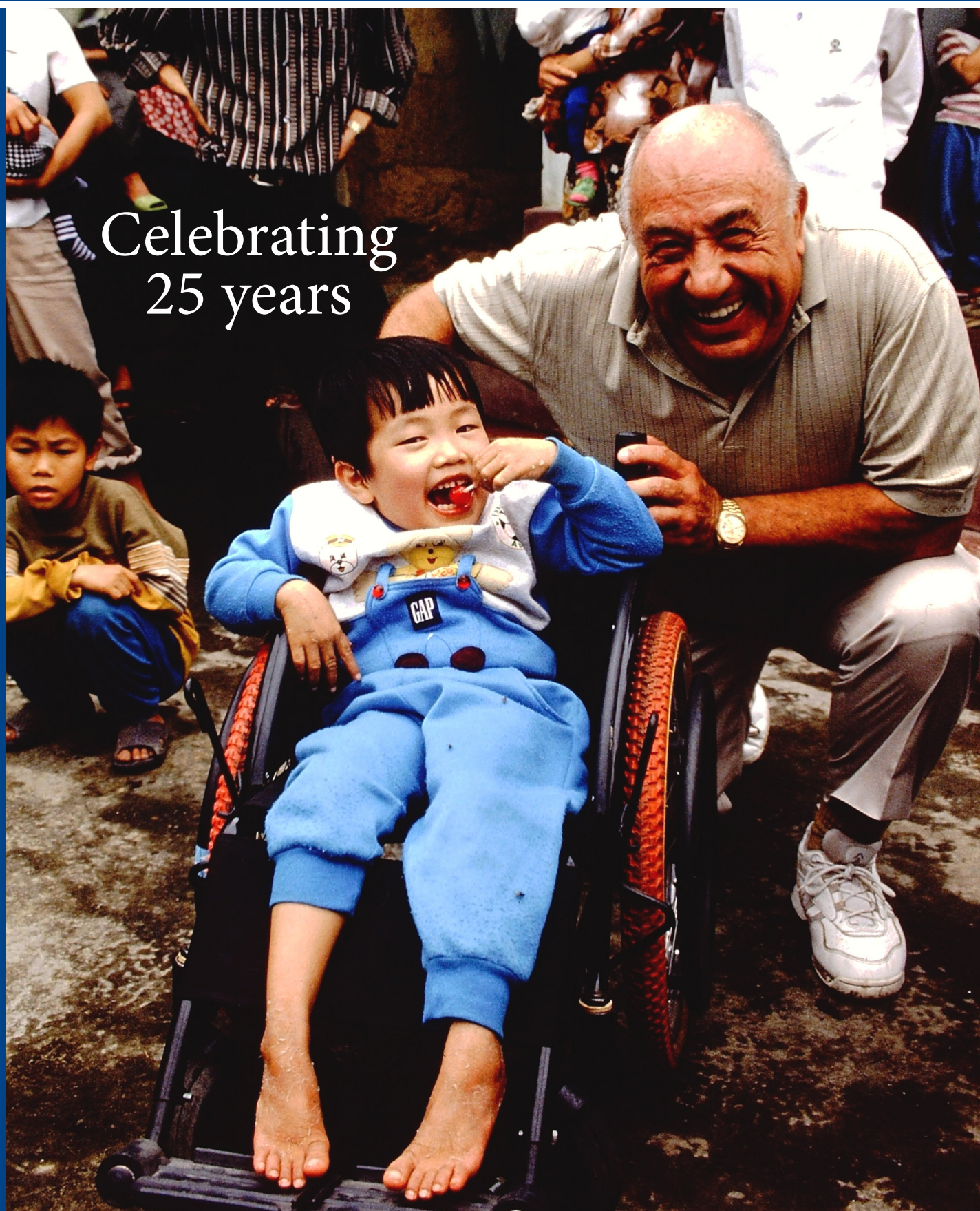


# Changing

THE WORLD



Celebrating  
25 years



SUMMER 2025



## A MESSAGE FROM DAVID BEHRING



Dear Friends,

When my late father, Ken Behring, announced on June 13, 2000 that he was launching a non-profit organization to distribute wheelchairs across the world in an effort to end immobility, we had no idea that we would be celebrating the Wheelchair Foundation's Silver Anniversary entitled "Journey of Hope" in 2025. And celebrate we did – with a large Gala at the Blackhawk Museum featuring Emmy Award winning television anchor Dan Ashley, music by the "Camp Jeff All Stars Rock and Roll Band", a fabulous Live Auction and a terrific keynote speaker, Matthew Scott, who is a two-time Paralympic Gold Medalist in wheelchair basketball. It was our most successful Gala ever and raised over \$300,000 for wheelchairs.

As I look back at our accomplishment of providing wheelchairs to 1,220,000 people while also helping the ten million caregivers for those individuals, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our thousands of donors, volunteers and in-country organizations that made this all possible. Their dedication and compassion made our job so much easier and we wish that we could personally thank each one of them.

The recipients of our wheelchairs are the heart and soul of our mission. It is their smiles, tears of joy, embraces and handshakes that always leave an indelible impression on us. They teach us about strength and resilience in dealing with hardship, love of family and community support. We look forward to our role in improving lives and creating global friendship and hope that our founder, Ken Behring, is looking down on us with the same huge smile he had while giving someone a wheelchair.

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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Wheelchair  
FOUNDATION

A Division of Behring Global Educational Foundation  
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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.....	12,876	Maldives.....	10
Armenia.....	3,244	Mali.....	1,060
Australia.....	292	Malta.....	240
Azerbaijan.....	280	Marshall Islands.....	140
Bahamas.....	4,415	Mauritania.....	100
Bangladesh.....	350	Mexico.....	187,113
Barbados.....	2,270	Micronesia.....	1,265
Belarus.....	990	Moldova.....	1,720
Belgium.....	280	Mongolia.....	1,320
Belize.....	3,855	Montenegro.....	120
Benin.....	280	Morocco.....	5,470
Bolivia.....	6,904	Mozambique.....	1,660
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	2,040	Myanmar (Burma).....	1,100
Botswana.....	1,958	Namibia.....	466
Brazil.....	2,305	Nepal.....	5,075
Bulgaria.....	530	Nicaragua.....	10,409
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.....	4,005
Chile.....	11,668	Palestinian Territories.....	2,181
China.....	497,346	Panama.....	20,820
Colombia.....	14,372	Papua New Guinea.....	2,680
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the.....	205	Paraguay.....	2,614
Costa Rica.....	10,603	Peru.....	17,297
Croatia.....	1,300	Philippines.....	12,605
Cuba.....	1,800	Poland.....	2,700
Cyprus.....	280	Portugal.....	990
Czech Republic.....	597	Puerto Rico.....	490
Dominica.....	280	Romania.....	4,341
Dominican Republic.....	11,029	Russia.....	2,230
East Timor.....	110	Rwanda.....	2,440
Ecuador.....	11,209	Saint Lucia.....	1,070
Egypt.....	1,168	Saint Petersburg.....	120
El Salvador.....	11,795	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	935
Eritrea.....	250	Samoa.....	1,360
Estonia.....	500	Saudi Arabia.....	20
Ethiopia.....	3,998	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.....	3,090	Solomon Islands.....	110
Greece.....	520	Somalia.....	88
Grenada.....	280	South Africa.....	24,550
Guam.....	250	Spain.....	500
Guatemala.....	13,088	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Guyana.....	250	Sudan.....	280
Haiti.....	5,660	Suriname.....	520
Honduras.....	10,120	Swaziland.....	1,970
Hungary.....	120	Syria.....	641
India.....	2,716	Tajikistan.....	720
Indonesia.....	3,340	Tanzania.....	6,318
Iran.....	3,880	Thailand.....	8,640
Iraq.....	4,300	Tonga.....	500
Israel.....	8,110	Trinidad & Tobago.....	6,735
Italy.....	580	Turkey.....	5,790
Jamaica.....	6,050	Turkmenistan.....	520
Japan.....	1,750	Uganda.....	13,337
Jordan.....	5,022	Ukraine.....	6,871
Kazakhstan.....	1,510	United States.....	43,995
Kenya.....	4,770	Uruguay.....	1,862
Kiribati.....	375	Uzbekistan.....	1,240
Korea, North.....	1,352	Vanuatu.....	250
Korea, South.....	5,700	Venezuela.....	4,966
Kosovo.....	1,300	Vietnam.....	16,036
Kyrgystan.....	1,500	Virgin Islands (UK).....	284
Laos.....	1,020	Virgin Islands (US).....	280
Latvia.....	740	Western Sahara.....	153
Lebanon.....	2,430	Zambia.....	2,646
Lesotho.....	1,060	Zimbabwe.....	3,600
Liberia.....	780		

**TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.....150+**  
**TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS.....1,214,427**

**ROTARY CLUB OF CONEJO VALLEY AND FRANCES YUKLIN CHUNG LIVING TRUST JOIN FORCES WITH ROTARY CLUB OF ACCRA-EAST**



In late October of 2024 a dream was realized when the Rotary Club of Conejo Valley and Frances Yuklin Chung Living Trust partnered with Rotary Club of Accra-East to deliver 280 wheelchairs in Ghana. Following three years of fundraising District 5230 and District 9104 Rotary Clubs of Accra-East, Conejo Valley and E-Club One World deliver wheelchairs to Hope for Life in Nungua, Patang Hospital, Up and Shine Foundation, Nsawam, Hope for Life, Nasoa, Challenged Children Foundation International, Cape Coast, Mephiboseth Training Center, Apam Junction, Akosombo Inclusive Hub, and Accra Rehabilitation Center.

**ROTARIANS JOIN FORCES TO PROVIDE WHEELCHAIRS FOR ECUADOR**



In 2024 Rotarians from District 7570, lead by longtime Wheelchair Foundation supporter, Woody Sadler, traveled to Guayaquil, Ecuador to distribute wheelchairs to those without resources or access to mobility. This project was supported by four Rotary Districts – 7570, 4400, 7610, and 7670 and included contributions from Rotary International for the purchase and delivery of KANGA specialized seating wheelchairs for individuals with more complex mobility needs. Travelers were hosted by Rotary Club of La Puntilla and Crea Esperanza en el Mundo. Thank you to all who supported and participated in this awesome work. Photo by Glenn Tupper.



# WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION FLORIDA HOSTS A STAR-STUDED TROPICAL CELEBRATION FOR OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Contributed by Scott Ford

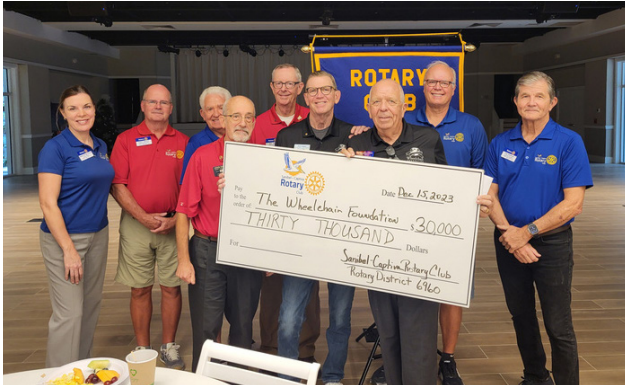


CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: >>>Former Major League Baseball player, Nelson Cruz, delivers a powerful message of unity and gratitude during our 25th Anniversary celebration in support of the Dominican Republic. >>> Agent - Bartolo Hernandez, Master of Ceremonies -Tony Dandrades, Behring Global Educational Foundation President -Steve Beinke, Wheelchair Foundation Florida's Scott Ford and Jose Rosario promoting our efforts to provide wheelchairs and mobility to those in need in the Dominican Republic. >>> Distinguished guest Dr. Cruz Jiminian and members of The National Council on Disability (CONADIS) join us in celebrating our 25th Anniversary, as honored partners and future beneficiaries of the nearly 3,000 wheelchairs we will be sending to the Dominican Republic. >>>

The newly established Wheelchair Foundation Florida team is closing out the spring season with an impressive list of accomplishments. The team – consisting of Scott Ford, Karla Granados and Jose Rosario – established their new storefront at 2400 East Commercial Boulevard, in Fort Lauderdale. From that location, the trio has been working hard to expand the Wheelchair Foundation brand throughout the regional market, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. With 2025 being the Wheelchair Foundation’s 25th

anniversary year, the Florida team celebrated this momentous achievement with a gala event at the iconic Fontainebleau Hotel in beautiful Miami Beach, Florida. With nearly 240 attendees dressed in their finest “Tropical Formal” attire, nearly \$500,000 was raised....and the goal of providing 2,500 wheelchairs for the Dominican Republic was exceeded! Later this year, 2,900 wheelchairs will be delivered to the DR. This amazing event created many new relationships which will create lasting impact for those in need of mobility.





With all of that momentum, in April the Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club held their sixth annual "Howard S. Danner, Jr., Wheels for Wheels Cycling Challenge", to raise support for sending wheelchairs to Ecuador. More than \$30,000 was the final total for that event. The club has raised over \$132,000 to provide more than 1,400 wheelchairs to people in need of mobility. Amazing partners!

Scott and Karla have been active with Rotary clubs in Weston, Florida and Ft. Lauderdale, respectively. Scott has been working closely with donors from the Weston club to write a grant through the Rotary International Foundation. An identified need for wheelchairs has been documented by the Rotary Club of Grand Bahama, in the Bahama Islands. This \$30,000 grant request looks to be very favorably vetted and received by the funders. An update on this grant will be shared in the next newsletter.

During his lengthy career working in Spanish language media, Jose Rosario has established professional relationships with many international radio and television personalities, as well as governmental leaders from numerous countries. In the last two months Jose connected Wheelchair Foundation with Ambassadors, Consul Generals and political leaders from several Latin American countries and cities throughout Miami-Dade County. Due to Jose's connections, Scott was able to speak directly with the Dominican Ambassador to the US, on the day of the tragic building collapse in Santo Domingo, killing more than 200 people. Our expression of solidarity and shared grief at the devastation was received and appreciated by the Ambassador. These are the types of new relationships which will help promote our brand and bolster our mission. Finally, Karla and Scott worked with local donors who provided a container of wheelchairs to be distributed throughout Broward County, Florida. We are grateful to the Marvin H. Weiner Foundation for their generosity, and ongoing commitment.

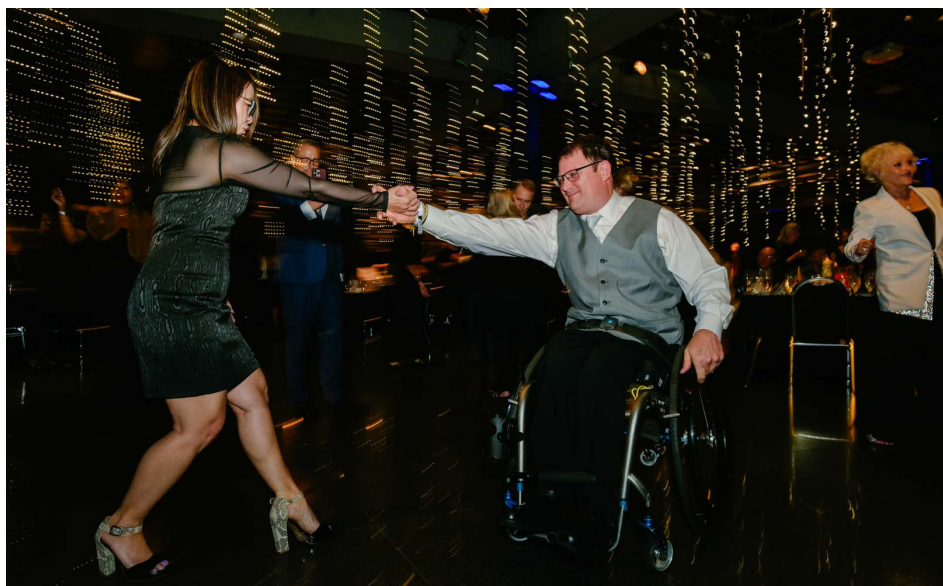


Local donors also provided 280 wheelchairs for distribution in Mombasa, Kenya, which were recently distributed. Enjoy the photos! This particular donor is also planning to (soon) send more wheelchairs to Africa, next time to Zimbabwe.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: >>> Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club hosts their sixth-annual Howard S. Danner, Jr., Wheels for Wheels Cycling Challenge raising more than \$30,000 for wheelchairs for Ecuador. >>> Local donors in Florida funded 280 wheelchairs for distribution in Mombasa, Kenya with Rotary District 9212. >>> Wheelchair Foundation Florida's Scott Ford presents a copy of Ken Behring's "The Road to Leadership" to Coral Gables Commissioner, Melissa Castro.

# Wheelchair Foundation 25th Anniversary Gala



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Josh Routh, co-founder of the From the Heart Schools Program, shows us all how it's done as he cuts up the dance floor. We made sure it was a party, with the "Camp Jeff Allstars" providing the tunes (David Sikes on bass, Jeff Tamelier on guitar, Darby Gould on vocals, Jesse Brandman on vocals and keyboard, Jeff Campitelli on drums). >>> Kenneth E. Behring in Colombia, doing what he loved, providing mobility and making friends. >>> No party is complete without ice sculptures, courtesy of West Coast Events Group. >>> Our distinguished guest speaker for the evening, Matt Scott, five-time Paralympian and two-time Gold Medalist in wheelchair basketball, provided encouragement, valuable insight and great appreciation for our cause. >>> Our supporters and guests enjoying our evening's entertainment - African drumming, our great Master of Ceremonies - Dan Ashley and a wonderful evening of sharing the spoils of the gift of a wheelchair - Hope, Mobility and Freedom! >>>

**O**n the evening of March 22nd, we gathered in celebration of a milestone—25 years of transforming lives through the gift of mobility. The evening was not just a reflection of the past, but a testament to the unwavering dedication of our supporters, whose generosity had made it possible to continue the mission set forth by our founder, Kenneth E. Behring.

Ken Behring was a visionary whose compassion knew no borders. From his early successes in business to his profound impact in philanthropy, his life was defined by a deep commitment to helping others. In 2000, after personally witnessing the life-changing power of a wheelchair, he established the Wheelchair Foundation to bring mobility—and hope—to those in need. Over the following 25 years, this mission reached millions across the globe, spanning five continents and countless communities.







CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: >>> We were honored by the turnout of longtime supporters and volunteers of Wheelchair Foundation. Many in attendance had been involved with our cause for decades, and had personally traveled to donate wheelchairs in person. Thank you. >>> ABOVE: >>> Responsible for more than 11,000 wheelchairs in ten countries - Diego & Ana Valezques with David Behring. BELOW: >>> The Camp Jeff Allstars provided classic rock-and-roll for all and were joined on stage by our MC, Mr. Dan Ashley for a few numbers. >>> Guests were treated to an exhibition of Flamenco and Tango Dancing and were then invited to join and learn a few steps. Fun times for all in attendance at the beautiful world-class Blackhawk Museum in Danville, CA USA. >>>

Ken believed that one wheelchair could change a life, but a world of wheelchairs could change humanity. His tireless work not only provided mobility but also fostered dignity, independence, and inclusion for those who had been left behind. His legacy continues to thrive, thanks to each and every one of you.

Your support had been the driving force behind every wheelchair delivered, every life touched, and every smile restored. As we celebrated this remarkable journey, we recognized that we could not have done it without you—our generous donors, partners, and friends.

We have honored the past, celebrated the present, and looked forward to a future where no one would be left without the gift of mobility. Thank you for being part of that incredible journey. Together, we are carrying Ken's vision forward—one wheelchair at a time.



We would like to acknowledge our sponsors and donors who made this event possible: Ralph Hertelendy – Hertelendy Vineyards, Don Van Laeken – AXR Napa Valley, Rob Lloyd – Lloyd Cellars, Fred Zammataro – Schramsberg, Annika Honig – Honig, Scott Bigelow – Scott's Wine Taste/Boisset Collection, Bill O'Keefe - Safti First, Dreisbach, Seeno Homes, Josh and Don Routh – From the Heart, Dosanjh Family Auto Group, John Muir Health Foundation, Sheriff David Livingston, Danville San Ramon Rotary Club, Pleasanton Rotary Club, Dan Ashley – MC, Mathew Scott – Guest Speaker and Big Frank – Auctioneer.





# season highlights

CHANGING THE WORLD



COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Behring Global Educational Foundation President, Steve Beinke with Country Super Star, Jason Aldean, MLB Great, Nelson Cruz and Sports Agent, Bartolo Hernandez celebrate at our 25th Anniversary Gala in Florida. >>> Ongoing efforts to provide wheelchairs to those in need of mobility in Ukraine. As the conflict there wears on, the need for wheelchairs continues to increase. Thank you to all who support this noble work. >>> Joel Hodge, Program Director and Eva Carleton, Director of Latin America and Logistics for Wheelchair Foundation. Together these two represent more than 55 years of humanitarian aid distribution experience and a shared passion for serving the poorest-of-the-poor. >>> Paul and Debbie Kavanaugh get acquainted with the recipient of a specialized wheelchair in Argentina. For more than 15 years, the Kavanaughs have dedicated their efforts to improving lives one wheelchair at a time. Thank you! >>> Longtime supporter, Richard Flanders, and fellow Rotarians from District 5170 partnered with FURMEX (Fundo Unido Rotario de Mexico) to distribute wheelchairs in Mexico City. Their donation included KANGA seating and positioning systems to serve those recipients needing specific postural support. >>>







CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: >>> Old timers - The crew (and frequent passengers) of N287KB - Ken Behring's private jet, which delivered thousands of wheelchairs globally over the past 25 years. From Left: Phil VanderWilt, Eva Carleton, Joel Hodge, Carol VanderWilt, Alice and Tim Hablitzel and Charli Butterfield. >>> Michael Beinke with his children in Cabo San Lucas. This represents the third generation of the family becoming involved in wheelchair delivery and experiencing the joy of helping others. >>> Venezuelan music group *Rincon Morales* share the gift of mobility with 16-year-old Venessa Boscan. "We want to help you with much love and affection, from our hearts, this gift that Father God sent to you using Wheelchair Foundation. We publicly acknowledge our gratitude to the Wheelchair Foundation. Thank you to Mr. Luis Alberto Urrea Castano for being the ambassador and representative in this beautiful labor. God bless you!" >>> Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley, California, traveled to Vietnam in November of 2024. The group was able to deliver wheelchairs across the country thanks to the support and hard work of Helen and Antoine Duong and the Red Cross in Vietnam. This is the work of a more than 20 year partnership that continues to provide support to both American Veterans and the people of Vietnam. Thank you to all who contributed and continue to support this work. >>>





## ROTARY CLUBS DELIVER MOBILITY ASSISTANCE IN BOLIVIA

Contributed by Eva Carleton



In October 2024, a dedicated group of approximately 20 Rotarians from Rotary Districts 7570 and 7610 Virginia embarked on a mission to Bolivia, led by Past District Governor Woody Saddler and his wife Lori. The Rotary Club of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, our valued mobility partner, organized the agenda and distributions among many other tasks. They were with us every day, joking, laughing, and crying. International friendship at its best.

The initial distribution occurred in Santa Cruz de la Sierra at Cerniquem – a center established by the Rotary Club Santa Cruz de la Sierra specializing in the treatment and rehabilitation of burn victims. Subsequently, the team traveled to the Chiquitania region, known for its Jesuit heritage, including historic churches and a vibrant musical tradition stemming from the Jesuits' emphasis on music education. This area is renowned for the Archivo Musical de Chiquitos, a repository of over 5,000 Baroque-era musical manuscripts preserved since the colonial period. On the long bus rides, it never got boring as whole shawls, hats and other items were knitted.

In the towns of Chiquitos, we happily gave to children and adults, many of whom arrived carried by caregivers or using dilapidated mobility aids. The direct involvement of U.S. and Bolivian Rotarians along with the Wheelchair Foundation underscored the profound impact of mobility on individuals and their families. For caregivers and families, it alleviates physical strain and emotional stress, fostering a more inclusive environment. This mission exemplifies Rotary's commitment to service and the enduring power of mobility to change lives.

## PAUL & DEBBIE KAVANAUGH PARTNER WITH CILSA ARGENTINA TO DISTRIBUTE WHEELCHAIRS

Contributed by Eva Carleton



In November 2024, the sun-drenched city of Mendoza, Argentina, nestled at the foothills of the Andes Mountains, became the backdrop for a profound act of kindness. Paul and Debbie Kavanagh, long-time benefactors of the Wheelchair Foundation, orchestrated a mission to deliver mobility and hope to those in need. Their dedication to humanitarian efforts spans over 15 years, including support for a girls' school in Cambodia and numerous global aid initiatives. This particular endeavor holds special significance for Paul, a former lawyer who has consistently championed the cause of mobility assistance.

Wheelchair Foundation collaborated with CILSA, a prominent Argentine non-profit organization specializing in mobility and social integration. CILSA's extensive network and deep understanding of the community were instrumental in identifying beneficiaries and facilitating the logistics of the distribution.

The distribution events were marked by a series of poignant moments that highlighted the profound impact of the Kavanaghs' generosity. Specialized wheelchairs, tailored to meet the unique requirements of the recipient ensured not just mobility but also comfort and dignity. Throughout the distributions, Paul and Debbie engaged personally with each recipient, listening to their stories, sharing in their hopes, and offering words of encouragement. Their genuine compassion and hands-on involvement resonated deeply with the community.



# A Journey of Impact: Wheelchair Distribution in Lima, Peru

Contributed by Eva Carleton

In November 2024, 6 Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Pleasanton and one spouse embarked on a meaningful journey to Lima and Arequipa, Peru under the leadership of Past Rotary President Dick Stafford. Their mission was simple yet profound: to provide mobility and dignity to those in need through the gift of wheelchairs. Working alongside the Rotary Club of San Borja Sur, which had coordinated the logistics, beneficiary selection, and daily agenda, the visiting Rotarians immersed themselves in a deeply moving experience.

The first distribution took place in a very elegant setting—inside the office building of the mayor. The contrast was striking: the grandeur of the architecture and the raw emotion of those receiving a life-changing gift. Each wheelchair delivered in that space represented newfound independence, bringing relief not only to the recipients but also to the families who had long struggled to care for them.

The following days took the team beyond the city's well-manicured streets and into the outlying districts of Lima, where the reality of daily life was far more challenging. Unpaved roads, makeshift homes, and limited resources painted a picture of perseverance in the face of hardship. But nothing was more powerful than one particular home visit—a moment that would forever remain in the hearts of those who witnessed it. Navigating a steep, unpaved hill, the Rotarians carried a wheelchair into a humble shack where a mother was raising several children. One of her sons, unable to walk, had never had the opportunity to move freely on his own. When the team presented him with a wheelchair, his reaction was unforgettable. In that tiny space, surrounded by his family, the boy leaned forward and, with no hesitation, wrapped his arms around Rotarian Bill Wheeler in a heartfelt embrace. It was a pure expression of gratitude, a reminder of why they had traveled so far—to make moments like this possible.

Through this journey, the partnership between the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, the Wheelchair Foundation, and the Rotary Club of San Borja Sur proved that mobility is more than just movement—it is freedom, dignity, and hope



ABOVE: >>> Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, California with their Peruvian counterparts from the Rotary Club of San Borja Sur. >>> BELOW: >>> Before (left) and After (right). Although a wheelchair bears a monetary cost, the value it affords a recipient in need of mobility and the family that supports that recipient, is immeasurable. Here a young mother who has carried her son for years receives help in the form of a wheelchair. The boy is now afforded more access to education, healthcare and socialization, while his mother is freed to attend to household responsibilities and the freedom to work and help her child thrive. This is truly a life-changing gift - the gift of hope, mobility and freedom. Thank you to everyone who made this work possible. >>>





# Sharing the Gift of Giving This Easter

Contributed by Charli Butterfield



**E**aster 2025 became a true celebration of compassion, connection, and community. Eric Bambury and Averí Noel led a remarkable initiative, purchasing an entire container of wheelchairs to be distributed across Baja California. Traveling to Cabo San Lucas with six children, extended family, and two sets of grandparents, they embodied the spirit of giving—together.

Longtime supporters of the Wheelchair Foundation, Don Davis, Whitney, and their son Luca, joined the mission. Steve Beinke, President of the Behring Global Educational Foundation, brought two of his children and three grandchildren. Altogether, nine children ranging in age from 5 to 18 gathered on Saturday, April 19th, to assemble 55 wheelchairs. With joyful dedication, they wheeled each one out personally to greet the recipients—offering not just mobility, but dignity and independence.

This multigenerational effort was supported by volunteers from both the Rotary Club of La Paz and the Rotary Club of Cabo San Lucas. Special thanks to Victor Hugo Caballero, Past District Governor of La Paz, and Pepe Acosta, along with their fellow Rotarians, who helped select the perfect location and made the day seamless and memorable. Easter Sunday brought even more meaningful moments. Tears of joy, warm embraces, and thoughtful Easter baskets

**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:** >>> This Easter wasn't just about giving - it was about doing so together, as families united in service, love and hope. Thank you to all who contributed! >>> Behring Global Educational Foundation President - Steve Beinke unpacks and assembles wheelchairs with his son and grandchildren in Cabo San Lucas. >>> Nicolas, one of our young adult travelers, delivering a wheelchair to a home-bound man. We encourage youth to get involved and participate through our *From the Heart Schools* Program. >>>



accompanied visits to five homes, where wheelchairs were delivered directly to individuals unable to attend the distribution event.

This Easter wasn't just about giving—it was about doing so together, as families united in service, love, and hope.



# Farewell to the Wheelchair Foundation Nevada Chapter: A Heartfelt Goodbye and a Legacy of Mobility

Contributed by John Williams



**W**e are filled with both sadness and gratitude as we announce that the Wheelchair Foundation Nevada Chapter will be closing its doors this May, after many years of providing the gift of mobility to more than 11,500 Nevada residents in need.

As the director of the Nevada Chapter, with my wife Ivy by my side through much of this journey, it breaks my heart to step away from a foundation that has touched millions of lives around the world. I extend my deepest thanks to the Behring family and the dedicated staff of the Wheelchair Foundation. A special acknowledgment goes to my brother, Don Williams, whose vision and drive helped launch the Nevada Chapter and who played a key role in securing thousands of wheelchairs through the foundation's matching grant program.

For years, if you searched for "wheelchairs in Nevada," we were the top result. Politicians, business owners, friends, and family all came together when needed—unloading containers, transporting wheelchairs across the state, and doing whatever it took to get help to those who needed it.

What I'm most proud of is that the Nevada Chapter has been powered by 99% volunteer support. From office work and deliveries to organizing events and handling public relations, our incredible volunteers made everything possible. David Behring, thank you for the

many wonderful years of service as your state director. I truly feel that my life and purpose have been fulfilled through this work.

To the Rotary Clubs, Lions, Kiwanis, and the many other nonprofits who partnered with us: thank you for your unwavering support. If you're reading this, I encourage you to continue working with the Wheelchair Foundation. It truly is one of the finest nonprofits in the world. From myself, John Williams, my wife Ivy Williams, and the hundreds of volunteers who made up the Nevada Chapter: thank you.

We also take this moment to honor a remarkable companion and advocate. The Nevada Wheelchair Foundation mourns the loss of Sara Marie, a 32-year-old Capuchin monkey who brought joy, comfort, and support to countless children and adults living with permanent mobility disabilities.

Sara Marie passed away peacefully following a courageous battle with cancer. Her life was one of compassion and inspiration, and her legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of those she touched.

As we close this chapter, we invite everyone to celebrate the life and contributions of Sara Marie—a true hero who made the world a better place.

# Wheelchairs for Vietnam

Contributed by: Antoine 'Jet' Duong



**M**y wife Helen and I have known the Behring family since 2004. Since then, we've been honored to help organize multiple fundraisers and wheelchair distribution trips to Vietnam with David Behring and the Wheelchair Foundation.

In February 2024, the Wheelchair Foundation partnered with Viet Dreams to host a powerful fundraising event featuring Vietnamese diva singer Y Lan and top designer Le Thanh Hoa. Thanks to our generous supporters, we raised enough funds to send two full containers of wheelchairs to Vietnam.

As always, David entrusted us to coordinate on the ground. Our trusted partner, Travis Tran of Sapio Vietnam, led the local efforts—working with the Red Cross to identify recipients, secure permits, and arrange logistics for transport and distribution. His team also organized all domestic travel and accommodations for our volunteers.

Every trip presents unique challenges. This time, Typhoon Trami hit northern Vietnam, causing severe flooding and shutting down major ports, including Hai Phong—where our wheelchairs were supposed to arrive. Thanks to Travis and his determined team, who literally camped near the port entrance, we managed to retrieve the wheelchairs intact.







During this mission, we visited six key areas: Go Vap (near Ho Chi Minh City), Caritas of Xuan Loc, Ninh Thuan, Hue, Vinh Phuc, and Thai Binh. These regions are among the poorest and most remote in Vietnam. Some required 3–4 hour bus rides, but our team remained committed and upbeat, knowing each wheelchair not only helps one person, but eases the burden for entire families.

We met people living with unimaginable hardship—disabled by Agent Orange, traffic accidents, or disease—some surviving on less than \$50 a month, in small huts designed so they don't need to move far. Every story

brought tears, yet also showed hope and gratitude. These moments remind us why this work matters so deeply.

We thank the Behrings, the Wheelchair Foundation, its donors, and our incredible volunteers. For many Vietnam veterans who join us, these trips offer healing and a chance to see a vibrant, welcoming Vietnam beyond the memories of war.

If you'd like to be part of something truly meaningful, join us on the next journey. We'd love to show you the beauty—and heart—of Vietnam.





# Wheelchair FOUNDATION

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