

# Changing THE WORLD



SPRING 2023



# A MESSAGE FROM DAVID BEHRING



Dear Friends,

Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self". It is the largest and oldest service organization in the world with over 1.2 million members from over 34,000 clubs in close to 200 countries. Rotarians have done more to eradicate polio than any other organization and much of their focus has been on improving health across the globe. Two former Presidents of Rotary International, Frank Devlyn and Richard King, saw the nexus between surviving polio victims and the provision of wheelchairs since so many were physically disabled. So, they contacted my father, Ken Behring, the founder of the Wheelchair Foundation, about forming a partnership. That relationship began in 2001 and in the last two decades Rotarians, Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and the Rotary Foundation sponsored approximately one fourth of the nearly 1.2 million wheelchairs we have delivered.

Along the way, we have helped not only tens of thousands of polio survivors but together we have greatly improved the lives of elderly people, victims of war and violence, those injured in natural disasters and accidents and those suffering from neuromuscular issues and birth defects. Delivering wheelchairs is a wonderful "hands-on" humanitarian project and the collaboration results in heartwarming stories of gratitude, cultural awareness and friendship.

In the following pages you will read about many recent Rotary wheelchair delivery experiences in Jamaica, Guatemala, Colombia and Mexico – just to name a few. You can also find us this May at our booth at the International Rotary Convention in Melbourne.

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.

Changing the World  
is published by:

Wheelchair Foundation,  
3820 Blackhawk Road,  
Danville, CA 94506  
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Winter 2023 Issue.

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A Division of Behring Global Educational Foundation  
Tax ID # 84-4053692

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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.....	11,829	Maldives.....	10
Armenia.....	3,244	Mali.....	1,060
Australia.....	292	Malta.....	240
Azerbaijan.....	280	Marshall Islands.....	140
Bahamas.....	3,955	Mauritania.....	100
Bangladesh.....	350	Mexico.....	182,048
Barbados.....	1,990	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.....	4,285
Bulgaria.....	530	Nicaragua.....	9,679
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.....	3,765
Chile.....	11,668	Palestinian Territories.....	1,906
China.....	486,208	Panama.....	18,300
Colombia.....	13,852	Papua New Guinea.....	2,420
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the.....	205	Paraguay.....	2,614
Costa Rica.....	10,603	Peru.....	16,317
Croatia.....	1,300	Philippines.....	11,585
Cuba.....	1,800	Poland.....	2,700
Cyprus.....	280	Portugal.....	990
Czech Republic.....	597	Puerto Rico.....	490
Dominica.....	280	Romania.....	4,341
Dominican Republic.....	10,023	Russia.....	2,230
East Timor.....	110	Rwanda.....	2,440
Ecuador.....	10,669	Saint Lucia.....	1,070
Egypt.....	1,168	Saint Petersburg.....	120
El Salvador.....	11,555	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	935
Eritrea.....	250	Samoa.....	1,360
Estonia.....	500	Saudi Arabia.....	20
Ethiopia.....	3,738	Senegal.....	630
Fiji.....	2,520	Serbia.....	2,625
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.....	24,040
Guam.....	250	Spain.....	500
Guatemala.....	11,468	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Guyana.....	250	Sudan.....	280
Haiti.....	5,660	Suriname.....	520
Honduras.....	9,114	Swaziland.....	1,970
Hungary.....	120	Syria.....	641
India.....	2,716	Tajikistan.....	720
Indonesia.....	3,340	Tanzania.....	5,038
Iran.....	3,880	Thailand.....	8,640
Iraq.....	4,300	Tonga.....	500
Israel.....	8,390	Trinidad & Tobago.....	6,485
Italy.....	580	Turkey.....	5,790
Jamaica.....	5,510	Turkmenistan.....	520
Japan.....	1,750	Uganda.....	11,987
Jordan.....	5,022	Ukraine.....	6,150
Kazakhstan.....	1,510	United States.....	42,475
Kenya.....	3,410	Uruguay.....	1,862
Kiribati.....	375	Uzbekistan.....	1,240
Korea, North.....	1,352	Vanuatu.....	250
Korea, South.....	5,700	Venezuela.....	4,460
Kosovo.....	1,300	Vietnam.....	14,936
Kyrgyzstan.....	1,500	Virgin Islands (UK).....	284
Laos.....	1020	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.....1,173,928

## DISTRICT 9350 - ROTARY E-CLUB OF GREATER CAPE TOWN DISTRIBUTES 240 WHEELCHAIRS THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN CAPE IN LESS THAN TEN DAYS!



The staff and patients at Du Noon CHC thanked the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town, South Africa, for their support and partnership in the community. The Du Noon Community Health Centre received nine wheelchairs from the E-Club and expressed their gratitude for the donation. They stated that the patients in their community have been waiting for almost six months and having access to a wheelchair will greatly improve their mobility and quality of life. Thank you Rotarians for your continued support of the people of South Africa.

*Wheelchairs Wine & Country*

Celebrating Wheelchair Foundation's 23rd Anniversary

*July 8th, 2023 | 5pm - 11pm*

Special Performance By  
Nashville Recording Artist:

**THE BRODIE STEWART BAND**

Details regarding the event and tickets sales will be annouced soon.

Visit [WheelchairFoundation.org](http://WheelchairFoundation.org) and sign up to receive the latest updates.

 Wheelchair Foundation

Blackhawk Museum  
3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle  
Danville, CA 94506  
[WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG)



# Jennifer Jones - President of Rotary International visits Por Amor Foundation in Medellin, Colombia

Contributed by Diego Velasquez



ABOVE: >>> Jennifer Jones, President of Rotary International, high-fives her way down the receiving line of new wheelchair recipients at Por Amor Foundation in Medellin, Colombia >>> RIGHT >>> A photo finish as President Jones shows off her wheelchair riding skills. A former co-chair of End Polio Now: Make History Today fundraising campaign, President Jones understands the importance of prevention and the need to care for those affected by all types of disability. >>>



The Conejo Valley Rotary Club – District 5240 has a strong commitment to making a positive impact in Central-South America and the Ukraine, with a history of involvement in six containers to Colombia from 2006 to 2018 and 16 total containers, more than 11,000 wheelchairs, across all regions from 2006 to 2022.

Jennifer Jones, the current President of Rotary International, recently visited the Por Amor Foundation in Medellin, Colombia, which provides essential services to vulnerable children and young adults in the area, including education, healthcare, and job training. During her visit, President Jones met with Sonia Uribe and other members of the foundation, learning about their work and witnessing its impact firsthand. President Jones highlighted the critical role that Rotary plays in supporting organizations like Por Amor and emphasized the need for continued collaboration to create lasting change.

Rotarians have several ways to get involved, including volunteering on the ground and supporting fundraising efforts. The visit by President Jones and the ongoing work of the Conejo Valley Rotary Club demonstrate the potential for continued collaboration and support for organizations like Por Amor and Wheelchair Foundation.

With the Rotary International Conference approaching in 2023, there may be additional opportunities for clubs to connect with organizations in the region and make a positive impact and change the world. Through their support of organizations like Por Amor, Rotary clubs are working to create a better world for all, and the potential for Rotary to make a meaningful difference in vulnerable communities around the world is clear.

# DISTRICT 5170 TRI-VALLEY EVENING ROTARY HELPING PROVIDE LITERACY AND MOBILITY IN GUATEMALA

Contributed by Sara Ennor and Glenn Tupper - Photos Glenn Tupper

The Tri-valley Evening Rotary's *Guatemala Wheelchair Distribution and Literacy Project 2023* aimed to provide mobility and promote literacy in Guatemala. The project distributed over 140 wheelchairs to poor and indigenous people in Guatemala City, Antigua, and surrounding villages with the help of experienced Rotarians and local clubs.

**Photographer and Rotarian Glenn Tupper allows us to see wheelchair distribution in rural Guatemala from his view:**



Norberta Sanchez Alvarez (above) is a 55-year-old polio survivor who has been confined to a basement room her entire life. Her father is her primary caregiver. She was a seamstress and her father runs a small store to earn some money for food. Glenn donated a wheelchair that was the first-ever shot at mobility for her. Glenn spent time with her, held her hand, and told her she was loved.



Hugo Leonel Pineda is a 23-year-old who lost his leg in a motorcycle accident. He is recovering at his mom's house in a bare room. He was working in carpentry before the accident.



Santos Xingo Gomez is a 7-year-old who is deformed from the waist down, suffers from severe mental disability, and has frequent outbursts of anger. His mother has two other children and one on the way. A wheelchair is a big help for her.



Demetrio Hernandez Lopez is an 81-year-old man who lives in a shack and was injured in a ladder accident 24 years ago. He is paid to watch over a property and keep vagrants/squatters away. His wife died three years ago from an infection sustained in a traffic accident. He has a super busted up wheelchair that he manages to drag with his feet. Receiving a new wheelchair is a life-changing event and will better allow Demetrio to exist with greater ease. He is a kind gentleman with a sweet smile. - Glenn Tupper



# DISTRICT 6960 ROTARIANS HELP SUPPLY NEARLY 4,000 WHEELCHAIRS FOR JAMAICA



The Wheelchair Foundation has been a partner with the Rotary Club of St. Andrew, Jamaica, and South West Florida Rotary Clubs (District 6960), since the inception of the club's wheelchair program in 2002.

Through this 20 year collaboration, the Rotary Club of St. Andrew has distributed 3,852 wheelchairs in Jamaica. The recipients of these wheelchairs are people who need them, but cannot afford them and do not have access to a wheelchair; mainly disabled persons, victims of accidents and illness, the elderly and infirmed. Wheelchairs are also distributed to organizations such as hospitals, children's and senior citizen's homes and disability organizations with knowledge of individuals in need of mobility.

The wheelchair program provides an excellent opportunity for the local club to work with nearly all Rotary Clubs in Jamaica and South West Florida and the clubs of District 6960. The Rotary Club of St. Andrews has also been fortunate to receive support and funding from other Rotary Clubs outside of Jamaica.

The entire wheelchair program in Jamaica is based on volunteerism, structured under the guidance of a committee within the club. The wheelchairs are stored at the work-place of a Rotarian and all the work for the program is done by Rotarians.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: >>> The long partnership among District 6960 Rotarians means that more local Jamaicans receive the gift of mobility. >>> Rotarian Gary Dworkin unboxing new wheelchairs upon arrival in Jamaica. >>> One of many new wheelchair recipients and those who made the gift possible. >>> A brand new wheelchair proudly displaying the patches of the sponsors of this donation. >>>



## WHEELCHAIRS FOR CHIAPAS AND TOBASCO DISTRICTS 5170 AND 4195 ROTARIANS REACH THOUSANDS IN NEED OF MOBILITY

Contributed by Bill Wheeler

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton's Wheelchair Program provides wheelchairs to people needing a wheelchair but unable to afford one. Since the Club first became involved in 2003, we have been able to deliver the gift of a wheelchair to more than 6,000 recipients. To date the focus has been on needs in Mexico, Central and South America and the Wheelchair Program has become the Club's largest and longest running International Service initiative.

Through various fundraising endeavors including partnering with the Wheelchair Foundation and other Rotary Clubs, focused fundraising events, and individual contributions, the Club has been able to maintain the goal of delivering at least one container of 280 chairs per year.

Partnering with District 4195 Rotarians allows for lasting fellowship and helps both communities and Rotarians. Providing mobility where it is needed reveals wonderful opportunities to make lives better. Rotarians delivering relief directly to recipient's homes, in person, exhibits the very soul of Rotary – Service above self.



TOP: >>> Wheelchair recipients, caregivers, and Rotarian Bill Wheeler providing mobility to senior recipients. >>> CLOCKWISE ABOVE: Home visits are a highlight, the chance to see how recipients live and how the donation of mobility helps is priceless. >>> Thumbs up for a new wheelchair from Rotarian John Patton Rotary Club of Pleasanton, CA. >>> Mango on a stick! >>> Everyone helps prepare, unboxing and assembling wheelchairs in Chiapas, MX. >>> LEFT: >>> Pleasanton, CA, and Chiapas, MX, Rotarians with a beneficiary of their joint effort. >>>



# season highlights

CHANGING THE WORLD



COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Photographer Glenn Tupper chats with a new wheelchair recipient in a village near Antigua, Guatemala. Her sister, in the background, selected a kid-goat as a gift for Glenn in exchange for his gift of mobility. >>> Longtime supporter and Drive Fore Mobility volunteer, Mark Ibanez, delivering a wheelchair to a young lady in Cabo San Lucas. >>> Rotary Club of Pleasanton, John Patton, with a young lady on her way to recovery from a leg injury and a mother relieved that she won't have to carry her daughter everywhere in her arms. >>> Walnut Creek Intermediate School Spanish Teacher, Angie Sterwart, gets a thumbs-up for a new red wheelchair with a recipient in Peru. Through Wheelchair Foundation's *From The Heart Schools* Program teachers and students raised funds throughout the school year to purchase wheelchairs and then traveled to Peru to personally donate them. They also exchanged letters back-and-forth with students and recipients, to learn a little more about one another. >>> The elderly and disabled being helped out of the way in war torn Ukraine. >>>







CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Jennifer Jones, President of Rotary International poses with a young wheelchair recipient on a recent visit to the Por Amor Foundation in Medellin, Colombia. >>> "Rotarian at Work" - Rotarians in Guatemala personally deliver wheelchairs to those who are unable to travel to a centralized location. Rotary's willingness to take extra steps into communities makes all the difference in the world. >>> Tri- Valley Evening Rotary provides wheelchairs to the young and elderly in Guatemala City. Guatemala's colorful indigenous dress always provides a stunning visual background (photo courtesy of Glenn Tupper) >>> OJ Disability Care Foundation Uganda shares a photo of Joseph Kaggwa from Masaka, near the shore of Lake Victoria, just north of the Tanzania border. OJ Disability Care Foundation partnered with the National Union of Women with Disabilities Uganda to provide mobility to women and girls with disabilities and other marginalized individuals. >>> DZHERELO Children's Rehabilitation Center workers in Lviv, Ukraine, pose with a kid's wheelchair. DZHERELO has been providing care for youth refugees from all areas affected by the war in Ukraine and surrounding countries. >>>





# DRIVE FOR MOBILITY GOLF TOURNAMENT PROVIDES WHEELCHAIRS FOR CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO

Contributed by David Behring



ABOVE: >>> Everyone who made this amazing trip and wheelchair distribution happen. We are thankful for the efforts of our District 4100 Rotarian hosts for their friendship and hospitality. >>> BELOW - CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: >>> Christine and Matt Beinke with son, Harrison, Steve Beinke with grandson Barron and Chris Pontious delivering a wheelchair together. Three generations of Beinke family members participate in providing wheelchairs and mobility. >>> Brothers Harrison and Barron with a new wheelchair recipient and a thumbs-up! >>> Barron and Harrison Beinke unpacking wheelchairs before recipients and caretakers arrive. The boys unpacked a lot of boxes! >>>

In February a group of 25 Wheelchair Foundation donors and supporters from the San Francisco Bay Area, California, journeyed down to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, to distribute wheelchairs. Each year we hold the Drive Fore Mobility Golf Tournament and we decided to use part of these proceeds this year to help 280 people in Mexico. We were accompanied by our two Chairs, Bob Herzog and Val Nunes, as well as our Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer, Mark Ibanez, a longtime popular television sports announcer.

The local Rotary clubs organized our main distribution of 50 wheelchairs at the Cultural Pavilion along with three very moving "home visits" just a few miles from the hotel and restaurant-packed main boulevard. We were joined by Victor Hugo Cabalero, the Governor of Rotary District 4100 and several Board members of Fondo Unido Rotario de Mexico.

As our group met the recipients and their families at the Cultural Pavilion, you couldn't help but notice the leg amputations on eight of the people. Diabetes is a very serious problem in Mexico and it turns out that this disease was the reason for the loss of their legs. We also engaged in conversations with several children who were affected by birth defects or some form of neuromuscular problem at an early age. The home visits, as you will read, enabled us to see how the individual and family members cope every day with the loss of mobility and makes us realize how fortunate we are to have excellent medical care and access to wheelchairs in the United States.





"Going to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico to distribute wheelchairs has been one of the most exceptional experiences of my life. Seeing so many disabled people is heartbreaking to me. Listening to their stories and what it meant to them to have mobility was truly eye opening for me. It was hard to grasp that in this modern World that such a large amount of people cannot move around because they cannot afford a wheelchair. I learned that, for the majority, people's inability to move around also meant, no work, no access to school, not being able to socialize with other people, not going outside, and not being able to do essential tasks in life.

A wheelchair grants freedom in life to move around independently. Seeing the gratitude, smiles and tears of joy is something that I will never forget. It inspires me to want to do more to help others, and because of this experience, I will."

Barron Beinke - 13-years-old

ABOVE RIGHT: >>> Don Davis, Whitney Doolittle, Eric Bambury and Averi Noel with wheelchair recipient, Jose. The group were able to meet Jose at his home and meet his family. >>> BELOW: >>> Everyone participating in a home delivery. >>>

"I really appreciated the opportunity to go on The Wheelchair Foundation distribution trip to Cabo San Lucas. It was an amazing experience. The first distribution was in a convention center downtown, and there were lots of people. I remember giving a wheelchair to a 6-year-old boy. He had a big smile on his face, and it really warmed my heart to see how happy he was to receive the wheelchair.

The second day we delivered wheelchairs to people's houses. We saw not only the person who was receiving the wheelchair, but their family and how they lived. When the people told their stories, they were all very sad, and made my heart sink. It made me realize how lucky I am. This experience really impacted my life, and how I want to do more to help other people. This was my first Wheelchair Foundation trip, and it won't be my last."

Harrison Beinke - 11-years-old



Don Davis, Longtime Wheelchair Foundation Supporter -

"This story is so sad to me that I cannot speak or write about it without bringing tears to my eyes. Five years ago, Jose was married with three kids ages 7, 8, and 9. Then they got in a major car accident, which killed his wife, and put him in a coma for three months. When he woke up from the coma, he asked the doctor what happened and where is his family, and was informed of the tragic event. Today he is paralyzed from the waist down and is a single widowed father of three kids ages 12, 13, and 14. He cannot work, and gets a government disability pension of \$300 per month. The 14-year-old works full time to help supplement the family income and was out working when we arrived at the home.

I entered the home with my fiancée, Whitney, and her sister Averi and her boyfriend Eric - the first distribution trip for them. His home was the size of an average hotel room with two mattresses on the floor, one for him and one for the three kids. Jose was sitting in an old broken wheelchair that looked like it was from the 1800s, and his 12 and 13-year-old boys were there to greet us. They spoke exclusively in Spanish. My Spanish is minimal and rusty but, on this day, I understood every word they said, and also spoke to them in Spanish. Jose was so grateful when Eric and I lifted him out of the old broken chair and put him in the brand-new Wheelchair Foundation chair.

After walking out of the home we were so touched that a few of us pitched in some pocket cash totaling \$100. I walked back into the home and gave him the cash and told him that we wanted to help in a small way with groceries or bills. To my mind, this was less than the typical night out to a casual restaurant in Danville. But to Jose and his family, it was windfall, representing more than a full week of his income. He was so shocked and excited as if he won the lottery and just looked at me and said "Dios lo bendiga". I looked up and then walked out teary eyed and feeling blessed for having the opportunity to meet Jose and his boys.

The rest of the day, I couldn't stop thinking of how fortuitous and relatively easy my life is. It certainly doesn't always feel like that to me, but I cannot imagine how difficult it would be to be a single father of 3 young kids, however even that would be a relatively easy life compared to being in the same situation as a paraplegic living in poverty. Jose has no wife and no money to hire help. His kids are his help. They do the grocery shopping, cooking, and cleaning, while he, like any good dad, teaches them values and lessons learned from his own life experience.

Thanks so much to everyone at the Wheelchair Foundation for all the work that went into allowing us to participate in this soul gratifying experience."

# YOU'VE RAISED YOUR FUNDS, NOW WHAT? THE JOURNEY OF A WHEELCHAIR

Contributed by Eva Carleton

It all starts with you and your generous donation. When a container is funded, we send the donation agreement to our partner organization in the beneficiary country to select the wheelchairs needed. Once we receive the completed agreement, we place the custom order with the factory in China. Now the wheelchair's journey starts.



The brand new shiny red wheelchairs are packed into a shipping container that is sealed, and then transported to a port in China. There they get loaded onto one of the many large containerships and start their voyage toward the destination country.

Just like flying continent-to-continent on an airplane, the ship makes several stops before it reaches the destination port. The key document that identifies the container is called a Bill-of-Lading, and it will be used along with other donation documents for the importation of the wheelchairs into the recipient country. Having an excellent and efficient partner organization in country is not only important for the distribution of the wheelchairs but also for the importation. Now we are much closer and the excitement increases.



LEFT TOP: >>> A&I - one of our manufacturing partners for decades, located near Hong Kong. >>> LEFT BOTTOM: >>> A loaded container ship leaving port. Look, in that white container are your wheelchairs! >>> TOP RIGHT: >>> Containers unloaded from the ship and onto trucks. >>> NEXT: >>> The truck with the container arriving at our selected storage location. >>> BELOW: >>> Upon arrival wheelchairs are prepped for distribution to individuals and organizations and facilities in need. >>>

At long last, the wheelchairs arrive in port at the destination country. Under good circumstances, the importation takes 7-14 days, and then we arrange for the inland delivery to the selected storage location.







And finally, we are ready to distribute the wheelchairs. Due to COVID and also new guidelines around disability, one can expect to distribute around 50 wheelchairs over several distributions during your visit. Often times home visits and one-on-one distributions are also possible, but it depends on the country. Home visits tend to be very powerful as they allow for an in-depth interaction.

Photographer Glenn Tupper accompanied a young Rotary volunteer delivering a wheelchair to 48-year-old Ana Patricia De Leon, living outside Guatemala City. Ana lives alone and can use a new wheelchair to add some much needed mobility to her daily routine.

Ana has scoliosis and lots of related back issues. Ana is quite poor. The grey chair with a torn cushion is the chair she sat in day-and-night for the past 11 years! Inside her place is a firepit where she cooks. The light coming in from the plexiglass in the back of her single room was a cool color. It was also the only source of light she has. There is no electricity in Ana's home and she lives directly behind a garage.

Her daughter comes by every other day to help with the chores and bathing, as she has to stand upright with a cane, and have water poured over her head. The little boy looking at her in the doorway is her 5-year-old grandson. The chance to help Ana in this simple way will make an enormous difference in her life. Thank you!

Wheelchair Foundation grants the gift of mobility to children, women and men around the world. They key to our success has always been good partners on the ground where the wheelchairs are being distributed.

We work with hundreds of our fellow NGO's, governmental and service organizations. Rotary and Rotarians internationally have supported the work of Wheelchair Foundation through acting as a distribution partner and host to our staff, our volunteers and donors for more than two decades. Thank you Rotary and Rotarians for your continued support.



**Your \$28,000 + Our \$28,000  
= 280 Wheelchairs  
Our Match Allows Little Clubs to do  
BIG THINGS!**

[www.wheelchairfoundation.org/get-involved/rotarians/](http://www.wheelchairfoundation.org/get-involved/rotarians/)

## DZHERELO CHILDREN'S REHAB CENTER AND THE BRIDGE OF LIFE PROVIDING MOBILITY RELIEF ON THE GROUND IN UKRAINE

Contributed by Edward Wayne, Jr.



LEFT: >>> DZHERELO Children's Rehab Center workers unload adult and pediatric wheelchairs in Lviv, Ukraine, February 2023. >>> ABOVE LEFT: >>> Anastasia, who has Multiple Sclerosis, uses her new wheelchair to care for her young daughter and her mother who recently broke her hip. >>> ABOVE RIGHT: >>> Lubov, who is 68-years-old, lives on her own and enjoys knitting and gardening, lost her leg to diabetes and depends upon her wheelchair for her independence. >>> BOTTOM LEFT: >>> Sashko receives a new wheelchair so that he may maneuver quickly when necessary, in Lviv, Ukraine. Conflict is especially hard on those with disabilities. Wheelchairs make getting around easier! >>>

**D**ZHERELO Children's Rehabilitation Center in Lviv, Ukraine, expresses gratitude for Wheelchair Foundation's solidarity and support during difficult times in Ukraine, including power supply issues and threats from cruise missiles. The organization DZHERELO Children's Rehabilitation Center, in addition to their regular work, supports the Ukrainian Armed Forces and provides crisis assistance to children in need. They have helped over 9,000 children receive psychological support and provide rehabilitation equipment, including wheelchairs, to refugees.

The rehabilitation center was excited to share that their team was successful in adapting a new wheelchair for a boy named Sashko, who can now move around more easily and safely during air raid alarms.

The Bridge of Life was founded by Edward Wayne Jr. and his wife, Tatjana Trickovic, with the mission to try every day to make a difference in the lives of children. With a goal for children to

be allowed to be children. They are currently active on the ground in Ukraine, delivering specialized aid where it is needed, including wheelchairs, and send the following:

"We have so many people who don't have money or relatives who can help and they are not able to buy a wheelchair at all. Without a wheelchair they would stay in their dark rooms and beds forever.

With the wheelchair many of them are able to go out on the street and have a very active life. Some of them are able to move around their own apartment and can cook meals for themselves. Any independence is a victory!

We are helping clinics around parts of Ukraine that have been occupied and are now free. We took 2 wheelchairs to each of the First-5 clinics, focused on early-childhood health and education, in Kherson Region and we will take 10 more to the clinics in the Mykolaiv Region very soon." - Edward Wayne Jr.





# A WHEELCHAIR FOR EVERY WOMAN, MAN OR CHILD IN NEED OF MOBILITY IN THE STATE OF NEVADA - 11,500 WHEELCHAIRS AND STILL GOING

Contributed by John Williams



**W**e are happy to say we have 600 new wheelchairs arriving in Nevada in a few months, possibly many more specialty wheelchairs for our youth who need specialized seating systems for their specific needs.

Don Williams, President of the Nevada Wheelchair Foundation, recently passed away at his home surrounded by family and friends. Don and the Wheelchair Foundation had the same goals - making sure people can get mobility, even when they can't afford or access a wheelchair.

Don, who lived and conducted business in Las Vegas, decided to help all residents of Nevada. That is how Nevada Wheelchair Foundation began in 2002. Don trusted this adventure to his brother John who has 50 years of nonprofit experience.

None of what we accomplish would be possible without the help of Richard Harris Law Firm, G. Dallas Horton Law Firm, Las Vegas Rotary club, Lions - District 46 and many individual volunteers, A7FL Football League, many local news networks, Vegas Healthcare and Vegas Heals.

Nevada Wheelchair Foundation is a proud member of the Las Vegas and Henderson Chambers of Commerce. We are happy we work with the Las Vegas Fire and Metro police when needed.

Almost 12,000 brand new wheelchairs have been provided to the people of Nevada since Don proclaimed his goal. Don will be missed but not forgotten.

ABOVE LEFT: >>> Gley was diagnosed four-years-ago with Multiple Sclerosis and her mobility ability quickly diminished over the past year. No longer able to work due to her progressing MS, she received her wheelchair today which brought joy to her and her boyfriend. "We are overjoyed!" they said. The couple then went to the mall! >>> ABOVE RIGHT: >>> Giovanni is nine-years-old and has spent his life to this point in a stroller. We were able to provide a KANGA tilt-in-space adjustable pediatric wheelchair to make his life easier and Giovanni more comfortable.



**Do you live in Nevada and need a wheelchair?**

**Nevada Wheelchair Foundation**

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Las Vegas, NV 89113

Phone Number 702-900-3362

E-mail: [john@nevadawheelchairfoundation.org](mailto:john@nevadawheelchairfoundation.org)

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# Wheelchair

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