

# Changing THE WORLD



FALL 2014

# A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



Back in the 1800's Americans ran the Pony Express for 18 months, to connect California with the East. When something better came along in the form of the telegraph, the Pony Express instantly became history. Wagon trains moved early pioneers across the country. Whole businesses and industries suddenly sprouted just to provide the goods to get settlers down the trail. Then, suddenly, railways provided a faster and safer means of travel and commerce and the wagons, trails and outfitters soon disappeared.

Our nation's past is full of disruption and innovation. There is no better example of this than the history of America in the 19th century. To better help our young people understand this we are opening *The Spirit of the Old West* exhibition at Blackhawk Museum in Danville, California.

This exhibition deals with the settling of the West and the formation of the United States of America, as we know it. There are so many lessons to learn from those who were able to adapt and capitalize on this period of rapid change. I feel that it is important for everyone to understand the impact this century had on our nation, our natural resources and the Native Americans who were here before us.

"Disruption" is a big buzzword right now and I get a smile on my face when I hear all the fuss, as if "shaking things up" is a new concept, just discovered yesterday? How soon people forget the past. By the way, disruption has been a part of every successful project I have ever taken on. Let that be a lesson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Behring'.

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

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.

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Wheelchair  
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.....	11,009	Mali.....	1,060
Armenia.....	3,244	Malta.....	240
Australia.....	292	Marshall Islands.....	140
Azerbaijan.....	280	Mauritania.....	100
Bahamas.....	2,290	Mexico.....	163,314
Bangladesh.....	350	Micronesia.....	1,265
Barbados.....	1120	Moldova.....	1,720
Belarus.....	990	Mongolia.....	1,320
Belgium.....	280	Montenegro.....	120
Belize.....	2,835	Morocco.....	5,470
Benin.....	280	Mozambique.....	1,660
Bolivia.....	5,294	Myanmar (Burma).....	500
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	2,040	Namibia.....	466
Botswana.....	1,688	Nepal.....	3,275
Brazil.....	2,305	Nicaragua.....	8,330
Bulgaria.....	530	Niger.....	240
Burundi.....	520	Nigeria.....	1,420
Cambodia.....	3,630	Northern Mariana Islands.....	410
Canada.....	560	Oman.....	280
Cape Verde.....	780	Pakistan.....	3,175
Central African Republic.....	240	Palestinian Territories.....	1,906
Chile.....	11,388	Panama.....	10,471
China.....	368,504	Papua New Guinea.....	2,080
Colombia.....	12,635	Paraguay.....	2,614
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the.....	205	Peru.....	12,367
Costa Rica.....	8,735	Philippines.....	10,465
Croatia.....	1,300	Poland.....	2,700
Cuba.....	1,800	Portugal.....	990
Cyprus.....	280	Puerto Rico.....	490
Czech Republic.....	597	Romania.....	3,571
Dominica.....	280	Russia.....	2,230
Dominican Republic.....	8,958	Rwanda.....	2,200
East Timor.....	110	Saint Lucia.....	560
Ecuador.....	9,619	Saint Petersburg.....	120
Egypt.....	1,168	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	560
El Salvador.....	10,050	Samoa.....	1,360
Eritrea.....	250	Saudi Arabia.....	20
Estonia.....	500	Senegal.....	520
Ethiopia.....	3,468	Serbia.....	2,370
Fiji.....	1,950	Seychelles.....	10
France.....	560	Sierra Leone.....	2,340
French Polynesia.....	280	Slovenia.....	110
Georgia.....	1,030	Solomon Islands.....	110
Ghana.....	2,610	Somalia.....	88
Greece.....	520	South Africa.....	22,800
Grenada.....	280	Spain.....	500
Guam.....	250	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Guatemala.....	9,228	Sudan.....	280
Guyana.....	250	Suriname.....	240
Haiti.....	5,320	Swaziland.....	1,970
Honduras.....	7,044	Syria.....	641
Hong Kong.....	970	Taiwan.....	756
Hungary.....	120	Tajikistan.....	480
India.....	2,731	Tanzania.....	3,528
Indonesia.....	3,340	Thailand.....	8,410
Iran.....	3,880	Tibet.....	331
Iraq.....	4,300	To Be Determined.....	1,045
Israel.....	7,830	Tonga.....	500
Italy.....	580	Trinidad & Tobago.....	5,614
Jamaica.....	3,750	Turkey.....	5,550
Japan.....	1,750	Turkmenistan.....	520
Jordan.....	5,022	Uganda.....	9,664
Kazakhstan.....	1,510	Ukraine.....	5,350
Kenya.....	2,930	United States.....	35,284
Kiribati.....	375	Uruguay.....	1,632
Korea, North.....	1,152	Uzbekistan.....	1,240
Korea, South.....	5,700	Vanuatu.....	250
Kosovo.....	1,300	Venezuela.....	2,800
Kyrgyzstan.....	1,240	Vietnam.....	14,476
Laos.....	780	Virgin Islands (UK).....	284
Latvia.....	740	Virgin Islands (US).....	280
Lebanon.....	2,430	Western Sahara.....	153
Lesotho.....	1,060	Zambia.....	2,646
Liberia.....	780	Zimbabwe.....	2,580

**TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.....150+**  
**TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS.....978,782**

## BLESSING HANDS PROVIDES WHEELCHAIRS TO INDIVIDUALS IN NEED IN CHINA



Blessing Hands volunteers made the day unforgettable for recipients as members of the Lexington Chinese Christian Church donated fifty wheelchairs. The Handicapped Bureau of Du'an County helped plan a distribution ceremony and arranged for the delivery of the chairs. In all, Blessing Hands was able to provide 109 wheelchairs and three-wheeled carts to people in need of mobility.

## TAKE A SEAT PROVIDES WHEELCHAIRS FOR VETERANS



The Wheelchair Foundation, along with the International Furnishings Design Association, hosted the *TAKE A SEAT* exhibit and charity auction *Helping Heroes at Home*, raising funds and awareness for the needs of Veterans by providing them with the wheelchairs they need and deserve.

*TAKE A SEAT* is a project that brings together leading members of the furnishings and design industry of the San Francisco Bay Area to create one-of-a-kind extraordinary chairs to auction off and to build support for our nation's Veterans.



## SCHOOLS - MOBILITY - LEADERSHIP YOU **ARE** MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY EVA CARLETON

**F**rom the Heart – Schools Project was started in 2009, the goal being to show the students that, no matter how tough they thought they had it, there were people in the world who had even less. Students have been given the opportunity to experience life from a wheelchair, to better understand the difficulties faced by those among us who lack mobility, and they are given the chance to help those in need. Currently, more than 45,000 students from 50 schools are participating in the project and will raise more than \$100,000 annually.

This summer teachers, students and their families traveled to Costa Rica and Honduras to distribute the wheelchairs they had raised the funds for in the previous school year. Here are some of their thoughts about the experience:

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: <<< This happy recipient now has three new young friends from Northern California, thanks to the *From the Heart - Schools Project*. Not only did they raise the funds to provide this wheelchair to its' new owner, they traveled to Central America to personally deliver it as well. <<< Teachers also traveled to Central and South America this year to participate in the distribution of wheelchairs their classes had helped fund. *From the Heart* understands the importance of involving educators as well as students, and efforts are made to make certain that both have a memorable experience they can take back to the classroom.



*"I can't put into words how much I loved the wheelchair deliveries and the whole experience. It was so wonderful getting to be a part of the full circle from raising money for the wheelchairs to delivering them in person to the people of Costa Rica. I'm still frequently looking back at my pictures and recalling the different stories that the recipients or their families shared - how and why they were in need of a wheelchair. They were so grateful for the gift of mobility, and I am so grateful to have been a part of it."*

Elizabeth Campos, Teacher, Montair Elementary, Danville  
Costa Rica 2014



*"Distributing wheelchairs in Honduras allowed me to directly contribute to an extensive, global effort with my own two hands, and provided me with an eye opening experience that has broadened my knowledge and changed my outlook on life. Prior to my trip, I viewed wheelchairs as an unfortunate necessity for the people who require them -- now I see them as a wonderful opportunity for freedom, access and dignity."*

Isabelle Cox  
Senior, San Ramon Valley High  
Honduras 2014



*"It was very eye opening unlike anything I have ever experienced before. While distributing the wheelchairs, I felt a unique sense of joy that I was giving back to people who were less fortunate than myself. Seeing the happiness in the recipients and their caregivers hit deep and helped me realize how a new wheelchair could improve so many lives--both recipients and their caregivers. The house deliveries showed me the lack of freedom that many without a decent wheelchair experience daily. I liked seeing the new found joy of the families."*

*I also found a great sense of achievement when I gave the set of soccer uniforms to the coach at the Costa Rican school. He said they needed a set of jerseys because they had an upcoming tournament. I knew they would be used - that made me very happy!*

*Overall the trip was great and an enjoyable way to help people. I feel so lucky to have gone on it!"*

Drew Kerr  
Senior, San Ramon Valley High  
Costa Rica 2014



*"I know the words "life changing" get thrown around a lot, but this is one of the few time in my life where I can say that something truly was. Honduras was an eye-opening experience that changed my entire outlook on the world for the better. It exceeded my expectations in every way."*

Max Pienkny  
Senior, Monte Vista High  
Honduras 2014

*"Max has slowly taken us through the entire trip and it sounds like a truly incredible, and life altering experience. One of the things I am so impressed by is how direct and immediate your help is for those in need. I know Max wishes to stay involved with the Wheelchair Foundation and I hope he can continue to learn and grow from the example you set."*

Dr. Andrew Pienkny  
Father of Max Pienkny  
Senior, Monte Vista High  
Honduras 2014

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: <<< Josh Routh gives a soccer ball to a young recipient at his home. Sometimes it is too difficult for a person in need of mobility to travel to a central location to attend a wheelchair distribution event, so we take the wheelchairs to them. <<< Student Max Pienkny posing with one of the many thankful wheelchair recipients during his time in Central America. <<< Thumbs up for a new soccer ball!



# RAIDERS AND MOBILITY FOR AMERICA HELPING OUR COMMUNITY



On August 28th of this year, the NFL's Oakland Raiders celebrated a successful partnership with Wheelchair Foundation by helping provide wheelchairs to people in need of mobility in the San Francisco Bay Area. During a pre-game ceremony, Tom Blanda, the Raider's Director of Business Operations, joined wheelchair recipients and representatives of local aid organizations who have received wheelchairs thanks to contributions from the Raiders and Wheelchair Foundation's own Mobility for America program. Among those in attendance; Oakland Fire Department's Random Acts, Pace Solano, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, and Honor Flights of the Bay Area

Guests were treated to a pre-game tour of the Raider's *O.co Coliseum* and had the opportunity to meet with Raiders staff and management. Following their trip on field everyone was invited to two beautifully catered luxury box suites for the Raiders final pre-season game, in which the Oakland Raiders beat the Seattle Seahawks handily, 41-31.

*"At Pace Solano we serve nearly 500 clients, seven days a week and we depend upon gifts and donations for much of what we do. The wheelchairs you have provided are invaluable! As folks get older their bodies don't always work as well as they used to, so these wheelchairs enable our clients' community access they would otherwise be denied."*

Kelley Hanson – Pace Solano

*"The Raiders game was the first professional football game each child had ever attended. As we took them out on the field their faces contained ear-to-ear smiles! It was a truly memorable event and a great reward for all the hard work these children have endured during their recovery and intense physical therapy."*

Chris Walker – Pediatric Rehabilitation Department, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland





# 2014 HERO GAMES

**W**heelchair Foundation is the house charity for NuView IRA of Orlando, Florida. This year they held the Second Annual Hero Games at Secret Lake Park in Casselberry, Florida, to raise funds and awareness in support of Wheelchair Foundation. Employees and a large cadre of volunteers hosted a five kilometer “walk, run, roll” and an eight element obstacle course. The obstacles were designed to depict the challenges real life heroes experience – from service men and women, to firefighters, to first responders – the Hero Games gave each participant a reason to rise to the challenge.



Mandi Howell, the event’s coordinator, completed the five kilometer run and obstacle course with double-amputee Hector Manley, whom she had met in Honduras in 2013 while distributing wheelchairs in that country. “Running through the course with Hector riding his wheelchair, everything seemed simple and easy because Hector is such an inspiration and never let up with positive encouragement.” Then, she did the whole course again, on her own. “The second time through was much harder without Hector cheering me on all the way,” explained Howell.

More than 85 people participated and the contributions of numerous individual, community and corporate donors helped raise more than \$17,000 through this event. NuView IRA’s goal is to raise \$42,000 so they can send a container of 280 wheelchairs to people in need of mobility. Thank you to everyone who contributed and participated!



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: <<< Everyone who participated in this year’s Hero Games got a medal, big heroes and little heroes alike. <<< Wheelchair rider Hector Manley sets the pace during the 5K roll. <<< Hector and event coordinator Mandi Howell in Honduras distributing wheelchairs in 2013. <<< No obstacle was too great for this year’s heroes.



# season highlights



COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: <<< This year more than 45,000 students raised over \$100,000 through the The Del Corazon *From the Heart* - Schools Project, and allowed teachers and students to personally deliver wheelchairs in Honduras and Costa Rica this summer. <<< In 2014 our *Mobility for America* fundraising drive raised enough money to provide 600 wheelchairs for people in need of mobility here in the United States. Wheelchairs have been donated to Veterans, the elderly and infirmed, to hospitals and clinics and communtiy based organziations who otherwise would not have the ability to purchase wheelchairs on their own. <<< Thumbs up for a new red wheelchair. With no prosthesis, and crutches the only other option available, a wheelchair brings much needed relief to a recipient in Costa Rica. <<< David Behring, Wheelchair Foundation President, with one of four WWII Veterans representing *Honor Flights* at the Oakland Raiders pre-season game. <<< Teachers from Northern California and Rotarians from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, join forces to provide wheelchairs to the disabled and less fortunate of Honduras this summer.







CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: <<< Wheelchair Foundation and employees and clients of Pace Solano are honored guests at the Oakland Raider's pre-season game against the visiting Seattle Seahawks. Thank you Raiders! <<< From left to right: Basketball Hall of Fame member David Cowens, Jack Drury, President of the Southeast Region of Wheelchair Foundation, Steve Beinke, President of Blackhawk Services Company, Inc., and Al Thomas, this year's Florida golf tournament event sponsor. Over the past 14 years Jack has helped to fund and distribute more than 3,100 wheelchairs domestically and more than 12,100 internationally. Many thanks to all who support us! <<< In Honduras this summer, recipients and their families arrive by the bus load to receive new wheelchairs thanks to the *From the Heart - Schools Project*. <<< World War II Veterans get prepared for their departure from San Francisco International Airport on their way to Washington, D.C. All expenses are paid for these Veterans by Honor Flights to allow them the opportunity to visit the Memorials erected in their honor in our Nation's capitol. <<< The chance to see a Raider's game and get a new wheelchair warrants a handshake from UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital of Oakland patient, Marc Anthony.





# GREETINGS FROM ZIMBABWE!



Patrick Mavros is a longtime friend of Wheelchair Foundation. For more than a decade and a half, Patrick has been facilitating wheelchair distribution throughout Zimbabwe on behalf of the Foundation. Along with being a world-renowned silversmith and sculptor, he is also a wonderful storyteller and humanitarian.

*“Greetings from Zimbabwe and I hope you are all well over there.*

*I thought you might like this little report of our visit to Mutawatawa, a very remote rural area in the Eastern part of Mashonaland, Zimbabwe.*

*My son, Benjamin, and I set out at dawn in the company of one Inspector Kugotse, a longstanding acquaintance of mine who had asked me to come and help donate 12 wheelchairs to various needy recipients in the district of Mutawatawa.*

*The journey would take us some hours, 302 kms of strip and gravel roads, some of them not in a very good condition, across the only access bridge into the area, the Murehwa Bridge.*







*When we approached the bridge, we could see that it was in a state of perilous disrepair, due to a large granite block which had fallen on it some weeks before. We navigated carefully around the gaping hole and made our way gingerly over what remained of the bridge, laden to the hilt with boxes from The Wheelchair Foundation!*

*Eventually we reached our destination, a rural school seemingly miles away from anywhere, set in the beautiful and untouched area of Mutawatawa, where people from all over the surrounding community were gathering to greet our arrival.*

*We saw a middle-aged lady crawling on all fours into the venue, and a young man walking in on legs that were merely disfigured stumps. Some of the recipients were already in possession of a wheelchair of one description or another, but all of them were held together with bits of wire and ingeniously engineered pieces of twine and card. One of the recipients was only five years old, tiny in her bright, new, 12" wheelchair, and with a smile that lit up the room.*

*The ceremony was presided over by the Governor of Mashonaland East, The Honourable Simbaneuta Mudarikwa, and the whole proceeding took most of the day.*

*I wish I could describe the joy and gratitude in the faces of these people and their families when they were presented with their new wheelchairs. Even the boxes they came in were carried away with reverence, destined to be put to very good use in their homes.*

*I hope that my photos give you a small window into this heart-warming event, and once again, I thank you and your donors and all the people who are involved in making this sort of dream a reality in the most remote rural areas of Africa."*

*With lots of love,*

*Patrick*



*"I am so astonished at your kindness. Thank you so much. This little girl, Pingu, has been born HIV positive and with deformed legs, and up until now has been pushed around in a baby pushchair by her Grandmother. I have been sending her to rehab for months on end, and to have someone else helping is beyond my wildest dreams.*

*Pingu did not know that she was coming to get a wheelchair today, and was quite overwhelmed by it all. As soon as she was in the chair she was off, wheeling it around all on her own - she was so excited and it was very special for all of us to see the look on her little face."*

*-Nomvelo Zaranyka, Administrator  
Bulawayo Island Hospice Service*



# HONOR FLIGHTS BAY AREA



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: <<< Honor Flights Veterans at the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. For many, this is their one and only chance to visit the memorial erected in their honor in our nation's capital. <<< The two most senior Veterans on this trip receive directions prior to their presentation of colors at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. <<< An Honor Flight traveler and his chaperone get acquainted and share stories waiting for their departure flight at San Francisco International Airport.

**T**his Summer's Honor Flight from the San Francisco Bay Area to Washington, D.C. with 26 WWII Veterans was a great success. Thanks to the wheelchairs that were provided by Wheelchair Foundation, our Veterans had no difficulty in seeing the memorials dedicated to their service.

Top priority is given to America's most senior heroes — survivors of World War II and any Veteran with a terminal illness who wishes to visit THEIR memorial. The program will naturally transition to Korean War, Vietnam War and all other Veterans who served, on a chronological basis.



"My dad is legally blind, legally deaf, he's an amputee, he's had two heart surgeries and he's got lung cancer — so he's living on borrowed time. He is so thankful for this," said Janice Lopez.

World War II Veteran Art Perry commented that the trip meant he was able to talk with people his age, who went through the same thing he did. "It made me feel really good having someone like that to talk to," he said.

For some, the trip meant closure. Sgt. Art Perry was 22 years old when he served as an Army Sergeant in World War II. He hadn't really talked about the war until now. "I think this is a long time coming," said Perry's daughter Dianne Madronio.







On Sept. 27th, Oakland Firefighters participated for the 10th year in the *Wheelchair Regatta* at the Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda, California. Disabled Veterans were bussed in from Veteran homes and hospitals around the San Francisco Bay Area. Boat owners donated their time and vessels to give the Veterans a ride on the beautiful San Francisco Bay. Oakland Firefighters, along with Alameda Firefighters and the Coast Guard, all helped to carry the wheelchair bound Veterans on and off boats.

For many of the Veterans who fought in WWII, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, this was a rare day when they could escape institutionalized life. Over the years, not surprisingly, we have noticed many Veterans with red wheelchairs from the Wheelchair Foundation. Thank you for all you do.

Cindy Chin, Oakland Firefighters Random Acts





# DISTRICT 7570 TRAVELS THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA HELPING OTHERS



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: <<< Members of Rotary clubs in District 7570 pose with partnering Rotarians in Latin America. Together these clubs have provided mobility to more than 1,200 people, organizations and others. <<< "Before." Just one of many opportunities to provide mobility to someone waiting for assistance. <<< "After." The opportunity to see the impact of a wheelchair as a gift, knowing that this gentleman will have relief from crawling wherever he goes. The impact for each individual is unique. Being present to hear the stories and meet each recipient is an amazing experience for everyone involved.

During the past year Rotary District 7570 has distributed over 1,600 wheelchairs in Latin America and the Southern Caribbean Islands. The district leadership saw a need for wheelchairs and witnessed the impact wheelchairs can make in a community. In 2012 they initiated a campaign to raise money for 1,200 wheelchairs, which they exceeded.

The beauty of Rotary is that Rotarians in the receiving country coordinate the distribution events and host visiting Rotarians from abroad who travel to help distribute the wheelchairs. In the Southern Caribbean Islands and Guyana, Rotarians saw diabetics who had their legs amputated. In Colombia, they saw amputees, the victims of landmines indiscriminately used during their ongoing war with the drug cartels and terror groups. In Guatemala, they saw Mayan Indians suffering from malnutrition which caused numerous health problems. In Mexico, they saw children with deformities, often a result of lack of basic medical care and from mothers not receiving proper pre-natal care.

Rotarians in these countries are attempting to address these problems, and are taking action to ease the suffering of those







CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE >>> The reward is in the giving and the impact of a single wheelchair is felt by the giver, the receiver and family. >>> Wheelchairs unpacked, assembled and awaiting a distribution ceremony. All of this effort pays off when donors, partnering organizations and volunteers get to see the reaction of recipients when they get their new red wheelchairs. >>> A shy smile from a young wheelchair recipient. Sometimes, all of the excitement in getting a new wheelchair can be a bit overwhelming!

already afflicted.

In the faces of the people we distributed wheelchairs to you could see the joy and feel the excitement as the recipients beamed with a new ray of hope for the future. It was readily apparent that a wheelchair not only affects the lives of the recipient, but the lives of loved ones around them as well. From their hearts, "Thank you and may God bless you!" was the credo at each distribution.

The Rotarians in the host countries worked tirelessly to clear governmental import problems, identify the recipients and set up distributions in multiple locations. They welcomed us with open arms, and went out of their way to make us feel a part of their efforts to relieve some of the suffering in their countries. Along with the hard work, they took time to introduce us to their proud heritage, and share their food and culture.

We have seen firsthand how the gift of mobility changes lives.





# Wheelchair FOUNDATION

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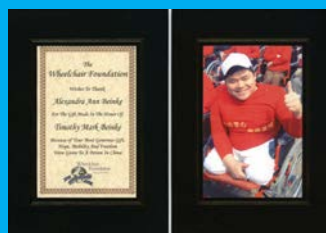
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