

# Changing THE WORLD



ESTABLISHED JUNE 2000

## Youth and Philanthropy



SUMMER 2008

## A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



Ken Behring  
with Elementary School Donors.

On June 13th of this year I turned 80 years old. This is a milestone in life as measured by most, and certainly a reason to celebrate and rejoice. This quarter we revisit Youth and Philanthropy, and we take a moment to recognize the support and enthusiasm young people of today share for the work that Wheelchair Foundation is doing around the world.

Growing up as a youngster during the Great Depression, even though we were poor, we were surrounded by a strong sense of community. And that idea of helping others in need was taught and learned through example and experience.

In these modern times there is a newly immersing world community. The natural act of looking out for one another in times of need now spans the globe rather than just the neighborhood. With cell phones, text messaging, the internet, blogs and who knows what is next, the youth of America and the world are creating the community of the future that will care for and look out for one another. This new sense of community also allows us to react and provide help much more rapidly than ever before, as we've been able to do in Chengdu, China following the recent devastating earthquake.

Those of us with a few more years behind us can still help lead and inspire current and future great generations of humanitarians. Many of us have known about the rewards of helping others for decades, and many are just learning. So, I thank all of the students, old and young people who support the mission of Wheelchair Foundation and work to help people worldwide with the gift of a wheelchair.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Behring ~ Founder & Chairman

# 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

Over the next five years, the Wheelchair Foundation aims to deliver one million 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.

### Cover Photo:

Brittany Watson

### Changing the World

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## WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED

Afghanistan.....	6,630	Lesotho .....	1,060
Albania.....	550	Liberia.....	780
Algeria.....	640	Lithuania.....	1,090
Angola.....	4,590	Macedonia.....	760
Antigua and Barbuda.....	280	Madagascar.....	1,030
Argentina.....	8,151	Malawi.....	3,040
Armenia.....	2,964	Malaysia.....	3,940
Australia.....	292	Mali.....	520
Azerbaijan.....	280	Malta.....	240
Bahamas.....	1,460	Marshall Islands.....	140
Bangladesh.....	240	Mexico.....	111,499
Barbados.....	560	Micronesia.....	1,390
Belarus.....	990	Moldova.....	1,720
Belgium.....	280	Mongolia.....	1,320
Belize.....	2,520	Montenegro.....	120
Benin.....	280	Morocco.....	4,530
Bolivia.....	4,904	Mozambique.....	1,660
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	1,480	Myanmar (Burma).....	500
Botswana.....	1,688	Namibia.....	466
Brazil.....	2,305	Nepal.....	3,165
Bulgaria.....	530	Nicaragua.....	5,775
Burundi.....	520	Niger.....	240
Cambodia.....	3,200	Nigeria.....	1,310
Canada.....	560	N. Mariana Islands.....	410
Cape Verde.....	780	Oman.....	280
Central African Rep. ....	240	Pakistan.....	3,175
Chile.....	7,788	Palestinians/Israel.....	1,906
China.....	234,145	Panama.....	6,221
Colombia.....	9,105	Papua New Guinea.....	2,080
Congo, The Democratic		Paraguay.....	2,344
Republic of the.....	205	Peru.....	8,871
Costa Rica.....	6,455	Philippines.....	7,520
Croatia.....	1,300	Poland.....	2,160
Cuba.....	6,020	Portugal.....	990
Cyprus.....	280	Puerto Rico.....	490
Czech Republic.....	597	Romania.....	3,252
Dominica.....	280	Russia.....	2,110
Dominican Republic.....	8,848	Rwanda.....	2,200
Ecuador.....	7,199	Saint Lucia.....	560
Egypt.....	1,168	Saint Petersburg.....	120
El Salvador.....	5,785	Saint Vincent and the	
Eritrea.....	250	Grenadines.....	280
Estonia.....	500	Samoa.....	1,360
Ethiopia.....	2,928	Senegal.....	520
Fiji.....	1,620	Serbia.....	2,090
France.....	560	Sierra Leone.....	2,230
French Polynesia.....	280	Somalia.....	88
Georgia.....	1,030	South Africa.....	13,860
Ghana.....	2,240	Spain.....	500
Greece.....	520	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Grenada.....	280	Sudan.....	280
Guam.....	250	Suriname.....	240
Guatemala.....	7,863	Swaziland.....	1,860
Guyana.....	250	Syria.....	641
Haiti.....	1,820	Taiwan.....	756
Honduras.....	6,284	Tajikistan.....	480
Hong Kong.....	970	Tanzania.....	3,268
Hungary.....	120	Thailand.....	7,270
India.....	2,716	Tibet.....	331
Indonesia.....	3,100	Tonga.....	500
Iran.....	3,880	Trinidad & Tobago.....	2,444
Iraq.....	4,300	Turkey.....	4,990
Israel.....	7,720	Turkmenistan.....	520
Italy.....	580	Uganda.....	4,304
Jamaica.....	3,000	Ukraine.....	5,070
Japan.....	1,750	United States.....	29,994
Jordan.....	5,022	Uruguay.....	1,632
Kazakhstan.....	1,510	Uzbekistan.....	1,240
Kenya.....	2,820	Vanuatu.....	250
Kiribati.....	250	Venezuela.....	1,580
Korea, North.....	552	Vietnam.....	13,316
Korea, South.....	5,380	Virgin Islands (UK).....	284
Kosovo.....	1,300	Virgin Islands (US).....	280
Kyrgyzstan.....	1,240	Western Sahara.....	153
Laos.....	780	Zambia.....	2,170
Latvia.....	740	Zimbabwe.....	2,320
Lebanon.....	2,430		

TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS ..... 152

TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS ..... 710,229

For current totals visit [wheelchairfoundation.org](http://wheelchairfoundation.org)

# Newslines

## Palm Beach Gardens Rotary Club



PBG Rotary Club Donates Wheelchairs.

Palm Beach Gardens Rotary Club and Wheelchair Foundation donate wheelchairs to Hospice of Palm Beach County. “Our motto is ‘Community Service – Service Beyond Self,’ which we feel is a natural tie to Hospice of Palm Beach County because of the valuable service they bring to our community. It is always our pleasure to support this fine organization knowing that these wheelchairs will make a difference in the quality of life of their patients.”, said Dan Carbone, Palm Beach Gardens Rotary Club President.

## China Earthquake

On the morning of May 13th, the Chinese city of Chengdu, in Sichuan Province, was hit by a devastating 7.9 magnitude earthquake. Immediately the Rotary Club of Foster City, California was able to direct funds for 1,000 wheelchairs for those disabled by falling buildings and other injuries. The first of these wheelchairs were expected to arrive on June 20th.





# Local Knights Hold “Wheelchair Sundays”



Since September of 2007 the Knights of Columbus in the San Gabriel Valley of California have held five Wheelchair Sunday parish drives to raise funds for the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation.

It all started at a clergy appreciation dinner held by the San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the Knights in December of 2006. At the dinner, Fr. Gerard O'Brien, pastor of the Assumption Church in Pasadena, heard a presentation about the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation and decided that he wanted to help. Fast forward to September of 2007, Fr. Gerard had been promoting the first Wheelchair Sunday with his local Knights of Columbus council. The drive was a huge success, and a full container of 260 mountain bike tire equipped wheelchairs were delivered in partnership with the Catholic Church in Vietnam.

To date, the parish drives held at Assumption Church, St. Therese, St. Christopher, St. Francis of Rome and St. Denis in the San Gabriel Valley have raised over \$150,000 and are sending wheelchairs to Vietnam, the Philippines, Mexico and Poland.

At the Texas and California State Conventions of the Knights of Columbus, Wheelchair Foundation Director of Public Education Chris Lewis debuted the new “Wheelchair Sunday” video that showcases the parish drives and is loaded with information about the wheelchair mission as well as commentary from the priests involved in the drives. These DVDs are available to all Knights councils around the world by contacting Chris Lewis at [clewis@wheelchairfoundation.org](mailto:clewis@wheelchairfoundation.org).

In Supreme Knight Carl Anderson's New York Times Best Selling book titled “A Civilization of Love,” Carl writes about his personal experience giving away wheelchairs in Mexico. “Having hope brings joy. Giving hope brings joy. That hope and joy could be seen in every person present – in the love of the families who had carried and cared for a child or a parent for so long and even in those who were alone in the world, forced to test the strength of the community....giving a wheelchair was an inexpensive way to change a life in a dramatic way.”



Knights Wheelchair distribution in Vietnam.



The altar of St. Christopher Church ready for the Wheelchair Sunday video presentation.



Knights Vietnam wheelchair ceremony.





Knights give a wheelchair to Sister Juana Reyes in Puebla, Mexico.



St. Christopher - Student Art.



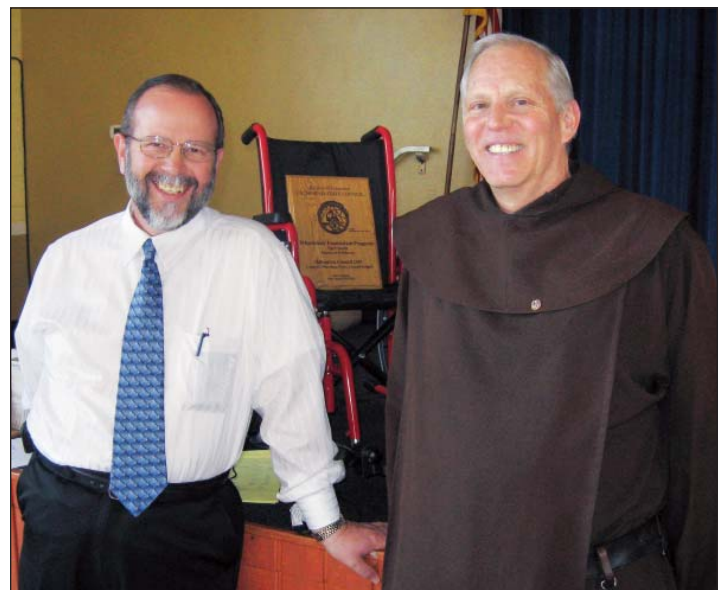
Knights Carrying a woman to get her wheelchair in Mexico.



Knights San Gabriel Valley Chapter President James Baker and Deacon Jim Crowley at the Clergy appreciation dinner.



Knights Fr. Maguire council members Joe Salaiz and Christopher Jacobo flank California KOC Wheelchair Coordinator Dan Moberg.



Dan Moberg and Fr. Jan Lundberg at St. Therese.



# Angel Wrap Up Wheelchair Foundation



The Wheelchair Foundations Angel Program came to a close on April 30, 2008. We would like to thank our donors who participated to make this program such a success. The top Guardian Angel was Jeanne C. with 202 referrals. The program raised \$206,133 and ended with 700 members.

## Top 8 Guardian Angel Members:

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| ☒ Jeanne C. 202 Referrals | ☒ Ashley B. 56 Referrals |
| ☒ Gordon H. 138 Referrals | ☒ Glen M. 50 Referrals   |
| ☒ Diego V. 56 Referrals   | ☒ Austin W. 50 Referrals |
| ☒ Minoo M. 56 Referrals   | ☒ Hannah H. 50 Referrals |

**“Only a person who cannot walk really appreciates the reality of a wheelchair.”**

He is tough as nails, and at 75 years old, as strong as a young man. He is probably as well known as “The President of Guaymas, Mexico” as he is by the name friends use to address him, “Nacho.” I used to see Nacho walking through town selling newspapers. Later I noticed that he had lost a leg and was in a wheelchair. He has no family; caring for himself has been difficult.

I admire Nacho. He has no adiciones. He does not beg. He works all day selling newspapers. He goes all through town, uphill and down hill, with small six inch movements of the wheel, never stopping. He carries all his worldly possessions tied to all sides of his chair.

A bright spot in Nacho's life was when he received a brand new wheelchair from the Wheelchair Foundation. Only a person who cannot walk really appreciates the reality of a wheelchair. There are many foundations in the world, but few that meet the needs of the many persons who are incapacitated and do not have the resources necessary to purchase an expensive and necessary wheelchair and are thus confined to their home. THANKS SO VERY MUCH to the Wheelchair Foundation for their wonderful and thoughtful gift. – Brother Ivo Toneck



Brother Ivo Toneck and Nacho.

## Drive Fore Mobility Golf Tournament

**August 25, 2008**

**Blackhawk  
Country Club  
Danville, California**

Home of the LPGA  
Longs Drugs Challenge



Thanks to the generous contributions from last year's event, the Drive Fore Mobility 6th Annual Golf Invitational raised over \$100,000!

**For more information  
contact:**

Pete Petrovich, Chair  
Pacific Communications  
(925) 634-1203  
Larry Marx, Co-Chair  
Global Health & Education  
Foundation (925) 648-3860  
Beyond Golf  
Tournament Coordinators  
(925) 680-4653

For details, please visit our  
website at  
[www.wheelchairfoundation.org](http://www.wheelchairfoundation.org)



- Putting Contest
- Longest Drive
- Chip in the Boat
- Food Concessions
- Buy Your Drive
- Cigar Bars
- Holes In One
- Celebrity Appearances!

**Sponsorships- Donate a wheelchair in each  
player's name per four-some!**

### Platinum: \$7,500

Includes 3 foursomes, 12 certified and delivered wheelchairs, tee sign, all media, advertising at event, 8 extra dinners and memento.

### Gold: \$5,000

Includes 2 foursomes, 8 certified and delivered wheelchairs, tee sign, all media, advertising at event, 4 extra dinners, and memento.

### Silver: \$2,500

Includes foursome, 4 certified and delivered wheelchairs, tee sign, some media, advertising at event, 2 extra dinners, and memento.

(all above levels include green fee, cart, tee prizes, wine & hors d'oeuvres reception, awards dinner and auction)

Single \$500- Hospitality Booth \$1,000

Tee Sign - 1 for \$300 or 2 for \$500



Presented by  
**The California Pipe Trades**

# Investing in Mobility and Giving of Yourself

Because he is a business man, Val Nunes tries to get a good return on every investment he makes. "I want a good return on the money I donate to Wheelchair Foundation. What else are you going to do with \$150 that will have such a big impact on someone else's life?!? A wheelchair is a life changing investment!"

Val and his wife Belia have been involved in supporting Wheelchair Foundation for nearly seven years now and have traveled to more than 12 countries around the world specifically to distribute wheelchairs. Years ago they were part of the core group of individuals who started Wine for Wheels ([www.wineforwheels.org](http://www.wineforwheels.org)), which they both actively support and use as a model to get others involved. "It's a way of coming together with people for a common cause and contributing to something positive."

Val, who is the Vice President of Sales at Dreisbach, a refrigerated logistics company in Oakland, California, has encouraged his company and business partners to get involved with Wheelchair Foundation. This led to a partnership between Dole Foods, Dreisbach and Wine for Wheels, and provided hundreds of new wheelchairs to the people of the Philippines earlier this year.

"We loved the Philippines! One of the recipients who came to the distribution in Mindanao rolled himself up on a plank of wood

with wheels on it. He addressed the crowd at the distribution and told us that he was '45 years old and had been rolling around on that piece of wood for 30 years. And for the very first time he was able to sit up and feel like a man.' He told us about all the places he couldn't go because he couldn't access them with his plank with wheels on it. I told him that it was a shame that he had to wait 30 years for someone to help him out and we pledged to send more wheelchairs to



Val and his wife Belia.

Mindanao. The Dole executives who hosted and participated in the distribution would later say 'this project was the greatest thing that we have been able to do for the people of our community!'

"Our experiences have given us so much in return for our work. When we travel with Wheelchair Foundation we are the people who are out in front of the crowd. But, we are not the 'heros' here. The people who stay with the disabled everyday are the 'heros.' The people who care for them, bring them their wheelchairs and get them food. These people do these things out of love, but it is a tremendous feat! To bathe someone, feed them, dress them, take care of them, etc, takes a lot of selfless heroic work every day and that has taught me an incredible amount about compassion and conviction.

"When you go out and help people, there is a part of you that knows when you help someone, you are doing something good but you also give of yourself. And you sacrifice some of yourself in doing so. One of the most valuable lessons I have ever learned came from Ken Behring. He told us 'Give, and get involved. A smile is reward enough for your efforts, and the act of "giving" is in itself a "gift"'

"Everyone should go on a wheelchair distribution. On every trip you meet and make friends. And we are always motivated to do



Val and Belia Nunes in China with a happy recipient.



Val in Panama with child recipient.



# season highlights



Over  
**710,000**  
Wheelchairs  
Delivered . . .

THIS PAGE, COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:  
>> JIFC members at San Diego State University raise funds during Greek Week 2008. >> Tyson Elementary Students accept \$500 check from Springdale, Arkansas Rotarians. >> Thousands of College Students from all over Utah attend annual Rock-the-Block Party benefiting Wheelchair Foundation. >> Shocking Earthquake Aftermath in Chengdu, China prompts rapid response from Rotary International and Wheelchair Foundation. >> Longtime Foundation Supporter Val Nunes adjusts footrest on tearful recipients new wheelchair. >> University Student and Rock-the-Block Coordinator, Meegan Small, makes a new friend in Lima, Peru.







THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Tyson Elementary School Students from Springdale, Arkansas begin their third annual Walk for Wheels which raised \$7400 for Wheelchair Foundation this year! >> Wheelchair Foundation President, David Behring, and student Gus Ruckman assemble wheelchairs in Guatemala. >> Dr. Scharleen Colant and wheelchair recipient Chumreow Jumla celebrate the gift of a wheelchair together in Thailand. >> Elementary students give a presentation about Philanthropy using Wheelchair Foundation Founder Ken Behring as an example of success. >> Young and old alike benefit from the gift of a new wheelchair in Cambodia. >> Wheelchair supporter Dana Moldovan with young recipient in Pitesti, Romania.

# Millions

## of Lives Changed in the Spirit of Giving





# Youth and Philanthropy

*For many years Wheelchair Foundation has been bringing the plight of the disabled and less fortunate to the eyes of the world. Among those who have responded with the desire to help others in need, the youth of America have certainly been doing their part to see that friends, relatives – and often times people they may never meet in person – receive help, relief and opportunity in the form of a wheelchair. We would once again like to feature some amazing accounts of young people taking initiative to reach out and help mankind...*



SDSU Students Reaching Out.

This past year for Greek Week at San Diego State University it was decided that the Greek community would raise funds for the Wheelchair Foundation. We used many different approaches to fundraising including a promotion for the Wheelchair Foundation at the Padres baseball game, which many Greeks attended. We also played “Beach Greek Games” and had a “Penny Wars” money drive with decorated containers for each sorority and fraternity. The SDSU Greeks alone raised \$30,000 which was then matched by the Conejo Valley Rotary Club for a total of over \$60,000! The money raised went toward wheelchair donations for the countries of Colombia, Ecuador, Ukraine and Romania.

I was fortunate enough to go on the wheelchair distributions in Colombia with Conejo Valley Rotarian Diego Velasquez and his family as well as three other SDSU students; Jenn Bjorklund, Josh Shiel and Tim Velasquez. This was my first trip outside of the United States so naturally I was a bit apprehensive, but I was also

excited about the experiences that were awaiting me.

We began the trip by visiting a few past wheelchair recipients and we spoke with them about how having wheelchairs has changed their lives. One recipient, a college student named Carlos, inspired all of us with his positive drive and attitude. He told us how his wheelchair has given him so much independence and enabled him to return to school to finish a degree in chemical engineering, which he never could have done had he not received his wheelchair.

Later that day we had our first wheelchair distribution. During this event I became very emotional at the sight of how much joy these chairs gave, not only the recipients, but also their families. The wheelchairs are a great gift for the people who need them, and just as much a gift for everyone involved in their lives.

This trip to Colombia was an amazing experience for me and all of the students I was with!

– Chloe Marx, GHEF Intern



## ~ Rock the Block ~ A Party with a Purpose

Rock the Block is a student organization based in Provo, Utah. Our events are held in a parking lot with help from nearby businesses and city authorities. "Rock the Block" is a party that begins with local bands and food donated from local vendors. After dark, it becomes a DJ'd dance party with 4,000 to 6,000 students from all over Utah. Student volunteers set up, work security, and collect donations for Wheelchair Foundation.

In May, 2007, seven of us who worked on the project went to Lima, Peru for our first delivery. We went with a Seattle Rotary Club that co-sponsored the shipment. We gave out 280 wheelchairs that we and the Club had donated.

This was a life changing experience for me. Recipients ranged from young children to the elderly, none of them independently mobile. It was my chance to see the work that the Wheelchair Foundation does. Unable to speak Spanish, I was still able to understand the gratitude in the tears of the recipients. We played with the children and got some of the elderly to smile. This was such a moving trip for me that I now major in non-profit management. I hope to better the world after my graduation.

For our upcoming delivery to Bolivia, in summer 2009, we have been appealing to corporate and private sponsors for their help. Our



Rock the Block ~ Janessa Erikson with recipient - Lima, Peru.



Rock the Block Crew in Lima, Peru.

goal is \$21,000 by November 2008! We will host "Rock the Block" in July and September to continue to motivate students to get involved. Companies like Desert First Credit Union have offered to match the funds we collect from students on the nights of the events.

During our events, we'll have a big screen that displays pictures and video clips from our trip to Peru. We have worked with local news agencies to bring attention to our cause. Anyone interested in donating to our project, please email us at [rocktheblockfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:rocktheblockfoundation@gmail.com).

- Megan Small, Rock the Block Coordinator



Rock the Block Megan Small and Eric Chambers with son of a recipient, Lima, Peru.



## This is How Cal Poly Rolls!

The Cal Poly chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation had a very successful year. The team will send 100 wheelchairs to Malawi, Africa as well as send money to build a water well and fund an educational endowment of \$100,000 for orphaned children in the country.

Twenty-five dedicated college students spent the past year raising money for the poorest people of Malawi, Africa. The team enjoyed hosting events like the Halloween Movie Night fundraiser, a photo exhibition of last year's team in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and an end of the year fundraising Gala Event, which all helped bring awareness to the plight of the physically disabled.

The team's energy and conviction inspired families, friends and community members to join the cause and give the gift of mobility.

The members of the Cal Poly Wheelchair Foundation have a true passion for service and their far-reaching efforts to help people from all walks of life will certainly make a difference for one of the poorest countries in Africa.

- Jackie Pugh

*Cal Poly Wheelchair Foundation, Media Relations*



Lynn Metcalf, Jeff and Jessica Behring, and Val Nunes.



## Meet Brittany Watson

Brittany is a Junior at Carondelet High School in Concord, CA. And along with being an outstanding and very active student, she has made time to volunteer and get involved with Wheelchair Foundation. Brittany learned about the mission of Wheelchair Foundation from her father. Helping people without wheelchairs who are in need of mobility struck home for her because her own grandmother needed a wheelchair for mobility. "Without her wheelchair, my Grandma wouldn't have been able to come and see me perform at my ballet recitals, she wouldn't have been able to attend my swim meets, and she and I would have missed out on many opportunities to spend time together."

This personal connection with someone in a wheelchair compelled Brittany to ask others to get involved with Wheelchair Foundation as well. "I was amazed that my \$75 could go so far toward helping someone else and change their life!" She convinced her school administration to allow her fellow students in the National Honors Society to sell hot cocoa to their fellow students and used the proceeds to sponsor two wheelchairs to people in need.

Inspired with her early success, Brittany next reached out to 200 friends and businesses and managed to raise \$8,200 with her appeal. When asked what she would like to do next she says, "I want to raise more money for Wheelchair Foundation with my classmates, and I want to go on a wheelchair distribution and give someone a wheelchair in person. I think that would be a wonderful experience."



Brittany Watson.

## Tyson Tigers



Embracing the theme of doing something important for others, Tyson Elementary students led by teacher Cathy Crouch, earned enough money during the academic year to sponsor 98 wheelchairs that will be distributed to people in need all over the world.

For the third consecutive year this Springdale, Arkansas school raised nearly \$6,000. Combined with gifts from Tyson Foods, Inc., Weyerhaeuser and the Springdale Rotary Club, the fund grew to \$7,400!

"We encourage our students to perform random acts of kindness," said Tyson Principal Lola Malone. "This is a project to help others. The students were to earn the money, not ask for it, so they would be giving from their hearts."

Crouch added, "When we are asked to give a donation, we don't go to someone else for it. We have to decide whether or not we want to give from the money we've earned from our jobs. This teaches our students the same principle."

Fifth-grader Will Jasinski, who gave \$75, said, "I saved my birthday money and my Christmas money because it feels better to help someone who needs a wheelchair more than buying something to play with." His father, Bill, who works at Tyson Foods and accompanied the students as they walked to Tyson headquarters south of the elementary school, added, "This is great for our kids. They are proud to bring whatever amount they are able to give. Tyson is a great school. Mrs. Crouch does so many amazing things."

Two of the wheelchairs were used in the students' march to Tyson's offices. One by a young lady recovering from injury and another by a student who suffered a broken ankle.

"Neither of these students would have been able to participate without use of the wheelchairs," Mrs. Crouch observed.

"We want to improve every year," Crouch said. "It's important for our kids to learn the joy of giving."



Tyson Tiger Willie Jasinski's Poster Design - 4th Grade



## Kyle Malanowski



Jack Drury and Kyle Malanowski.

Kyle Malanowski, a fourteen year old eighth grade student at The North Broward Preparatory School in Coral Gables, Florida has been collecting money for the Wheelchair Foundation through Project Wheelchair, a community service project that he created.

Kyle began Project Wheelchair in December of 2007 by sending flyers to friends and family as part of a Christmas card mailing. He later created a website, [www.projectwheelchair.org](http://www.projectwheelchair.org), to keep track of his donations and to keep people informed of his fundraising progress. He has been working closely with South Florida Wheelchair Foundation representative Jack Drury.

Kyle has continued his letter campaign and has currently raised \$8,250 from contributors in ten different states. Kyle hopes to participate in a wheelchair delivery trip in the future. "I have had a great experience working for charity and encourage others to do the same! I have seen how people respond so positively to the efforts made by today's youth to reach out and work for a cause they feel deeply about."

## Diego Velasquez

For the past several years, a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Canejo Valley, California has been very visible in the promotion of the Wheelchair Foundation mission. Diego Velasquez and his fellow Rotarians have raised money to sponsor the delivery of 3,360 wheelchairs to people in Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Romania and Ukraine.

Born in Medellin, Colombia, Diego came to the US in 1980 to study at Cal State Northridge, met his wife Anna and 28 years later is the proud father of three wonderful children. Earlier this year, his son Tim showed a Wheelchair Foundation video to his San Diego State University fraternity, and they decided to dedicate their school-wide "Greek Week" charitable efforts to the Wheelchair Foundation mission. \$30,000 was raised! Then Tim and several classmates accompanied a container of wheelchairs to Colombia in May to help with the distribution in several cities – changing the lives of wheelchair recipients, and their own lives in the process.

Diego is a prime of example of how one man with a passion for helping others can connect 30 Rotary Clubs, hundreds of Rotarians, thousands of college students and every member of his family in an effort to make a difference in the lives of people around the world.



Diego Velasquez helps a young man in Colombia.

## Local Kids, Global Impact

Due to the tremendous success programs at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo State University, we are extremely excited unveiling a new program this year, Student Based Fundraising. We hope to welcome thousands of students across the nation into our fundraising family at the Wheelchair Foundation. As of this publication, UC Berkeley is also one of our partners. Our goal is to recruit 50 schools in the 2008-2009 school year.

As Program Director for Student Based Fundraising, I will keep everyone updated about which schools are on board,



upcoming events, new opportunities to get involved, as well as new ideas for fundraising that are being developed. If you would like to get involved or facilitate one of our student based fundraisers, please feel free to contact me.

This is a great opportunity to partner with our alumni and look forward to hearing

**Health & Education Foundation**

**Program Director, Student Based Fundraising**  
[vguel@ghefoundation.org](mailto:vguel@ghefoundation.org) (925) 648-3867



# Cruising Around Southeast Asia with Dr. Scharleen Colant

"I'd like to send containers of wheelchairs to Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. I'm going on a cruise and we will be stopping at these ports-of-call to sightsee."

"Why not give people wheelchairs along the way?" I suggested.

"That would be wonderful! Let's set it up!" she replied.

And so, this April, Dr. Colant boarded her cruise ship and departed on the trip of a lifetime...

Her busy schedule did not allow her to attend the distribution of the wheelchairs she had sponsored for Vietnam. But, by the time she arrived in Cambodia and traveled inland to Siem Reap, everyone aboard the cruise ship knew about Scharleen's wheelchairs and her upcoming "side excursion" to deliver them.

In Siem Reap, Dr. Colant was met by Mr. Chao Chhong and Mr. Narith Chan who escorted her to the wheelchair distribution nearby.

"I have to tell you, talk about a life changing experience! I don't mean to sound cliché; I've had many "life changing experiences" in my life time, but nothing like this! The people I met were amazing, they hugged and they kissed and they smiled and it was just unbelievable! They were so gracious!" I got to greet each and every one of the recipients, including an 81 year old woman who wouldn't let go of my hand. And the men made me a purse, and how did they know my favorite color was purple?! I cherish it."

In all, 120 disabled people received wheelchairs from Scharleen in Anlong Veng District in Oddor Meanchey Province. Most were distributed to individuals in outlying areas, directly to their households.

In Thailand Melissa Drake from Forever Love Foundation met Scharleen at the dock when she arrived. Melissa took Scharleen to The Disabled Centre for Adult Men and Women, a Bangkok facility that cares for disabled adults who have been abandoned by their own families.

"I went around and spoke to everyone and they were so gracious. I was shaking hands with a darling little boy about 4 years old and I said, 'now you can run anywhere you want!' And he told me with a big grin through the translator, 'Now I can chase girls!' He was delightful.

"After we all had lunch together, there was a discussion about an elderly lady



Dr. Scharleen Colant in Cambodia.

for whom we did not have a wheelchair. Nearby there was a young man who overheard us saying that we were lacking a wheelchair. He had only stumps about half way down his knee from stepping on a land mine, and he had been waiting for his wheelchair for many months. He approached us and got out of his wheelchair and insisted that we take it and give it to the lady. I was truly impressed by this selfless act. (Forever Love Foundation delivered a new wheelchair to the young man at his home the following day).

"When I went back to the ship the porters asked, 'Is the mission accomplished?' and I said, 'yes!' Then I went to the check-in desk and the consignee asked me if I had given away my wheelchairs, and I just started crying. He quickly went and got the Cruise Director for fear that something was wrong. The Cruise Director knew about what I was doing and I told him about my wheelchair experience and we cried together. It made me so happy! Every time I think about Siem Reap and Bangkok I think about "my people." For the rest of the cruise people would stop me on the deck and ask me about the wheelchairs and they were fascinated!

"Everyone should have the opportunity to do this, to sponsor a wheelchair and give it to someone along the way in their travels. They have no idea what they're missing. I would go around the world to give a wheelchair to someone if I knew it was going to help them. This experience has given me something in my life that I never ever expected." - Joel Hodge, Program Director, Wheelchair Foundation



Dr. Scharleen Colant in Thailand with recipient.



# The Worldwide Need for Wheelchairs

People require the use of a wheelchair for many reasons: accidents, birth defects, war injuries, debilitating diseases and advanced age, just to name a few...

- One of the most horrific causes of disability worldwide can be attributed to landmines or unexploded ordinance (UXO). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), every year more than 29,000 people are injured by landmines or UXO around the world. This number does not include unreported cases or those who are killed by the explosions.

- An estimated 100-150 million people worldwide need wheelchairs, though less than one percent own or have access to one. The number of physically disabled is likely underestimated, due to the difficulty in accounting for “forgotten” citizens who spend their lives hidden from sight.

- It is estimated that the number of people who need wheelchairs will increase by 22 percent over the next 10 years, with the greatest need existing in developing countries.

- In developing countries, only a small percentage of those who need wheelchairs have them, forcing dependence upon family and friends to get around. For others, the only way to get around is to crawl, or lie in a bed or corner of a room for years at a time.

## HOW THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION IS ADDRESSING THE NEED

- We purchase wheelchairs in bulk, sometimes up to 10,000 wheelchairs a month, of a design that's the best possible solution for use in developing countries. They are shipped in 100 to 280 wheelchair ocean-freight containers and provided free of charge to those most in need. If purchased on its own, this wheelchair would normally cost up to \$500 in the US and can sell for up to \$1,500 US in some developing countries.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Your donation of any amount will help sponsor, ship and deliver a wheelchair to someone in need. If you are interested in a specific country and/or wish to participate on a distribution trip, consider sponsoring an entire container of 100 to 280 wheelchairs. For those details, please contact our Operations Staff at (925) 791-2340.

- Get the word out! Tell everyone you know that you are now a part of an ambitious relief mission that's already delivered over 710,000 wheelchairs to 152 countries in just eight years!

- Have a fund-raiser! A dinner or cocktail party in your home can serve as a venue to tell people about helping others. Local businesses, organizations and schools can all help. We can supply materials to you to help us change the world.

- Corporate Sponsorship: Help us find corporations that have interests in countries that need our help. We can target their sponsorship to specific countries and needs, and can provide custom logo embroidery on the wheelchairs to identify the sponsor of an entire wheelchair container. They will be heroes, and many people will be given a new lease on life. For further information, please visit our website [www.wheelchairfoundation.org](http://www.wheelchairfoundation.org) or call toll free (877) 378-3839. Our Federal Tax ID # 94-3353881.



# Your Future Legacy

You believe in what we do – you’ve proven it with your gifts. Your support gives us the resources today to continue sending mobility to the physically disabled. Your support can also provide the power to continue our important mission in years to come.

Please consider ways to magnify your gifts and to give them a life of their own. An estate gift of a specific amount or a percentage of the remainder of your estate will provide support for the future of the Wheelchair Foundation – a terrific way to leave a legacy.

One solution is to make a gift to Wheelchair Foundation by means of a bequest – a gift in your will. Here are some of the advantages of bequests:

**Easy** – A few sentences in your will complete the gift.

**Versatile** – You can bequest a specific item, an amount of money, a gift contingent upon certain events, or a percentage or remainder of your estate.

**Revocable** – Until your will goes into effect, you are free to alter your plans.

**Tax Wise** – Your estate is entitled to an unlimited estate tax charitable deduction for gifts to qualified charitable organizations.

Your generosity enables us to reach out to all who need our support, one wheelchair at a time. Every gift counts. Give a gift to the Wheelchair Foundation today.

Visit [www.wheelchairfoundation.org](http://www.wheelchairfoundation.org) for information about our planned giving options, or call 877-378-3839 for more information.

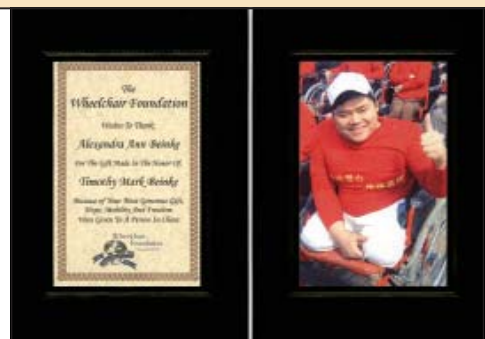
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Ken Behring's  
book  
*Road to  
Purpose*



Tyson Tigers love "Road to Purpose".

an account of his personal  
journey that led to the creation of the **Wheelchair Foundation**,  
and the stories of people we have touched.

Each \$150 donation delivers a wheelchair and supports the mission of Wheelchair Foundation. You can greatly improve the quality of life for a child, teen or adult without mobility. You will receive a beautiful certificate of thanks with a picture of a wheelchair recipient in your name or dedicated to your loved one. You will also receive a gift certificate for a free signed copy of "Road To Purpose", or use our new gift certificate to send "Road to Purpose" to a friend or family member. It makes a wonderful gift!



Sample Presentation Folder.

Call Us Now At (877) 378-3839 Or Donate Online At [www.wheelchairfoundation.org](http://www.wheelchairfoundation.org)



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