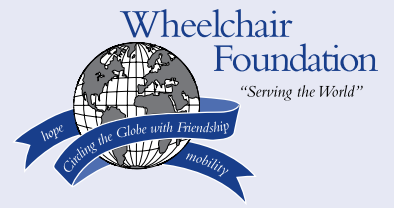


# Changing THE WORLD



ESTABLISHED JUNE 2000



Proving Your  
Commitment to Help  
the Disabled People  
of the World

Spring 2009

## A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



One day, when I was around seven years old, I was walking home for lunch when I noticed something shaking a little apple tree in our backyard. It was springtime 1935 and the apples on the tree were still small, sour little things. Up there in the limbs of the tree were a small boy and girl, brother and sister from a few streets away. They had climbed the tree and were eating all the fruit they could, as fast as they could. I started yelling for them to “get down” and “get out of our yard!”

Then mother came out to see what the noise was about and saw the two children, and what they were up to. She didn’t know them, but she asked them if they were hungry. They both nodded their heads, ashamed to show their faces. She brought them into the house and fed us all lunch at the table. She even let them have a second helping! Then she used a rag to clean their faces of the apple juice and dirt, and she washed their hands and gave them each a biscuit wrapped in newspaper to take with them and sent them home.

Now, I thought I was doing the right thing, protecting our apples, and getting rid of those thieving kids. So, I did not really understand my mother’s act of kindness, or why feeding those children made her smile. Why was she wasting our food on strangers when we had so little? What did she care about some dirty hillbilly kids anyway? It was, after all, the middle of the Great Depression.

I think back to that day every time I see a person with a disability crawling in the dirt.

Even when times are toughest, we all need to care for one another. With each wheelchair we give to someone in need, we let that person know that Americans do care. We care for each other, and for everyone around the world. With times being as tough as they are, helping the 100 million disabled people in need of mobility is even more important right now... when they need us the most.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Behring ~ Founder and 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.

## Changing the World

is published by the  
Wheelchair Foundation,  
3820 Blackhawk Road,  
Danville, CA 94506  
USA. Copyright 2009  
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## WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED

Afghanistan.....	7,150	Lebanon.....	2,430
Albania.....	550	Lesotho.....	1,060
Algeria.....	640	Liberia.....	780
Angola.....	4,590	Lithuania.....	1,090
Antigua and Barbuda.....	280	Macedonia.....	760
Argentina.....	8,151	Madagascar.....	1,030
Armenia.....	2,964	Malawi.....	3,530
Australia.....	292	Malaysia.....	3,940
Azerbaijan.....	280	Mali.....	520
Bahamas.....	1,680	Malta.....	240
Bangladesh.....	240	Marshall Islands.....	140
Barbados.....	560	Mexico.....	113,559
Belarus.....	990	Micronesia.....	1,390
Belgium.....	280	Moldova.....	1,720
Belize.....	2,520	Mongolia.....	1,320
Benin.....	280	Montenegro.....	120
Bolivia.....	4,904	Morocco.....	4,640
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	1,480	Mozambique.....	1,660
Botswana.....	1,688	Myanmar (Burma).....	500
Brazil.....	2,305	Namibia.....	466
Bulgaria.....	530	Nepal.....	3,165
Burundi.....	520	Nicaragua.....	5,775
Cambodia.....	3,300	Niger.....	240
Canada.....	560	Nigeria.....	1,310
Cape Verde.....	780	N. Mariana Islands.....	410
Central African Rep.....	240	Oman.....	280
Chile.....	8,848	Pakistan.....	3,175
China.....	244,434	Palestinians/Israel.....	1,906
Colombia.....	9,315	Panama.....	6,781
Congo, The Democratic		Papua New Guinea.....	2,080
Republic of the.....	205	Paraguay.....	2,344
Costa Rica.....	6,565	Peru.....	9,251
Croatia.....	1,300	Philippines.....	8,620
Cuba.....	1,800	Poland.....	2,420
Cyprus.....	280	Portugal.....	990
Czech Republic.....	597	Puerto Rico.....	490
Dominica.....	280	Romania.....	3,252
Dominican Republic.....	8,848	Russia.....	2,110
East Timor.....	110	Rwanda.....	2,200
Ecuador.....	7,559	Saint Lucia.....	560
Egypt.....	1,168	Saint Petersburg.....	120
El Salvador.....	7,275	Saint Vincent and the	
Eritrea.....	250	Grenadines.....	280
Estonia.....	500	Samoa.....	1,360
Ethiopia.....	3,208	Senegal.....	520
Fiji.....	1,620	Serbia.....	2,090
France.....	560	Sierra Leone.....	2,340
French Polynesia.....	280	Somalia.....	88
Georgia.....	1,030	South Africa.....	20,020
Ghana.....	2,240	Spain.....	500
Greece.....	520	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Grenada.....	280	Sudan.....	280
Guam.....	250	Suriname.....	240
Guatemala.....	7,963	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.....	7,760
India.....	2,716	Tibet.....	331
Indonesia.....	3,340	Tonga.....	500
Iran.....	3,880	Trinidad & Tobago.....	3,844
Iraq.....	4,300	Turkey.....	4,990
Israel.....	7,830	Turkmenistan.....	520
Italy.....	580	Uganda.....	9,444
Jamaica.....	3,100	Ukraine.....	5,070
Japan.....	1,750	United States.....	29,754
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

TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS ..... 153

TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS ..... 756,407

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

# Newslines

## Wheelchair Foundation provider of wheelchairs for US Navy's *Operation Continuing Promise*



Leaving from Miami in early April, the "USNA COMFORT" hospital ship will spend four months offering a mobile, flexible and rapidly responsive source of medical and surgical care. Jack Drury, President of the Southeast office of the Wheelchair Foundation, met with Navy personnel in Norfolk, VA where the hospital ship is stationed and made the arrangements to supply hundreds of new manual wheelchairs for the COMFORT to distribute in countries such as: Haiti, Dominican Republic, Antigua, Colombia, Panama, El Salvador and Nicaragua. "This was an opportunity for the Wheelchair Foundation to be part of a much needed humanitarian program with the US Navy personnel as our partners," said Drury. "Our gifts of hope and mobility can help the people in seven countries in a short period of time," concluded Drury.

## Eighty for an 80th!

The Wheelchair Foundation frequently has donors who present family members and friends with wheelchairs as gifts in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, etc. On December 31, 2008, we received a phone call from Mr. Mike Kelleher, a longtime friend of Wheelchair Foundation who wanted to donate 80 wheelchairs in honor of his wife's 80th birthday. Mike and Alice are very generous annual donors, but Mike felt that his wife's 80th birthday deserved a special honor. Alice was beside herself with emotion when she heard the news and we are very grateful to have a role in honoring that special occasion.

## 8th Annual *Drive Fore Mobility* Tees off August 17th, 2009!



Preparations are already underway for the 8th Annual *Drive Fore Mobility* Golf Tournament to benefit the mission of Wheelchair Foundation. Certainly one of the pre-eminent Charity Golf Tournaments in the San Francisco Bay Area, we will be returning to the beautiful championship courses at Blackhawk Country Club in Danville, California again this year. Book your foursome early, as space is limited!



# Knights of Columbus A New World Charity

By Chris Lewis



Jesus Mendoza, age 7, was so happy to have his first new wheelchair!

Charity, one of the founding principles of the Knights of Columbus (established in 1882 as a fraternal benefit society), has always been an important part of life for the Knights. Since joining the global mission of the Wheelchair Foundation in 2003, Knights are extending their charitable efforts across international borders and changing lives with the gift of mobility.

In late 2008 the first ever joint humanitarian mission between Knights from Canada, the United States and Mexico took place in Mexico City. Funds were raised in all three countries to help

sponsor the delivery of hundreds of wheelchairs to children, teens and adults in and around the most populous city on earth.

The delegation from California was led by State Deputy Bob Villalobos, his wife Carol and KofC California State Wheelchair Chairman Dan Moberg. Joining them were Msgr. James Loughnane of St. Denis in Diamond Bar and Fr. Nestor Rebong of St. Christopher in West Covina. These two pastors were instrumental in helping the Knights of their parishes raise the funds to sponsor the wheelchairs. Their churches hosted "Wheelchair Sunday" parish drives where Knights spoke during the homily at each mass and showed a video of the wheelchair mission to the parishioners. The second collections funded the wheelchairs from California. The presentations allowed the Knights to connect their humanitarian outreach with the members of their communities and resulted in dozens of men joining the Knights to do more for those in need.

The group from Canada led by Ontario State Advocate Dan Hefernan and his wife Rita, included participants from throughout the province. Per capita the Canadian Knights have raised more funds for wheelchairs than any group around the world, and their dedication to charity is a blessing to all who are in need of mobility.



California Knights of Columbus Wheelchair Chairman Dan Moberg in Teotihuacan, Mexico.

Mexican Knights participating in the wheelchair mission were led by the Supreme Coordinator for Mexico William Olivera. William brought together Knights from many areas in and around Mexico City to participate in the distributions and to work hand in hand with their brothers from Canada and the United States.



Jose spent 25 years on a metal skateboard until the Knights of Columbus presented him with his first wheelchair.





On Thursday the group traveled by bus from Mexico City to towns surrounding the famous pyramids of Teotihuacán. During one home visit in the area, 68-year-old Cirina Palmas was so excited to receive her new wheelchair that she could not stop smiling, hugging and thanking everyone for the gift of mobility that will allow her to once again go to church. The Canadian, U.S. and Mexican Knights were all extremely touched by her tears of happiness.

Friday an extra gift was received when Fr. Nestor and Msgr. Loughnane were invited to say a mass at the cathedral in Texcoco for all Knights and wheelchair recipients. The distribution of some 80 wheelchairs took place in the courtyard after mass, and many wonderful connections were made between the recipients, their families and the visiting Knights.



Sister Florentina give us a thumbs up for her new wheelchair.

Saturday morning was a dream come true for first time visitors to Mexico City. There was a mass celebrated at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and then a wheelchair distribution on the Basilica grounds. Several children, including 7-year-old Jesus Mendoza, were so happy to get their wheelchairs that they were screaming with delight as they took off racing across the spacious courtyard. The Knight's council at the Basilica was formed as a result of the wheelchair distributions there by the California Knights starting in 2006. This is now one of the most active councils in Mexico, helping with the formation of new councils around the city.

Sunday revolved around the 16th century Metropolitan Cathedral at the center of the city. There were tours of the cathedral before mass and then the wheelchair distribution in the courtyard. A 42-year-old man named Jose spent 25 years using a metal skateboard for his means of mobility. When we gave him his first wheelchair, his smile could almost outshine the sun. His gratitude and happiness were infectious.



Ontario State Advocate Dan Heffernan, PSD Mexico South William Olivera and California State Deputy Bob Villalobos with 38-year-old Juan Garcia in Texcoco.

The impact of this first effort between Knights from three countries was magnified by the unity felt by all who participated. Some of the discussions over the course of the four days included the following: The gift of mobility we give to the needy is equaled by the joy we give to ourselves. The fraternal bond between Knights is similar to the feeling of brother and sisterhood felt by all participants when we tangibly change people's lives and answer their prayers. And, the tears of joy that are shed by the wheelchair recipients and their families inspire everyone to want to do more for more people.



Monsignor Loughnane blessing a man who lost his legs in an auto accident.

# 11,000 Wheelchairs for Uganda, Lesotho and South Africa

BRITISH ROTARIANS, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND PRIVATE DONORS MAKE AN INCREDIBLE GIFT TO HUMANITY

Nearly a decade ago, British Rotarian Milton Frary approached Wheelchair Foundation founder Ken Behring with the proposition of launching a branch of Wheelchair Foundation in the United Kingdom. For several years Milton and his lovely wife, Elaine, have traveled and encouraged people to participate, donate and give back to their fellow man. Their success is evident in the fact that Wheelchair Foundation Great Britain and Ireland has managed to sponsor over 20,000 wheelchairs to some 14 countries in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Two years ago, following a visit to Southern Africa, Milton set out to help Ugandan and South African Rotarians obtain wheelchairs for their countries. In November of 2008, Uganda saw the arrival of 19 containers of brand new wheelchairs, nearly 5,200 total. At the same time another 20 containers were shipped to central South Africa, another 5,500 wheelchairs.

These are two of the largest deliveries that Wheelchair Foundation has helped coordinate anywhere in the world. They are also the second and third largest Rotary Foundation Matching Grants for wheelchairs ever written.

In Uganda the Rotary Clubs of District 9200 reached out into communities across the country to locate disabled people who could benefit from receipt of a wheelchair. "At first people didn't believe that we were going to show up with anything. It wasn't until we had actually given away wheelchairs in some areas that the requests started flooding in!" says Rotarian Peters Musoke. In truly spectacular fashion, the Rotarians of District 9200 have delivered all but a handful of the 5,200 wheelchairs they received, with each wheelchair personally being accounted for by a Rotarian.



Above >> British Rotarian and Wheelchair Foundation Trustee Milton Frary and Mengo Rotary Club President Higiro Sekibibi address a group of recipients at the Buyaruguru Community Health Center in Uganda >> Below Left >> Up off the ground and into a wheelchair make mother and son very happy. >> Below Right >> British Rotarians Robin and Rosemary Sudlow unload wheelchairs in Lesotho.

In January of this year, a group of British Rotarians, Donors and Wheelchair Foundation representatives traveled to Uganda, Lesotho and South Africa to participate in the distribution of some of these wheelchairs. Starting in Entebbe and traveling in an arc across central Uganda, they stopped frequently, in places like Kampala, Mubende, Kasese, Mwya, Bushenyi and Masakato to give away wheelchairs and meet with the Rotarians who were coordinating the nationwide distribution.







The traveling group left Uganda and flew south to Kimberley, South Africa, where they were hosted by Rotarians from District 9230 and distributed wheelchairs at the Martie Du Plessis School, and the Helen Bishop Home. Kimberley was the launch point for a trip southward to the coast, with stops in Bloemfontein at the Jean Webber Home and Association for Persons with Disabilities. Onward to Maseru, in the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho, to distribute wheelchairs with the Rotarians of that country and marvel at the lush green terrain.

In Queenstown they visited the township of Ilinge, where a wheelchair was given to a young enthusiastic woman who was waiting on her hands and knees by the gate to her home. When presented with her new wheelchair, she immediately began wheeling around her yard vigorously pumping her fist in the air and shouting for joy. She had been given a wheelchair years earlier, but it had broken beyond repair. Unable to afford any wheelchair on her own, she was forced back onto her hands and knees to crawl through her neighborhood for more than two years. Upon hearing her plight, everyone suddenly understood the significance that this new wheelchair played in her life. "I am whole again, I can't tell you what this means to me! Thank you, Rotarians, you did not forget about me. Thank all you so much!" she said with a smile. Rotarians do amazing work worldwide.



Above >> Lesotho's 2633 meter Blue Mountain Pass offers a spectacular double rainbow >> Left >> A happy recipient at the Martie Du Plessis School near Kimberley, South Africa >> Below Left >> Queenstown Rotaractors and members of ISIBINDI share in the joy of giving a wheelchair in Ilinge township.



California restaurateur Gary Loesch sponsored a container of wheelchairs for Africa. He personally traveled to Uganda with his daughter, Keri, to help distribute some of the wheelchairs. They were astounded at the impact a single wheelchair can have in the lives of a recipient and their family. Both Gary and Keri wanted "hands-on" experience and were able to assist with adjusting wheelchairs, educating families and caregivers about proper use and delivering wheelchairs to recipient homes in rural Uganda. "The experience is indelibly imprinted on our souls," says Gary.

Wheelchair Foundation would like to thank Gary and Sandy Loesch and their family for their support of our Mission.

# season highlights



## Over 756,407 Wheelchairs Delivered . . .

THIS PAGE, COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:  
 >> Ugandan Rotarians celebrate the distribution of more than 5,000 wheelchairs to their country as part of one of Rotary Foundation's largest Matching Grants for wheelchairs. >> Dr. Scharleen Colant and Rotarian Rudi Harwardt in Chile. >> A Grandmother embraces her granddaughter upon receipt of a wheelchair in Il-ingwe, South Africa. >> British Rotarian Norma Pearce and a happy young recipient at the Martie Du Plessis School in South Africa. >> Elaine Frary embraces an unsuspecting wheelchair recipient in rural Uganda. >> Bill Wheeler and a new friend.





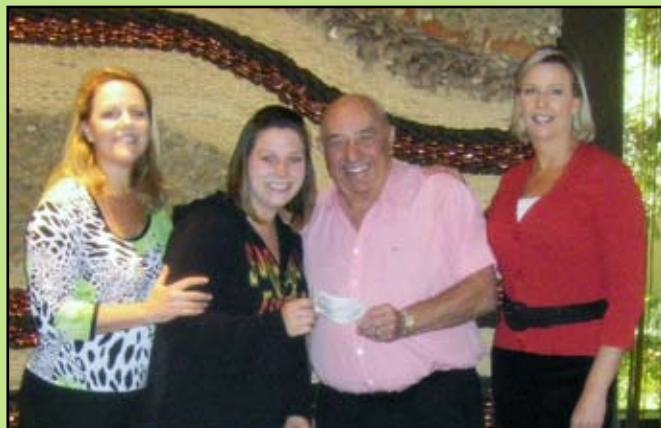


THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

>> Ken Behring, wife Patricia, sons David and Jeff Behring and long-time supporter Val Nunes at the Wheelchair Foundation Gala. >> Everything we could ever ask for, a thumbs-up and a smile from a young recipient in Uganda. >> Nurse, and British volunteer, Rebecca Cosgrave shares a moment with 13-year-old Naleta Tsiki in Lesotho. >> Wheelchair Foundation President David Behring honors US Airways flight 1549 Pilot Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger at the Annual Wheelchair Foundation Gala event in Danville, California. >> Nicole Trost presents Ken Behring with a donation as part of her high school philanthropy project (seen here with her aunt, Charli Butterfield, and mentor, Annette Vineyard). >> Long time Wheelchair Foundation supporters Johnny Ribeiro and his wife Linda, Developer Bill Roister and the Mayor of Los Suenos, Costa Rica, celebrate new mobility with recipient Victoria Bustos and her mother.

# Millions

of Lives Changed  
in the Spirit of Giving





Above >> Josh shares a laugh with a fellow wheelchair rider. Below Right >> Mutual admiration and new friendship in South America.

**J**osh Routh, a 30-year-old avid supporter of the Wheelchair Foundation, has been in a wheelchair since he was four. A wheelchair is so much a part of his life that he never thinks about it nor does his family. Josh exemplifies all that is possible when you push the boundaries and expand your horizons. Among many other activities, Josh works as a cashier at Nob Hill Foods, plays basketball, participates in the Bay to Breakers races (12 races so far), drives a car, and distributes red wheelchairs all over Latin America. He travels with his dad Don Routh and their friend Bill Wheeler, a fellow Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Pleasanton North, because he thinks large and is greatly inspired: "It makes my heart happy when I am able to help somebody who has a disability like me but has no wheelchair to get around. I feel fortunate and I want to share with others." Josh lights up when he thinks of the time he gave his own custom knee wedge to a poor, thin man in the hinterlands of Nicaragua to help prevent the chafing that can occur to unprotected legs.

As the wheelchair distribution team prepared to depart, a boy knocked on the van door, took a gold bracelet from his wrist, and handed it to Josh. The son of the wheelchair and knee-wedge beneficiary wanted to give all he had to Josh to show his appreciation and love. The bracelet is forever on Josh's wrist and the memory is locked in his heart. These are the unforgettable moments that enrich our lives from helping those less fortunate.

## *"Don't Give Up, Just Do it!"*

Two inspiring Rotarians and  
a son on a journey of  
friendship  
in Latin America

By Eva Brook

Meet Bill Wheeler who went on his first wheelchair distribution in 2001. He says of his first experience: "I wept like a baby at the transformation of people without mobility suddenly having mobility and seeing the joy of the caretaker." The Rotary Club of Pleasanton North has sponsored 14 containers of wheelchairs, and

Bill has taken part in every single wheelchair delivery! In 2006 Bill rode his BMW motorcycle to Tabasco, Mexico ahead of the distribution that was scheduled the following month. As has now become customary, Bill rides his motorcycle to the next wheelchair distribution location to meet the local partner organization to start the connection. A month later he returns with his Rotary Club to be part of "putting every butt in every wheelchair seat."







Above >> Bill Wheeler and new friends Yomira and Darien. Below Right >> Young wheelchair recipients take in the excitement of a wheelchair distribution in Nicaragua. Below Left >> Don Routh poses with a child receiving her first wheelchair.

From Tabasco Bill rode his motorcycle through all of Latin America giving out wheelchairs and making new friends such as Marjoe in Villahermosa, a flamboyant Rotarian and excellent fundraiser, and Rudi from the Rotary Club of Puerto Octay, Chile. Bill insists that Rudi is the greatest Rotarian in the world – a man who has more passion than any Rotarian alive. It was Rudi who convinced Bill to rededicate to Rotary and to make a difference through wheelchairs; he also told him that to be an international Rotarian you must be a great local Rotarian first. Wheelchairs became Bill's choice, and he made a pledge to be part of the distribution of 1,000 wheelchairs a year until he dies. Bill lives a comfortable lifestyle but nothing matches the riches and passion of his heart and the friends he has made around the world.



Don Routh, Josh's father, choked up as he explained what it all meant for him, and why he never gets tired of fighting for the cause. He says that his connection is seeing the parents and the caregivers, especially the parents. "Being a parent you want to do the best for your kids and that is true for parents all around the world whether you are here and can afford anything or whether you live in a small village in Bolivia. It hurts when you cannot provide that.

"When I see the look on the faces of the parents when their kids receive wheelchairs, that is a very special moment. You see the parents come in, some of them hesitate as they don't know what to expect, some of them feel embarrassed to receive something for nothing, but you can tell that they want to do whatever they can to help their child. Josh's wheelchair cost \$6,300 – perhaps you fight with your insurance company or are not happy with the brake adjustment - while millions of others worry how to get their child from point A to B, how they can be part of the community, and how to work and go to school when you don't have any mobility."

Josh's motto says it all. "Don't Give Up, Just Do It."



# How To Turn Wine Into Wheelchairs



*A Grassroots  
Advocacy  
Campaign  
for the  
Wheelchair  
Foundation  
Mission*

**T**he idea Behind Wine for Wheels is both powerful and simple. Private citizens as well as schools, church groups, and other organizations come together to raise funds and awareness through privately held social events, giving people all around the world a way to become directly involved in helping provide hope, mobility and freedom to the physically disadvantaged through the provision of a wheelchair.

- Wine for Wheels provides a fun and interesting way for individuals and groups to initiate fundraising campaigns at all levels and to offer their friends a way to engage with the world. The cost of providing a wheelchair is \$150.00. Some hosts set a goal; to raise enough funds to send a full container (280 wheelchairs) or a half container (110 wheelchairs) to an approved designated country; many others combine their funds to help send wheelchairs to a current Wine for Wheels designated project.
- All event hosts will have the opportunity to join the Wheelchair Foundation in delivering wheelchairs to an annual Wine for Wheels designated project.



Individuals and organizations can support Wine for Wheels and the Wheelchair Foundation in a number of ways:

- o Host a Wine for Wheels "Wine and Dine" party. Information is available at [www.wineforwheels.org](http://www.wineforwheels.org) or email Jeff Behring at [jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org](mailto:jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org).
- o Host a dinner, luncheon, picnic, or tea party at your home, church, community center, local restaurant or business to raise funds.
- o Host a benefit concert, speaker series, talent show, bake sale, or movie.
- o Sponsor a run, Dance-a-Thon, sports event, talent show or community event.

Wheelchair Foundation will provide:

- Newsletters & DVD's that show the need for and the joy of giving mobility and freedom to a recipient and their caregivers.
- Marketing materials and ideas on how to host an event and discuss the topic of providing mobility to those in need.
- Letters of personal gratitude and tax donation receipts to all hosts and participants for sharing in these extraordinary events.
- The new Wine for Wheels website as a conduit for hosts and participants to provide and collect donations online for their private or public events.

Please join us as a host, participant, donor and/or volunteer to help provide the gift of mobility to the physically disadvantaged and bring freedom to both them and their family members and caregivers.

For more information on hosting and participating in a Wine for Wheels event, email [jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org](mailto:jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org), call (925) 648-3829 or go to [www.wineforwheels.org](http://www.wineforwheels.org).



# Asia, South America and Antarctica? ...trying to keep up with Dr. Scharleen Colant

- IN HER WORDS



After eight decades, it was amazing to learn the true meaning of Christmas in Valparaiso, Chile. Three of my adopted family had flown in from California to share this experience with me.

On meeting and greeting a great friend of Wheelchair Foundation, Rotarian Rudi Harwardt, he kindly escorted us to a wheelchair

distribution with a band welcoming us and the red carpet rolled out. But the highlight was the opportunity to share time with the wheelchair recipients. The smiles, the hugs and kisses we exchanged all said "Merry Christmas!" Words could never express the appreciation and joy that blessed us on this special Christmas Eve.

We sailed onward to Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas to give away more "Christmas Chairs." More smiling faces and new lives of mobility for all ages, changing dreams into reality. For the four of us, no Christmas time will be as wonderful as when we have the privilege of giving these gifts of freedom, mobility and hope.



Above >> Always on the move, Dr. Colant in Northern Thailand with two dear lady friends. >> Top >> Dr. Colant appreciates fine ocean going vessels. >> Middle Right >> In Thailand delivering wheelchairs door-to-door.

Flying from San Francisco to Thailand was worth every minute I had to spend in the air. The reward awaiting me was in the form of 500 wheelchairs to give to the wonderful Thai people whom I have come to love and respect so very much.

We flew from Bangkok to Ching Ma where we took wheelchairs to people in their homes. This meant climbing up hills where no pathways existed. Access was often on step-ruts made by rain. Imagine never leaving your home for nineteen years. This was reality for one lady who had been spending most of her time in bed with no hope. Suddenly her life was completely changed as we placed her in her new wheelchair.

The people of Chan Ru and Tak were beyond grateful. So were we, as unlike most people, we actually experienced the great privilege of changing lives forever with wheelchairs.

On our return to Bangkok, we had a major distribution. As we entered this event, a small girl looked into my eyes and gave me the most beautiful, angelic smile. Her eyes followed every second as we moved through the crowd. When she was placed in her wheelchair, she reached out and took my hands, and spoke in Thai, "I love you!" Her smile seemed to consume her entire face. For some unknown reason, I felt my heart was torn apart with happiness and sadness. Her very young mother (a child herself, it seemed) and grandmother spoke some English and told me she had bone cancer and that she was supposed to die a few months ago after a life of only seven years. Now her daughter would be able to attend school with the blessing of her wheelchair.

How I wished I could bring this precious child home with me. She changed my life through my privilege of association with the Wheelchair Foundation. You too can change lives, even with one wheelchair. But a container is great!



Dr. Scharleen Colant spends a moment with Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, pilot of US Airways flight 1549. In honor of Captain Sullenberger's selfless act of heroism, Dr. Colant has donated 210 wheelchairs to the State of New York and the State of California. Scharleen presented this gift to Captain Sullenberger at the Wheelchair Foundation Gala Event held at the Blackhawk Auto Museum in Danville, California, Captain Sullenberger's home town.

# Through a Mother's eyes

By Dr. Mike Hoffman, Foster City Rotary Club, Foster City, California



The floor was dirt; one room with a cooking grate in the corner over the small wood fire. Clothing hung from the walls and the meager belongings were scattered here and there. In the air was the smell of urine and close living. A bathroom? No, that was outside.

Draped in a diaper, she was lying on a bed with her hands and feet curled into themselves, the victim of a terrible accident. She had been beautiful once but life was cruel. She was only 23. Her mother hovered close with expectant eyes. Then two young teenage girls came through the door to deliver the new red wheelchair... a miracle... to give mobility to one of the forgotten. For these young California girls it wasn't comfortable being in the same room with one so helpless. The smell, the floor, the surroundings, the poverty were all closing in at once. How can we have so much and they so little?

Outside, they wanted to hurry away... but wait, the mother of the girl in the new wheelchair needed to speak. Her eyes conveyed much more than the translator could put into words, "My daughter was once like you, carefree, laughing, living life to its fullest. That was just a year ago and now this. But you have brought us hope. Now I can take my daughter out into the sunlight, to friends, to the market, to see what she has been unable to see. Your gift means more than you can possibly know. Thank you, gracias, gracias!" The two young visitors had tears in their eyes... a shared experience... changed lives.

This was but one of the experiences shared by 60 people, young and young at heart, on a Rotary mission to Mazatlan, Mexico, to deliver wheelchairs and connect with folks less fortunate. Rotarians, spouses, Interact and Rotaract students, family and friends moved out of their comfort zones to experience up close "service above self." Rotary Club of Foster City, California first went to Mazatlan seven years ago under the guidance of Jon Grant. The eight people who participated came back changed. That was nearly 4,000 wheelchairs ago! Can you make a difference? Lift them from the ground and offer them a life. The life you change will likely be your own.

Top Right >> "Thank you Rotarians!" Happiness is a new wheelchair! Above Left >> Linda Grant with Rotaracters in Mazatlan, Mexico, making a home delivery and gaining some firsthand experience. Right >> Rotarian volunteers help ensure that Roberto gets the most out of his wheelchair by properly seating him.





# The Worldwide Need

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 with physical disabilities 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 a 100 to 280-wheelchair sea container 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 \$150 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) 736-8234.
- Get the word out! Tell everyone you know that you are now a part of an ambitious relief mission that's already delivered over 756,000 wheelchairs to 153 countries in just seven 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.



## 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:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Easy.</b>      | A few sentences in your will completes the gift.   |
| <b>Versatile.</b> | You can bequest a specific item, an amount of money, a gift contingent upon certain events, or a percentage or remainder of your estate. |
| <b>Revocable.</b> | Until your will goes into effect, you are free to alter your plans.  |
| <b>Tax Wise.</b>  | 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.

Wheelchair Foundation is a Division of Global Health and Education Foundation. Our Federal Tax ID # 94-3353881



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MEXICO

## WHEELS OF CHANGE

The floor was dirt, one room with a cooking grate in the corner over...

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## FEATURED VIDEO

I Want to Live



This early video showcases some of the lives we changed in the first 2 years of the Wheelchair Foundation's worldwide mission, and features some of the champions of our cause.

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Other Wheelchair Foundation sites



Check out our new website! We've streamlined it and added new features. For instance, we now have more regular updates to distribution stories, which also include pieces about where the greatest need is at the present time. This can be timely in the event of a natural disaster when aid must be focused as quickly as possible. There are more articles to send to media outlets, there is easier access to our online video library, and an easier interface for online donations. Best of all, we're continuing to improve and evolve the website as the best source of information about all things Wheelchair Foundation.

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



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