the disabled and less fortunate in extremely rural areas, our partners are bringing hope, mobility and freedom to places that would otherwise continue to wait. >>>











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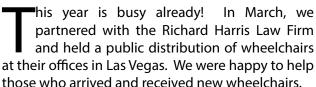


# **NEVADA WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION**

# IF YOU CAN SEE A CLEAR PATH TO HELP SOMEONE, FOLLOW IT!

Contributed by John Williams





Beginning of April, Nevada Wheelchair Foundation received a shipment of 600 wheelchairs. A very big thank you to our volunteers who showed up to assist in unloading these wheelchairs for the good folks of the State of Nevada. It is not an easy job unloading an ocean freight container of wheelchairs, let alone two! Rotary, Elks, Lions and our friends from the *A7FL* - American 7s Football League, we could not have accomplished this without your help.

We want you to know that we have been able to help people from all walks of life. The impact that this type of work has on community is incredibly important, and the chance to connect with, and help, people in need is deeply fulfilling work. If you can see a clear path to help someone, follow it!







CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: >>> Bertha volunteers at The Animal Foundation, one of the highest volume animal shelters in America. She has cerebral palsy and is finding it harder to get around. Ever resourceful, Bertha reached out to Nevada Wheelchair Foundation for a free wheelchair to make her life easier, and give her the confidence to get around, without the fear of falling. >>> Our volunteers, with Nevada Wheelchair Foundation's own Ivy Williams in the middle, made quick work of unloading 600 wheelchairs. Thank you all! >>> Mr. Cleve Jones became paralyzed, from the waist down, when he was shot in the stomach nine times - with three bullets hitting his spinal cord. He was homeless at the time of his assault. His sister reached out to Nevada Wheelchair Foundation and we were able to provide Cleve with a free wheelchair and other resources to help with this most difficult situation. >>> Teodoro, a 52-year-old gentleman, could not have been more grateful, or appreciative. As you can see, his right leg has been amputated just below his knee. What you don't see is an open wound on his left foot that will not heal. For economic reasons he lives with his son. At age 52 he has no Medicare, or insurance of any kind. Other resources available to him are limited, to say the least. He is undocumented, and thus has difficulty receiving any aid. However, Teodoro is a perfect example of those we are here to help. -Brock Fraser, Nevada Wheelchair Foundation volunteer >>>

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 702-900-3362
E-mail: john@nevadawheelchairfoundation.org
www.wheelchairfoundation.org/program/nevada

# CONTINUING IN THE SPIRIT OF KENNETH E. BEHRING HEDCO AND CFT PROVIDING WHEELCHAIRS IN RURAL TANZANIA

Contributed by Rose Bekker



onservation Foundation Trust is conducting outreach to disabled persons in rural Tanzania. CFT is the distribution partner for Wheelchair Foundation and HEDCO. We recently traveled in the Rukwa Region, bordering the Katavi National Park in southwestern Tanzania and Longido District in the north.

In the villages we visited in Rukwa Region we encountered many birth defects and many of the people here suffer from polio. Because of rural isolation, poor sanitation and difficulty with education, these conditions are more common here. Locals often prefer holistic and traditional treatment and some still believe a lot in Witch-crafting for cures to disease.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: >>> CFT trains all recipients and care-takers on proper use of new chairs >>> Eda Charlo gets a wheelchair, and out of the hut! >>> Rural conditions and limited access to health care mean greater frequency of commonly treatable conditions, like polio. Shocking the modern world, common in the developing world. >>>



In the midst of our distribution, we found Eda Charlo, in her small hut where she was hidden for many years. In some African communities, disabled people are taken to be a *bad omen*. Often, babies with a physical deformity or disability are killed during, or shortly after, birth, while others are hidden away from society, not to be seen.



Eda Charlo was so puzzled at our arrival. She could not believe that she was now the owner of a brand-new red wheelchair. She was very apprehensive to even sit on the wheelchair. Then, as we wheeled her away from her bed, you could see the excitement and astonishment in her eyes. Eda had not been outside of her hut, and everything seemed to be new to her . This experience was a surprise, because she had not seen the world right outside her own door!

In northern Tanzania, near the Kenyan border, we held a wheelchair distribution at Longido, the town that serves as the administrative seat of Longido District. The town sits at the base of Mount Longido and borders the Mount Longido Forest Reserve. Most of the inhabitants here are Maasai, but there are other East African Tribes represented as well.

On behalf of HEDCO, CFT was able to distribute additional wheelchairs to disabled people in Mto Wa Mbu, bordering Monduli Juu Open Area. Our community support is part of a partnership with the local villages to conserve the natural resources, and ensure that they receive tangible benefits from the sustainable use of wildlife in the protected areas. Delivering wheelchairs to these communities and villages, as well as providing other services, reinforces the benefits of our fellow Tanzanian's conservation efforts.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: >>> From the ground, into a wheelchair. >>> Mr. Shimba Lukereshe, a good husband and father-of-three, was thrilled to receive a wheelchair. He is a carpenter and plans to return to work now that he has mobility. It was amazing to see what he received from this wheelchair, not only mobility, but also self-respect and confidence. >>> Red wheels for a young girl who wants to go to school and be with her friends, and relief for mother and father. >>> District Commissioner Hon. Rachael Kasanda carrying Mwasi Michael, a student at Kalovya Primary School in Inyonga, Tanzania. Despite of her disability, she is a bright student, and the class prefect. Her mother used to carry her to school each morning, and take her back every evening. With the gift of a wheelchair, now her mother can continue with her chores, and Mwasi's friends come get her and are very delighted to wheel her away. >>>











"When a child with a disability gets a wheelchair, they and their loved ones gain freedom. The person with the disability no longer has to be confined to a room or depend on their caretakers for mobility. HEDCO and Wheelchair Foundation, through Conservation Foundation Tanzania, did that to us, and we are so grateful." said parents of a young recipient in Longido.

On behalf of Conservation Foundation Tanzania, we would like to thank HEDCO and Wheelchair Foundation for this very generous donation of wheelchairs to the needy and disabled people of Tanzania.



# ROTARY DISTRICT 6960 WHEELCHAIRS FOR PERU



n October 21, at 11 am, the San Borja Sur Rotary with its Past President Luis Enrique Malaga Aguero and Presidents Fanny Collantes and Sivia Espinoza, fulfilled the "Dreams on Wheels" program, by delivering 149 wheelchairs to people with limited resources and to the Home of the Beatitudes in Tablada de Lurin. Patients from the Police Hospital - dialysis area, and residents of Villa Maria del Triunfo district of Lima, also received wheelchairs.

On Thursday, May 21, the San Borja Sur Rotary club, in coordination with the Office of the First Lady of Peru and the Home of the Beatitudes, delivered 48 wheelchairs and 45 boxes of spare parts to the Ministry of Health to be distributed to hospitals where COVID patients are being treated.

Our Rotary Club of San Borja Sur, with its Dreams on Wheels Program, provides mobility to people with disabilities, but in this emergency situation that our country is experiencing we are giving wheelchairs to the emergency areas of COVID Hospitals.

In this period 2019-2020 we have distributed more than 750 wheelchairs in different regions of Peru. In the 11 years of our Rotary club, with the Dreams on Wheels Program, we have given mobility to more than 6,500 people.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT >>> A young girl receives her very first wheelchair in Peru. Thank you, to all of the Rotarians who work together, across the globe, to make this happen. >>> Wheelchairs being delivered to medical facilities dealing with Covid-19 at the request of the Ministy of Health. >>> Socially distanced, semi-indoor distribution allows everyone to remain safe, and receive mobilty in the form of bright red wheelchairs. >>>



Our thanks to Wheelchair Foundation, a global organization that has donated 1,150,000 wheelchairs in more than 156 countries worldwide. We also thank the donors Chair the Love, Rotary International Districts 7570 and 7670, and Chair the Hope.

Long live El Perù, united we will end the Coronavirus!

We congratulate our Rotary President Fanny Collantes for all her work and coordination with the Office of the First Lady Mrs. Maribel Díaz de Vizcarra and the Ministry of Health, in making this distribution of aid possible.

Long live Rotary!





# **BECOME A** CHAMPION **OF MOBILITY TODAY!**

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 Your donation provides Your donation provides Your monthly a year to an individual that lacks the basic human right of mobility.



\$25 MONTHLY (.82¢/day)

2 wheelchairs a year to people who need



\$75 MONTHLY (\$2.47/day)

to people around the



\$150 MONTHLY (\$4.93/day)

6 wheelchairs a year contribution provides 12 wheelchairs a year to people around the

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





# Wheelchair

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