

Changing THE WORLD



ONE MILLION

THANKS!

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF OUR ONE MILLIONTH WHEELCHAIR

SPRING / SUMMER 2015

A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



It is important that this issue of *Changing the World* begins with a simple "Thank you." This message of gratitude goes out to all of our donors and supporters over the last 15 years. Your belief that mobility is a basic human right, and that no living human being should be left alone, without community, without education or the chance to simply get outside to see nature, has impacted millions of families globally.

In June, Wheelchair Foundation celebrates the distribution of our one-millionth wheelchair and we are very excited and proud of this accomplishment. Wheelchair Foundation stands as the single largest international relief effort of its kind, and is the home of one of the most diverse networks of international partnerships and cooperation to assist the disabled and less fortunate of the world.

Disabled children born into poverty have received mobility because of you. Disabled recipients in 154 countries have you to thank, and they send their "thank you" messages many times over! Our effort to provide hope, freedom and mobility has succeeded because of your continued support.

Thank you!

Kenneth E. Behring
Founder and Chairman

Mission and Goals

Our Mission

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

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, 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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BEHRING GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION OPENS WALKING INTO AFRICA EXHIBIT AT NEW SHANGHAI MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



In April of this year, Behring Global Educational Foundation traveled to China to distribute wheelchairs and attend the Grand Opening of the new Shanghai Museum of Natural History. This new state-of-the-art museum is located in the Jing'an Sculpture Park in the middle of downtown Shanghai. Through our *International Museums Partnership*, we have donated the specimens for the "Walk into Africa" exhibit, some 280 in all.

China is known for having the most significant collections of dinosaur fossils on earth, and there are fantastic reproductions and animatronics on display here. "This is truly one of the most beautiful museums in the world," said Kenneth E. Behring.

OFF TO UGANDA WITH A SUITCASE AND A WHEELCHAIR. DONOR DAVID KASIBANTE PERSONALLY DELIVERS MOBILITY TO A FAMILY IN NEED.

I arrived in Uganda a few days ago and my first order of duty was to deliver the wheelchair I brought with me from Wheelchair Foundation. I had chosen a woman to give the wheelchair to, but by the time I arrived, there had been many discussions amongst the family members and they told me it was not culturally correct for this woman to receive the wheelchair before her son, who also has been disabled for many years, received one.

So, the wheelchair went to the son. The son is 70-years-old and has not left his house in 9 years. He has spent most of the time lying on a reed mat in the porch area of the house. When I arrived with the wheelchair, he broke into tears and was very overwhelmed. I cannot tell you what a wonderful thing you folks have done for this man. Thank you again so much for enabling me to do this for this man. It will change things for the whole family.

-David Kasibante



JOSH AND DON ROUTH AND BILL WHEELER OF DEL CORAZON TRAVEL TO SURINAME TO FULFILL THE PROMISES OF THE DON & JOSH LATIN AMERICA PROJECT.



Don, Josh and Bill spent three days delivering 280 wheelchairs to the people of Nickerie, Paramaribo and Muengo in Suriname. Suriname (Dutch Guiana until 1975) is a country of 500,000 people on the northeast coast of South America. The official language is Dutch, and it is the most jungle covered country in the world (95% covered). The ethnicity in Suriname is fairly evenly spread among Creole, Maroons, East Indian and Javanese. Not very much English is spoken and our presentations had to be interpreted into Surinamese and Aucaans (Maroon tribal language) as well as Dutch. Suriname receives comparatively little foreign aid.

This was the first time representatives of the Wheelchair Foundation had traveled to Suriname, although the Foundation had sent a container of wheelchairs there through the Mormon Church in 2002. We are often asked how long our wheelchairs last. We encountered two of our wheelchairs from 2002 that, although very worn, were still being used!!

ONE WHEELCHAIR

How do you go about giving away a million wheelchairs? Well, you start with *one*.

In 2013 Kenneth E. Behring published *The Road to Leadership*. In this, his second book, he recounts the origin story of Wheelchair Foundation and the one special donation that solidified his conviction to attempt what he had never done before, to change the world.



One of my first wheelchair deliveries was to a young girl in a small village outside Hanoi, Vietnam. The trip to her house was not easy. We started out by car taxi, then switched to bicycle taxi and finally traveled by foot along a dusty path. As we moved through the area, curious people began to follow us. By the time we arrived at the little house, we had close to 50 of them trailing us. We had an interpreter with us; the parents were nice and gave me tea and a small chair to sit on. I looked outside and saw an open sewer. I had a hard time drinking the tea.





The little girl, Bui Thi Huyen, was six-years-old and had never moved by herself. She sat, terrified and crying, on an old pile of rags, I gave her lollipops but that did not seem to help. We put her in the wheelchair outside her house, where our followers had gathered. I showed her how to put her hands on the wheel rims to move the chair. She was frightened and tearful. But finally, she moved it by herself. Then she broke out into the biggest smile I have ever seen (see for yourself!). All of her neighbors clapped and cheered. In a few moments, we had transformed this girl on a pile of rags into a girl who could move about freely. In this act of giving I found joy and I found a purpose.



Wheelchair Foundation has set a lofty goal of delivering a wheelchair to every child, woman and man who needs one, but does not have access or cannot afford to purchase a wheelchair on his or her own. Since the beginning we have acknowledged this is not a goal we can achieve on our own. Over the past 15 years we have learned a lot about international aid distribution, logistics, development and partnerships. Tens of thousands of individuals have supported us \$150 at a time, and we enjoy a rich and dynamic family of more than one thousand like-minded worldwide partners helping us to achieve our goal. Thank you all for your kindness and support.



There may be no more beautiful continent than Africa and its dangerous wilds and expansive wilderness must be seen to be fully understood. African people are exceedingly kind and curious, with easy, beautiful, smiles. Africa is the world's second largest and second most populous continent at 1.1 billion inhabitants as of 2013. It covers six percent of Earth's total surface area and 20.4 percent of its total land area. With your help we have been able to provide nearly 89,000 wheelchairs in 39 African countries. Thank you!





SWAZILAND



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



TANZANIA

AFRICA

Algeria	1,480	Morocco	5,470
Angola	6,790	Mozambique	1,660
Benin	280	Namibia	466
Botswana	1,688	Niger	240
Burundi	520	Nigeria	1,420
Cape Verde	780	Rwanda	2,200
Central African Republic	240	Senegal	520
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	205	Seychelles	10
Egypt	1,168	Sierra Leone	2,340
Eritrea	250	Somalia	88
Ethiopia	3,468	South Africa	22,800
Ghana	2,610	Sudan	280
Kenya	2,930	Swaziland	1,970
Lesotho	1,060	Tanzania	3,528
Liberia	780	Uganda	9,664
Madagascar	1,270	Western Sahara	153
Malawi	3,530	Zambia	2,646
Mali	1,060	Zimbabwe	2,580
Mauritania	100	TOTAL	88,364
Montenegro	120		



MALAWI



BOTSWANA



ZAMBIA



CHINA



MARSHALL ISLANDS



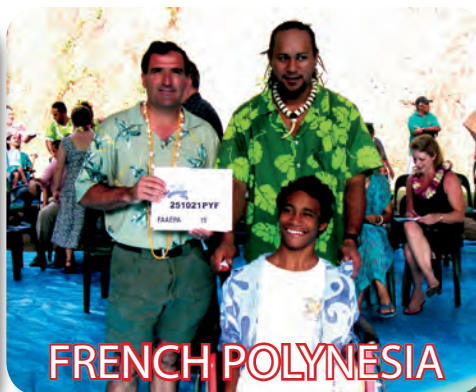
CAMBODIA

There are just over 4.2 billion people in the Asia Pacific region, comprising 61% of the global population. China accounts for more than 1.357 billion of that total, with India following close behind at 1.252 billion people. Indonesia adds an additional 255 million people. Wheelchair Foundation has distributed nearly half a million wheelchairs in this region alone; however, due to the population density, we have only begun to scratch the surface when it comes to meeting the existing need for wheelchairs for those without mobility.

Fortunately, we are able to work with the Chinese Disabled Person's Federation, Rotary International, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Sister Cities International and many others to provide mobility throughout Asia and the Pacific.



THAILAND



FRENCH POLYNESIA



TIBET



PAKISTAN



CHINA



AFGHANISTAN

ASIA

Bangladesh
Cambodia
China
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Japan
Korea, North
Korea, South
Laos
Malaysia
Myanmar (Burma)
Mongolia
Nepal
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Saint Petersburg
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Thailand
Tibet
Vietnam
Afghanistan
Pakistan

350
3,630
386,161
970
2,731
3,340
1,750
1,152
5,700
780
4,040
500
1,320
3,275
2,080
10,465
120
3,170
756
8,410
331
14,476
7,150
3,175

TOTAL

465,832

AUSTRALIA

Australia
Fiji
French Polynesia
Guam
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Micronesia
N. Mariana Islands
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Vanuatu
TOTAL

292
1,950
280
250
375
140
1,265
410
1,360
110
500
250

7,182



LAOS



TAHITI



CHINA



MONACO



KOSOVO



TURKEY

Wheelchair Foundation has been able to provide more than 74,000 wheelchairs throughout Europe and the Middle East and welcomed by the Royal Families of Spain, Monaco, Serbia, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, among others, who have all personally participated in the distribution of wheelchairs in their respective countries. In Turkey, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew supported our efforts for many years.

Our donors' generosity has allowed us to reach into Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Iraq and Afghanistan where our U.S. Armed Forces personnel have distributed wheelchairs during active conflict, and Iran in response to the devastating earthquake in Bam in 2003. We provided wheelchairs to the war torn city of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina and received high praise from General Joseph W. Ralston, Supreme Allied Commander for NATO, for our willingness to provide mobility to the victims of landmine tragedies that still plague that region.



BELARUS



SPAIN



TURKEY



UKRAINE



JORDAN



ARMENIA

EUROPE

Spain
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Estonia
France
Greece
Hungary
Italy
Lithuania
Macedonia
Malta
Montenegro
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Serbia
Slovenia
Albania

TOTAL

500
990
280
2,040
530
1,300
280
597
500
560
520
120
740
1,090
760
240
120
2,700
990
3,571
2,370
110
550
22,038

EASTERN EUROPE

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Georgia
Kazakhstan
Kosovo
Kyrgystan
Moldova
Russia
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
Uzbekistan

TOTAL

3,244
280
1,030
1,510
1,300
1,240
1,720
2,230
480
520
5,350
1,240

20,144

MIDDLE EAST

Jordan
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Lebanon
Turkey
Palestinian Territories
Saudi Arabia
Syria
Oman

TOTAL

5,022
3,880
4,300
7,830
2,430
5,550
1,906
20
641
280

31,859



MACEDONIA



PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES



POLAND



MEXICO



BRAZIL



MEXICO



Latin America has a population of 588 million people, 49 percent of which exists within the country of Brazil. In 2000, Wheelchair Foundation accepted an invitation to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the liberation of Brazil from Spain, as guests of His Royal Highness, King Juan Carlos of Spain. We traveled to Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, to donate wheelchairs to then President Fernando Henrique Cardoso in what would be the first of many wheelchair distribution trips to South America.

Rotary clubs and Rotarians have played an integral role in helping us reach the most remote areas of Mexico, Central and South America. Rotarians took wheelchairs up the Amazon River to villages only accessible by boat. Rotarians have helped reach out into communities to individuals who would have otherwise been overlooked. Thanks also go out to Mr. Carlos Slim, whose Telmex cooperation helped provide thousands of wheelchairs to Latin America, and Mr. Ken Hofmann, whose donations have allowed tens of thousands the opportunity to be mobile in Mexico.



BELIZE



PANAMA



EL SALVADOR



COLOMBIA



PERU



COSTA RICA

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

Haiti	5,320
Antigua and Barbuda	280
Honduras	7,044
Argentina	11,009
Jamaica	3,750
Bahamas	2,290
Mexico	164,414
Barbados	1120
Nicaragua	8,330
Belize	2,835
Panama	11,301
Brazil	2,305
Paraguay	2,614
Bolivia	5,294
Peru	12,867
Chile	11,388
Puerto Rico	490
Colombia	12,635
Saint Lucia	560
Costa Rica	8,735
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	665
Cuba	1,800
Suriname	520
Dominica	280
Trinidad & Tobago	5,719
Dominican Republic	8,958
Uruguay	1,632
East Timor	110
Venezuela	2,800
Ecuador	9,619
Virgin Islands (UK)	284
El Salvador	10,295
Virgin Islands (US)	280
Grenada	280
Guyana	250
TOTAL	327,581



BOLIVIA



SAINT LUCIA



HONDURAS



Wheelchair Foundation is based in Danville, California, U.S.A. Even though we are a well-known and prominent international aid organization, we have also given out over 37,000 wheelchairs domestically. One of the first donations Wheelchair Foundation made was to the Crow Indian Nation in Montana where we provide a wheelchair to the oldest living Cheyenne woman. We receive requests for assistance daily from people all across the United States. Thanks to the donors and sponsors who have supported our *Mobility for America* project, we can provide wheelchairs free of charge to Veterans, groups that support Veterans (like Honor Flights) hospitals, clinics, and individuals alike.

We work to educate America's youth about disability awareness through programs such as the Del Corazon, *From the Heart* Schools Project, by loaning wheelchairs to elementary and high schools so students can spend time in a wheelchair and learn about the common challenges faced by people who lack mobility.



STEPHANIE BEHRING, MISS CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL, REPRESENTS THE U.S.A. AT OUR MOST RECENT WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION IN MONTERREY, MEXICO.



Above >>> This is Phillippe. I had the honor of speaking with this man (with the help of a translator) for about an hour today during the wheelchair distribution. He lost his leg four years ago due to diabetes, then had to have his second leg amputated two years ago, and a short while later lost his vision. He told me today that "God works miracles" and that "he was given a second chance at life and happiness because of the hearts of people like us." I cannot even put into words how emotional this man, and this day made me. Left to right: Miss California International, Stephanie Behring, with her father, Wheelchair Foundation President, David Behring. >>>

This year for Spring Break, instead of going to Panama City Beach or Cabo San Lucas like most other college students, I traveled to Monterrey, Mexico, to spend quality time doing my favorite pastime: volunteering. I met up with my father at the General Mariano Escobedo International Airport on Thursday morning before driving to our hotel.

Our work in Mexico began at a glorious 5 a.m. My father, fellow Rotarians from across the United States and I all met in the hotel lobby before being split into separate groups for the day. Each group was designated to a different "hands-on" project, such as; building a home, fixing up a library, painting schools, working with autistic children, reforestation of a primary school, speaking on water sanitation at elementary schools or painting basketball courts.

My father signed up to assemble and build a new home for a woman and her children. At a cost of only \$2,000, the new home went up in less than two days. The 500, or so, other families living in this city, had built their homes from corrugated metal and wood scraps. I signed up to paint a school and work with the autistic children. The school, called Arena, works with autistic children from all across Mexico. We painted several rooms, some intended as "sensory rooms," a gymnasium and a computer lab. Then we had the chance to laugh and play with the students in the classrooms! It was an incredibly rewarding day.

That evening Rotarian Carlos Sandoval invited everyone to his house for a lovely dinner and celebration. There was a young woman there named Andrea Resendez who was born with cerebral palsy and has an impressive artistic talent: she paints with her mouth. My father received one of her paintings; that depicted young children at a lemonade stand raising money for wheelchairs, with the Rotary International "Wheel" symbol in place of the sun. I loved the paintings so much I asked my father if he would purchase one of her paintings so that I could hang it in my own room!

On Saturday, at 8 am, we embarked on what would be our greatest adventure: our wheelchair distribution. When we arrived at the venue, a gymnasium, the scene broke out into mass chaos! Everyone worked to unpack wheelchairs from the hundreds of wheelchair boxes stacked around the room, as others assembled them before the distribution. There were boxes of different wheelchair sizes ranging from 12", for a small child, to 20", for larger adults. There was a local high school choir that came in and sang during the distribution, lifting the spirits of both the families, and the recipients. At the end of the morning, we had delivered 500 wheelchairs! Five hundred! Those 500 people received mobility and independence, and there is no greater feeling than knowing that you gave that to someone!

There is no other way I would have wanted to spend my Spring Break.



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Wheelchair FOUNDATION

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Everywhere that we travel we like to consider ourselves Ambassadors of the American people. We feel that it is our duty to tell recipients across the world that we provide wheelchairs as a gesture of goodwill from our supporters in the United States and across the globe. It is an honor to do such meaningful and life changing work. We want these gifts to provide hope, freedom and mobility and all we ask for in return is a smile.

Thank you for your continued
generous support!