Changing





A MESSAGE FROM DAVID BEHRING



Dear Friends,

The year of 2022 has brought about a lot of change. Our hopeful emergence from the global pandemic means we are beginning to travel again, and we are better able to continue our mission to provide mobility where it is needed.

My mother, Patricia Behring, passed away this summer and our family has been greatly saddened. However, she and my late father wanted us to celebrate their lives by helping others. She asked that we continue to sponsor the National Geographic LIVE Speakers Series in her name at the Blackhawk Museum, and we will. There will also be other future projects to promote their interests.

The easing of COVID-19 restrictions finally allowed me to distribute wheelchairs again. Seeing friends and old acquaintances seems more joyful and meaningful after two years of limited contact. Whereas my Princeton friends and I have been to Peru on two past occasions prior to our August trip, I branched out and ventured to Romania and Serbia for the first time ever just a few weeks ago. The history and culture were intriguing and making a humanitarian impact along the way with both American Rotarians and Rotarians from those countries offered me a much more personal and unique look at life in Eastern Europe.

We enter our 23rd year with our very first price increase. Although It will now cost \$200 USD to sponsor a single wheelchair due to much higher shipping and manufacturing expenses, we will continue to match dollar-for-dollar all container-quantity orders. We are shipping more Kanga pediatric and adult tilt-in-space wheelchairs to accommodate those needing specific support for neuromuscular issues.

Wheelchair Foundation continues to answer the need for wheelchairs worldwide whether it be for natural disasters, old age, disease or war. In September, while attending a ceremony at the White Palace in Serbia, a call came from Ukraine pleading for wheelchairs for a large children's hospital. Amazingly, we had already placed an order in February and the container of 100 specialized wheelchairs and 150 regular wheelchairs will arrive at our partnering hospital in Ukraine within a few weeks of this request. His prayers were answered and we hope that yours are too during this holiday season.

David E. Behring President <u>s</u>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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- www.wheelchairfoundation.org
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- jhodge@wheelchairfoundation.org

WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED

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OJ DISABILITY CARE FOUNDATION UGANDA RECEIVES SHIPMENT OF WHEELCHAIRS



"I am communicating to let you know that we at OJ Disability Care Foundation have received the consignment of wheelchairs this morning, 21 April, 2022. We are thankful on the behalf of those who are going to receive them. Thank you so much for your kind support and making things happen.

We take this time to appreciate Eva Carleton for sparing her time to coordinate the import process, which has gone successful without facing any challenge. Many thanks to you Don and Josh Routh for your contribution on this amazing life changing project, and thanks to Wheelchair Foundation for matching this donation. We are proud of working with you again, and again." - Julius Opoi, Executive Director

ROTARY DISTRICTS 5170 & 4170 WHEELCHAIRS FOR MEXICO HONORING THE MEMORY OF KENNETH BEHRING AND FRANK DEVLYN



Youth and adult volunteers came together on July 9th in Mexico City for a wheelchair distribution ceremony honoring Wheelchair Foundation founder, Kenneth E. Behring and Past Rotary International President, Frank Devlyn. The District 5170 and 4170 Wheelchair Project raised nearly \$225,000.00, enough for five containers, more than 1,500 wheelchairs for women, men and children in need of mobility in the towns and communities where we live and work. Much of the effort was led by Rotarian Richard Flanders, 5170 Past District Governor.

WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION 22ND ANNIVERSARY PARTY

HONORING THE SPIRT OF MOBILITY AND RAISING FUNDS TO HELP SERBIA, ROMANIA AND UKRAINE



ABOVE: >>> Don Routh, Bill Wheeler and Josh Routh accepting the Spirit of Mobility Award - Wheelchair Foundation's highest honor. This honor bestowed upon these gentlemen for their years of dedication, personal investment and genuine efforts to educate everyone about wheelchair users and the challenges they face. >>> Wheelchair Foundation supporters raised \$51,000 for wheelchairs for Serbia, Romania and Ukraine on the evening of this event. Later in the year Don and Josh Routh would attend the distribution of wheelchairs in Serbia, along with Wheelchair Foundation President, David Behring . By the time this newsletter reaches our readers we will have delivered more than 150 wheelchairs to hospitals in Ukraine. >>>

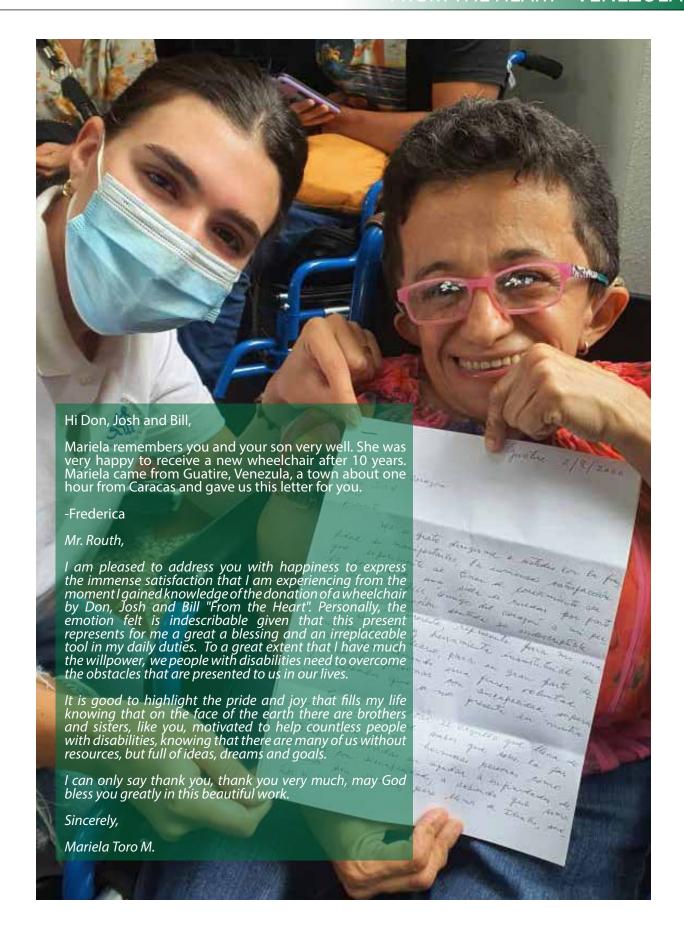
n Saturday, June 18th, we celebrated the 22nd Anniversary of the launch of Wheelchair Foundation and the *Spirit of Mobility*. We were treated to a beautiful summer evening and great music by Mr. Chris Norton and his orchestra. Blackhawk Museum, a truly beautiful and unique venue, provided a stunning backdrop, and Scott's Seafood provided topnotch service for our event.

We paid tribute to Don and Josh Routh and Bill Wheeler, founders of the *From the Heart* schools program and huge advocates of the mission of Wheelchair Foundation. Together, these three gentlemen have sponsored some 17,000 wheelchairs (62 containers!), traveled to 20 countries and made 37 trips outside of the United States to deliver wheelchairs in person. They have given selflessly and have worked to encourage others to

become involved, not only in wheelchair distribution but also to heighten disability awareness and educate others about the challenges and abilities of those who depend on wheelchairs for mobility.

Don, Josh and Bill were presented with the *Spirit of Mobility* award, Wheelchair Foundation's highest honor in recognition to those committed to our mission to provide mobility to every woman, man and child in need of a wheelchair but without the ability to access one their own.

Guests pledged \$51,000 (including \$25,000 from the Hofmann Foundation) for wheelchairs for Serbia and Romania, with the hopes of providing relief to both countries and help them accommodate refugees from the Russian / Ukrainian conflict.



FROM THE HEART TO PERU

Contributed by Heather Schomaker



Wheelchair Foundation's - From the Heart schools program traveled to Lima to deliver wheelchairs with local Rotarians. We traveled with students and teachers from local Bay Area schools, each representing their classmates and fellow faculty who participated in the program and fundraising throughout the school year.

First day in Lima. After a bedtime of 3am, we decided to sleep in a bit! Wonderful time at the local market, lunch at the coast and a tour of Huaca Pucllana, the oldest ruins in Lima started around 200 AD. Oh, and did we mention Alpacas?

Our entourage included *From the Heart* founders Don and Josh Routh. Don offered expert advice and guidance, humanizing the process of gifting a wheelchair to an individual and family. Josh, a lifetime wheelchair rider, attracts a lot of attention and he gladly engages with others regardless of language or physical barriers. His confidence and willingness to get everyone involved creates an ease among donors and recipients alike. Recipients arriving to get a wheelchair can be overwhelmed and meeting another wheelchair rider, someone who offers encouragement and guidance, can be very comforting putting those with fear or anxiety at ease.



ABOVE RIGHT: >>> Our travelers visit Larcomar Promanade, a shopping area, in Lima, Peru. >>> Sarah Schomaker with a *Thank You* Donor Heart - Thank you Flanagins! >>> BELOW: >>> Seven-year-old Anna carried eveerywhere by her Mom and unable to attend school without a wheelchair. >>> Sarah Schomaker and Josh Routh with Anna, who gets to start her first day of school tomorrow! >>> The universal sign of approval! >>> More happy smiles for new wheelchairs. That's all we ask for! >>>











Outside of Lima, our group delivered a wheelchair to a homebound gentleman living on a very steep hillside. The simplest way to his house was up a long flight of exposed stairs. We were introduced to a young father who had become injured while working. He had slipped and fallen while harvesting fruit and coconuts high in the forest canopy, miles outside of Lima, and far from help.

His fall has left him paralyzed below the waist and the new wheelchair we are delivering is a welcome gift. Although his neighborhood is not easy to navigate in a wheelchair. Movement within his home has instantly become much easier for him, and helping him attend medical appointments has become much less difficult and complex for his caregiver wife.











Think about how the lives of caregivers are changed when their loved ones receive wheelchairs. Our students helped raise money so this mother doesn't have to leave her son in bed all day because she can no longer lift and carry him. Now, wherever she needs to go, he can go with her!

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: >>> Our group atop the hill where our home visit introduced us to a young father who had become paralyzed after falling ou of a tree while gathering fruit. >>> Teacher Tina Wagner, from Walnut Grove school, shares a hug with a mom who cares for a disabled son. >>> BELOW LEFT - CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: >>> Tri-Valley Spanish teacher, Angie Stewart, from Walnut Creek Intermediate school helps Alejandro write a reply to his high school pen-pal in California. We encourage students and recipients to get to know one another. >>> A family receives a wheelchair for Dad. >>> From 20 years without walking, pushing himself on a skateboard, to riding in a brand new red wheelchiar. A victim of a work accident, no insurance and no assistance means a challenging life. Thank you for helping improve these lives! >>>

Enabling students and teachers to experience philanthropy in this way, to meet and interact with those who benefit from their efforts, is the purpose of *From the Heart*. Does the work we have accomplished in Peru sound interesting to you? Why not try it yourself?



Visit **www.wheelchairfoundation.org/fth** to get your school involved and come with us!

season highlight





COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Wheelchairs sponsored by From the Heart and Rotary District 5170 staged at the White Palace in Serbia, awaiting distribution. >>> East Bay Boy Scouts pushing wheelchairs in the Danville, California, Fourth of July parade. Danville's parade attracts thousands. Each Scout represented a country with the flag and number of wheelchairs delivered. Thank you Scouts! >>> David and May Behring with a polio survivor and wheelchair recipient in Romania. The relationship between Rotary and polio vaccination worldwide has reduced the number of young victims, however there are still older polio survivors around th globe. >>> Tiffany Camacho and Darren Cox, the engine that makes our events run! Wheelchair Foundation thanks you both for all of your efforts! >>> District 5170 Rotarian leaders with Josh Routh and two wheelchair riders in Romania. It is amazing what you can learn when someone riding a wheelchair accompanies you on an international trip. >>>









CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Nevada Wheelchair Foundation has a new office space and a new address: 4955 North Durango, Ste 123 Las Vegas, NV 89113 - Phone Number 702-900-3362 If you know of someone in need a wheelchair in the state of Nevada, please get in touch! >>> Zoe Wagner unpacks and assembles wheelchairs before a wheelchair distribution near Lima, Peru. Zoe traveled with From the Heart schools program along with other teachers, students and parents. >>> Wyatt Earp! This gunslinger showed up at the Danville, California, Fourth of July Parade in support of the Spirit of the Old West gallery at Blackhawk Museum. Thank you to longtime employee and Wheelchair Foundation supporter Randy Trost for driving our float! >>> David Behring, Mr. Diego Velasquez and guest with Mr. and Mrs. Chetan Heyer pose for a photo at the entrance of Blackhawk Museum on the eve of the 22nd Anniversary Wheelchair Foundation Gala. >>> Jane and May Behring at the 19th Annual Drive Fore Mobility golf tournament at Blackhawk Country Club in Danville, California, this August. Thank you to the families of both Jeff and Jane, and David and May, for making sure everyone was properly hydrated at the 18th hole. >>>







PRINCETON CLASS OF '77 SERVICE PROJECT TO PERU 2022



his August, we made our third trip on classmate Henry Posner's train in honor of our Princeton Class of 1977 Reunions (35th, 40th and 45th). We had about 20 Princetonians, spouses and kids along with a dozen members of the Rotary Club of San Borja Sur in Lima joining us. Luis Malaga, a Past President of that club, has been our principal liaison in Peru for almost 20 years and he has helped to organize all of the wheelchair distributions.

Luis' assistance has been indispensable and the Princeton Class of 1977 made him an Honorary Member of our Class about ten years ago because of his dedication. Unfortunately, he had to be with his daughters in the United States during our visit and sent a dozen members of his club to be our hosts and guides. They did a superb job and assisted in every facet of the distributions working closely with our group leaders Bill Farrell '77, his wife Marleny (who is from Peru) and Henry.

-David Behring - Princeton Class of '77









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: >>> The Princeton Class of '77 having fun at altitude. >>> Wheelchairs staged and ready for new owners. >>> Our first of two distributions in La Oroya. Many wheelchairs were given to elders who need one to just get around. >>> Our Rotarian hosts and guides who had everything figured out long before our arrival. >>> Alpacas! >>>

PRINCETON CLASS OF '77



ive years ago when I asked why so many children in the mountain towns of Peru have Cerebral Palsy, I was told it was due to birth accidents resulting in asphyxia. For example: the cord around the baby's neck or pulling too hard on the head during delivery.

This trip I learned that any disease or injury resulting in lack of oxygen to the brain can cause CP. Many mothers do not seek prenatal care—even though it is free to them. Others attend during their first pregnancy, but not subsequent ones since they think they "know what to expect". Unfortunately, lack of oxygen not only impacts mobility but the verbal center, too. Problems that could be diagnosed, go undiagnosed.

And, autism is on the rise. I met more nonverbal recipients this time. The principal of the Centro de Educación Básica Especial Divina Misericordia told me when she first began in education, there were only a few children with autism; now it is a major challenge.

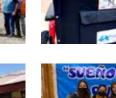
















TOP: >>> Our train, from Lima to the top of Peru. >>> ABOVE CLOCKWISE: >>> Princeton Class of '77 at Galera - altitude 15,681 feet above sea level. >>> Everyone was stunned at the need for wheelchairs in these remote mountain towns and villages. >>> Travelers with a young man, happy to have a new Kanga wheelchair. >>> At Junin station families were awaiting our arrival, and we simply stepped off the train and began our work. >>> LEFT CLOCKWISE: >>> Princeton graduates assemble new Kanga wheelchairs in a few easy steps. >>> A new red wheelchair for a happy child and a happier mom! >>> Our arrival welcomed by a brass marching band! >>>

While we were at San Juan de Dios, we learned of a 40-year-old man who was abandoned at the hospital when he was 6 months of age. He was adopted by the staff. On a daily basis he receives medical and psychological care as well as social integration and spiritual guidance. He is immobile and non-verbal due to CP. His care team told me a bit about his interests, and when I asked him a question meant to be amusing, he flashed a huge smile. The glint in his eyes left no doubt his keen mind is trapped in an uncooperative body. We were able to provide an adult-size Kanga, complete with a view.

Parra, a woman 101-years-young, was given a wheelchair, surrounded by generations of family. Sharp of mind, she said she just needed a bit of help to get around because she's "old". Her family was excited at the prospect of future outings.

-Donna Freeman - Princeton Class of '77

WHEELCHAIRS FOR EASTERN EUROPE ROTARIANS JOIN TO PROVIDE WHEELCHAIR RELIEF IN WAR EFFECTED AREAS

Contributed by David Behring



n of the greatest pleasures I get from being active in Rotary is the opportunity to help others. This September I find myself in Romania, for the very first time, and onward to Serbia, another personal first. I have fellow Rotarian Richard Flanders from District 5170 to thank for creating this opportunity.

Richard and others have been working to support the Mohanji Peace Center in Serbia. This is a project in partnership with the Ana and Vlade Divac Humanitarian Organization, helping support people in immediate need of aid.

Romania is known for the Black Sea and Carpathian Mountains, and castles. We distributed wheelchairs along our route to Serbia. In Transylvania we stopped to tour Bran's Castle, otherwise known as Dracula's Castle, one of the most popular tourist places in Romania. This medieval fortress was built in the late 14th century and one of its occupants, a Prince who had a reputation for bloody violence in the way he treated people who broke the law, was allegedly the inspiration for Bram Stroker's famous novel "Dracula" which was written 400 years later. We didn't come across any vampires or bats during our visit.

We delivered half a dozen wheelchairs to a facility connected to their Muscular Dystrophy Association. The Rotary District has spread the wheelchairs out to over 30 clubs to make sure a wide group of people with disabilities received wheelchairs.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: >>> PDG District 5170 Richard Flanders and other District 5170 leaders distributing wheelchairs in Romania. >>> May and David Behring with a Romanian mother of twelve children, including a set of twins. Difficulty with the delivery of the second twin, Anita, resulted in a mobility disibility, leaving her unable to walk. Her new red wheelchair is exciting for the whole family. >>> Horse drawn carts are quite common in this part of Europe and an interesting addition to traffic. >>> A new wheelchair leads to a great deal of excitment, offering opportunities to get our and do things again! >>>





In Brasov, Romania we gave a wheelchair to a man that was paralyzed after a horse drawn wagon accident on the family farm. His parents brought him in the same wagon which had run him over.



Belgrade, 25 September 2022 – Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine delivered today 55 wheelchairs for institutions and organizations across Serbia, in presence of HE Christopher Hill, the Ambassador of the United States of America, and the donors, at the White Palace. This is the continuation of Their Royal Highnesses' long-time support to institutions and organizations in Serbia, and the needs of people with disabilities.

This valuable donation was made possible thanks to the Wheelchair Foundation which has for many years supported the efforts of Their Royal Highnesses to provide aid to the people of Serbia, the President of the Foundation, Mr. David Behring, and the tremendous generosity of the US Rotary members from Northern California and the Los Angeles / San Diego area, and Don and Josh Routh who raised necessary funds for this project. In addition to the wheelchairs, Crown Princess Katherine also delivered toys for children with disabilities today.





FROM TOP: >>> Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine with American delegation donating wheelchars at the White Palace. >>> The White Palace provides a beautiful background for our distribution. >>> HRH Princess Katherine greets recipients and their families receiving wheelchairs. >>>

The total number of 270 wheelchairs is designated for Serbia, with a total value of more than USD \$150,000, from which 215 wheelchairs will be delivered by Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation for Uzice Health Centre and Old People's Home in Belgrade, and Crown Princess Katherine's Foundation distributed 55 wheelchairs to representatives of 8 institutions today.

The delivery was organized in the White Palace and attended by HE Christopher Hill, with his wife Mrs. Julie Hill, Prof. Dr. Alexander Ljubic from the Royal Medical Board, and memberr US District 5170 Rotary whose generosity made this possible, led by District Governor, Mr. Richard Flanders who spoke about the humanitarian activities of the Club.

FUELED BY ROCK & ROLL!

NEVADA WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION HAS AN AWESOME SUMMER!



e've had an awesome summer! In July, we found ourselves at the Thunderbird Boutique Hotel and Lounge on Las Vegas Boulevard with Kings of Queen – the nation's top Queen tribute band. The band entertained our 100 plus guests for nearly two hours! Kings of Queen helped us spread awareness about our work and all proceeds from the show were generously donated to get more wheelchairs for the good folks of Nevada.

Nevada Wheelchair Foundation will be a beneficiary of *Mondays Dark*, Las Vegas' premiere variety show for a cause. The mission of *Mondays Dark* is to raise \$10,000 in 90 minutes! Our variety show is slated for 2023, so we will let everyone know dates and ticketing information so you can attend – www.mondaysdark.com



Nevada Wheelchair Foundation has surpassed our 11,500th wheelchair donated to Nevada residents! Las Vegas Rotary has delivered their 200th wheelchair in person. The Rotary (A)team, as we call them, also help unload containers of wheelchairs when they arrive and assist in transferring wheelchair between locations as needed throughout the year. Our thanks to Jim Hunt for coordinating and handling deliveries.

We also want to recognize the work of Adam Hopkins and Vern Watt from the Lions in Northern Nevada. They have been doing a fantastic job of helping us get wheelchairs to Reno and Elko and the surrounding areas.

Thanks also to Richard Harris Law Firm, Dallas Horton Law Firm, Las Vegas Health Care Group, Las Vegas Heals, Channel 5, 8 and 13 News, Telemundo Radio and News, UniVision Radio and Television. Your support helps provide mobility to all of Nevada.

ABOVE: >>> Kings of Queen on stage at the Thunderbird Lounge proving they are truly worthy of their title as the nation's top Queen tribute band. >>> Below: >>> John and Ivy with former-President and First Lady of Mexico, Vicente and Marta Fox, discussing future partnership and more work in Mexico. >>> Ms. Crocetti better able to navigate her home with a new red wheelchair from Nevada Wheelchair Foundation . Thanks to all who make our work possible!



Do you live in Nevada and need a wheelchair?

Nevada Wheelchair Foundation

Program Director: John Williams

4955 North Durango, Ste 123

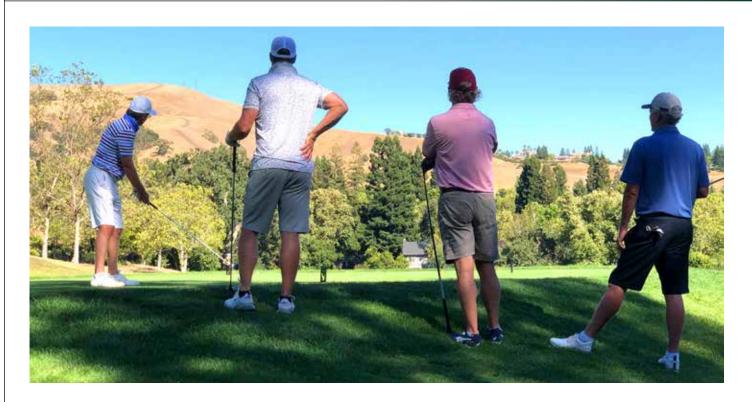
Las Vegas, NV 89113

Phone Number 702-900-3362

E-mail: john@nevadawheelchairfoundation.org

www.wheelchairfoundation.org/program/nevada

DRIVE FORE MOBILITY



ur 19th Annual *Drive Fore Mobility* golf tournament was a sellout! Blackhawk Country Club hosted us on the Lakeside Course on a beautiful Monday. We were pleased to see lots of regulars and many new faces this year.

We would like to recognize our winning foursome with a score of 52 and two-stroke win in a back nine playoff, Brien Rein, Mike Zolnier, Joshua McCarthy and John McCarthy. This year's event recognized all branches of the military and featured members of the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley on the 16th hole. The Vets raised funds for 100 wheelchairs and have their sights set on a return visit to Vietnam to distribute wheelchairs in the near future.

Thanks to our event sponsor Farmers Insurance, our course coordinators Beyond Golf and our organizing chairs Bob Herzog and Vladimer 'Val' Nunes, and volunteers. Your long hours and efforts raised nearly \$90,000 for wheelchairs this year! Thank you to Dreisbach Enterprises Inc., Genova Delicatessen, Silva's Sausage Company, FAZ of Danville, Bay Area Distilling, 21st Amendment Brewery, Heaven Hill, Neighborhood Sports Bar and Kitchen and Scott's Seafood.

Our golf tournament is held annually in August, and features gourmet food, games and good times on a challenging and beautiful golf course, and all for a good cause. Come join us for our 20th Drive Fore Mobility in 2023!









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:>>> Wheelchair Foundation's own Matt Beinke tees off leading his foursome to a respectable mid-pack finish. >>> Bob Herzog and the team from Farmers Insurance - our tournament sponsors this year. >>> John Reese, Lorrie Sammons and Dave , representing the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley, managed to raise enough to purchase 100 new wheelchairs for people in need of mobility. >>> Members of team Deisbach Enterprises Inc., we thank you for your support. >>>



Wheelchair

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GREAT GIFTS FOR YOU! Our thanks for your gift of mobilty!



With your donation of \$100 or more you will receive our incredible white triple function pen with flashlight and stylus!

Donate **\$200** or more and you will *also* receive a personalized certificate with a photo of a wheelchair recipient, sent in a beautiful presentation folder!







Donate **\$500 or more** and we will include our insulated grocery tote and our 6XFLIP - Power Bank as an additional token of our appreciation!



DONATING IS EASY, SAFE AND SECURE!

ONLINE: WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG
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