



Changing the World

volume 1, number 1, June 2001

Wheelchairs Delivered Since June 2000

Afghanistan.....90	Korea, Dem. Peoples Rep.....240
Albania.....50	Kosovo.....240
Algeria.....140	Kyrgyzstan.....240
Angola.....240	Lebanon.....175
Armenia.....671	Macedonia.....240
Belarus.....240	Mexico.....1388
Bolivia.....240	Moldova.....240
Bosnia & Herzegovina.....710	Mongolia.....390
Botswana.....50	Montenegro.....120
Brazil.....615	Mozambique.....120
Burundi.....240	Nicaragua.....175
Cameroon.....240	Niger.....490
Cape Verde.....175	Nigeria.....250
Central African Republic.....240	Pakistan.....415
Chad.....240	Palestinians/Israel.....890
China/Tibet.....240	Panama.....490
Columbia.....360	Peru.....25
Costa Rica.....240	Poland.....11
Cuba.....240	Romania.....282
Czech Republic.....120	Russia.....985
Democratic Rep. Of Congo.....240	Rwanda.....240
Dominican Republic.....2500	Sierra Leone.....240
Ecuador.....554	Somalia.....88
El Salvador.....240	South Africa.....240
Equatorial Guinea.....240	Sudan.....200
Ethiopia.....240	Taiwan-Republic of China.....756
Gabon.....240	Tajikistan.....240
Guatemala.....624	Thailand.....250
Haiti.....290	Turkey.....240
Honduras.....25	Turkmenistan.....240
India.....35	Ukraine.....336
Indonesia.....480	United States.....2641
Israel.....50	Uzbekistan.....240
Italy.....18	Venezuela.....125
Jamaica.....180	Vietnam.....925
Kazakhstan.....240	Western Samoa.....160
	Zambia.....120
	Zimbabwe.....240

Total Countries 73
Wheelchairs Delivered 26,504

**HOPE
 MOBILITY
 FREEDOM**

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

ON JUNE 13, 2000, the Wheelchair Foundation was officially launched in Washington, DC. For founder and philanthropist Kenneth E.

Behring, the Foundation was an idea a long time in coming. A frequent traveler to all corners of the globe, Mr. Behring often brought humanitarian goods with him on his large airplane when visiting developing nations. According to Mr. Behring, he first brought some wheelchairs along with canned meat donated by LDS Charities to the former Yugoslavia. He was struck by how dramatically it changed the life of a recipient and an entire family. The impression that it left was not easily forgotten.



Six-year-old Bui Thi Huyen of Vietnam.

Mr. Behring then financed a pilot delivery of wheelchairs to Romania in October of 1999. After seeing the dramatic videotape of the Romanian delivery, he traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam with a shipment of wheelchairs in the spring of 2000. He soon understood that no other group was doing this kind of work on a large scale, and came to grips with the vast global need for wheelchairs.

It was after the experience in Hanoi that he made his decision to take this project to the next level. For Mr. Behring, seeing the powerful impact a wheelchair can make on a person's life was perhaps the most important factor in this

(continued on page 3)

The Oakland Athletics ~ True Heroes

The Dominican Republic is home to the Oakland Athletics training facility named after Hall of Fame pitcher Juan Marichal. Pick any corner of this country and you will see people playing baseball. An old broomstick is a bat; a ball is made of rags and string, and a shortstop fields line drives with bare hands. But judging by the smiles on the faces of its players, homespun sporting goods do not take away from their love for the game. If you look around the same town in that Caribbean island nation, you will also see people struggling just to get by. For a Dominican

(continued on page 3)



Baseball in the Dominican Republic.

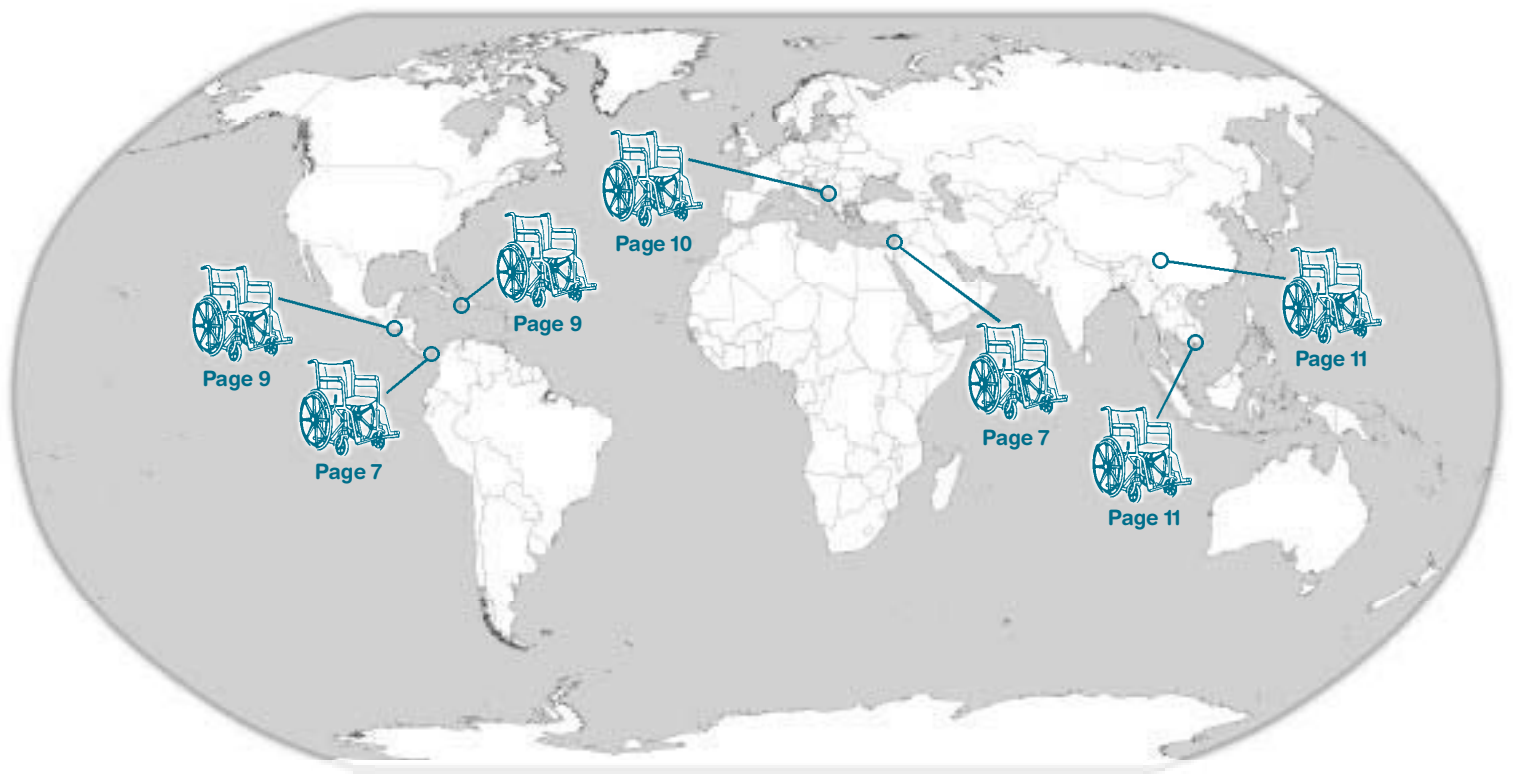


Table of Contents

In the Beginning	1
The Oakland Athletics ~ True Heroes	1
International Board of Advisors	4
Our Mission	5
The Overwhelming Need for Wheelchairs	5
Profile – Kenneth E. Behring	6
Wheelchair Foundation Sponsors	6
Newslines	7~12
“No Borders Recognized” – Israel/Gaza	7
“Bridge of the Americas” – Panama	7
“Haiti – Poorest Nation in the Americas”	8
“Help for El Salvador”	9
“Remembering the Balkans” – Bosnia & Herzegovina	10
Vietnam Revisited	11
“The Isolated Kham” – China/Tibet	11
Welcome – Rotary Clubs and Goodwill Industries	13
Events – Organization of American States, Washington, DC	13
Internet – The Wheelchair Foundation on the Web – Around the World <i>by James G. Stolich</i>	14
Frequently Asked Questions	15

Changing the World, the Wheelchair Foundation newsletter will be published quarterly. Premier issue Volume 1, Number 1 – June 2001. Written and edited by Chris Lewis, contributing writers Jeffrey Pojanowski and James G. Stolich. Copyright 2001 Wheelchair Foundation. For questions or comments please write to: Chris Lewis, Editor, Post Office Box 2973, Danville, California 94506 USA

In the Beginning *(continued from page 1)*

decision. He explains, "A 90 year-old woman who had just received a wheelchair came up to me and said, through an interpreter, that life was so hard she wanted to die. But she pulled closer to me, took my hand and with a great smile said, 'But now I don't want to.' At that point I realized that a wheelchair means the difference between a person wanting to live and wanting to die."

Prior to the official launch, Mr. Behring arranged deliveries of wheelchairs to Guatemala, the Crow Indian nation in Montana and Botswana. On June 13, 2000, however, the Foundation's work began in earnest. At a Capitol Hill reception co-hosted by US Representatives Steve Largent and Ellen Tauscher and attended by Senators William First, and Tom Harkin, Mr. Behring announced the Foundation's initial goal: to provide 1 million wheelchairs for people in need by the year 2005. At \$150 per



Vietnamese woman thanking Ken Behring for her wheelchair.

wheelchair, reaching the goal would require \$150 million. Mr. Behring got the ball rolling by pledging \$15 million from the Kenneth E. Behring Foundation to underwrite the Foundation's operating expenses.

The World Health Organization states that over 25 million people around the world are immobile and without money to buy a wheelchair. In the first 9 months the Foundation has learned that the number is actually between 100 and 130 million people! That number is based on information provided by government officials that indicate up to 2 1/2% of the population of developing countries fall into this category. To address the actual world need, the Wheelchair Foundation must raise \$19.5 billion. This number is greater than any one organization can handle, so a coordinated global effort is the plan of action. The Wheelchair Foundation's plan of action is simple and effective. It teams up with responsible and well-established non-governmental organizations (NGO's) around the world such as the American Red Cross, Counterpart International and The Salvation Army. The Foundation pays to manufacture and ship the wheelchairs, while the NGO's identify needy individuals, distribute the wheelchairs in the country, return a photo of each wheelchair recipient to the Foundation and provide follow-up care. With a powerful International Board of Advisors co-chaired by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, the Wheelchair Foundation has quickly become the world's largest humanitarian provider of wheelchairs. At the time of press the Foundation has provided almost 27,000 wheelchairs to 73 countries, partnering with dozens of humanitarian organizations. But with a lofty goal to reach tens of millions of people still in need throughout the world, the Wheelchair Foundation will keep a narrow focus, and rely heavily on the dedicated individuals that are moving this global effort forward, reaching out to corporations, service organizations, foundations and governments on the way, bringing hope, mobility and freedom to those in need, and saving lives one wheelchair at a time.

True Heroes *(continued from page 1)*

who needs a wheelchair but cannot afford one, this struggle is almost impossible.

For many people in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, baseball is one of the simple joys that helps them cope with the burdens of poverty. One of the nation's largest resources is its pool of talented, hard-working baseball players. The best of these players will make it to the major leagues and earn a salary they could only have dreamed about when they were fielding with bare hands. The Oakland Athletics Community Fund purchased 2,500 wheelchairs for the people of the Dominican Republic and share good fortune with the hometowns that need their help so much.

In November of 2000, the Oakland A's teamed up with the Wheelchair Foundation to bring hope, mobility and freedom

to the Dominican Republic's most vulnerable citizens by delivering these 2,500 wheelchairs. The two groups, in partnership with 80 local organizations, presented and distributed wheelchairs to needy people at the A's Dominican training facility in La Victoria. Team President Michael Crowley, Wheelchair Foundation founder Ken Behring, along with A's standout shortstop Miguel Tejada were on hand for the presentation ceremony. Also appearing were Rosa Mejia, the First Lady of the Dominican Republic, Cardinal Nicolás de Jesús López Rodríguez and Charles Manatt, United States Ambassador to the Dominican Republic. "The A's have enjoyed a long relationship with the wonderful people of the Dominican Republic, both on and off the field," said team President Michael Crowley. "The Wheelchair Foundation gives people a new sense of hope, dignity and indepen-

dence. The A's organization is pleased to share Ken Behring's vision in this act of pure humanity."

The A's and the Wheelchair Foundation also made a second presentation on Friday, November 10th in Bani, the hometown of Miguel Tejada, who tenderly lifted his neighbors and seated them in new wheelchairs. A player with a long track record of giving back to the community, Tejada was particularly moved by this act of compassion. "A lot of people here need wheelchairs," he explained. "I hear one of the ladies say 'that wheelchair is my life' and my heart just fills up."

For every person who received a wheelchair there is a story that shows just how the gift of mobility changes a life for the better. For the 26 year-old daughter of a groundskeeper at the A's baseball academy who had

(continues on page 6)



International Board of Advisors

Members of the International Board of Advisors of the Wheelchair Foundation are individuals committed to providing wheelchairs to men, women and children around the world who cannot afford one. The Advisors bring their expertise and experience to bear in providing valuable counsel on the direction of the Foundation and support in accomplishing its goals and fulfilling its mission.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain – Co-Chairmen

(In alphabetical order)

- Robert M. Berdahl** – Chancellor, University of California at Berkeley
Ruth Correa Leite Cardoso, Ph. D. – First Lady of Brazil
Max Cleland – U. S. Senator, D-Georgia (Honorary)
Frank J. Devlyn – President, Rotary International (2000-2001)
Joel Ehrenkranz – Ehrenkranz & Ehrenkranz, New York
Professor Sir Harry Fang, M.D. – Chairman, Joint Council for Physically & Mentally Disabled, Hong Kong
Dianne Feinstein – U.S. Senator, D-California (Honorary)
William H. Frist – U.S. Senator, R-Tennessee (Honorary)
President Valery Giscard d’Estaing – Former President of France
President Mikhail Gorbachev – Former President of the USSR
Bernadine Healy, M.D. – President & CEO, The American Red Cross
Lucy Wong-Hernandez – Executive Director, Disabled Peoples’ International
Kenneth Hofmann – Oakland Athletics Baseball Team
Daniel Inouye – U. S. Senator, D-Hawaii (Honorary)
Jack Kemp – Former U.S. Representative & Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Richard D. King – President, Rotary International (2001-2002)
James R. Langevin – U.S. Representative, D-Rhode Island (Honorary)
Steve Largent – U.S. Representative, R-Oklahoma (Honorary)
Jerry Lewis – Entertainer/Humanitarian
Graca Machel – Former First Lady of Mozambique/Mrs. Nelson Mandela
Nelson Mandela – Former President of South Africa
Maria Isabel Baquerizo de Noboa – First Lady of Ecuador
Jack Palladino – Palladino & Sutherland, San Francisco
Arnold Palmer – Professional Golfer/Business Executive
Evelyn de Portillo – First Lady of Guatemala
General Joseph W. Ralston – United States Air Force
President Fidel Ramos – Former President of the Philippines
Catherine B. Reynolds – American Academy of Achievement/CEO of Educap Inc.
Steffano Ricci – Clothing Designer
Nancy Rivard – Executive Director, Airline Ambassadors
Christopher J. Rosa, Ph.D. – Director, Svs. for Students with Disabilities - Queens College, Flushing, NY
Yoshiaki Sakurai – Chairman, Kosaido, Japan
Don Shula – NFL Coach/Entrepreneur
Lawrence Small – Secretary, Smithsonian Institute
Catherine Stevens – Alaska & Washington, DC
Ellen Tauscher – U.S. Representative, D-California (Honorary)
Abbas I. Yousef – ASI Agricultural Services & Investments LTD.

Our Mission

The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organization leading an international effort to deliver a wheelchair to every man, woman and child in the world who needs one. For those individuals, the Wheelchair Foundation offers hope, freedom, self-reliance and mobility.

Mobility: The Most Basic Human Right

Over 20 million of the world's citizens today are deprived of mobility because of warfare, disease, disaster or advanced age. The wheelchairs they need simply to get across the street — or across the room — are out of reach. The Wheelchair Foundation believes that these people deserve the independence and dignity that comes with owning a wheelchair, regardless of their nationality.

The Goal: One Million Wheelchairs in Five Years

Over the next five years, the Wheelchair Foundation aims to distribute one million wheelchairs to people who cannot afford to buy one. The Foundation has already delivered thousands of wheelchairs worldwide. Allied with numerous international relief organizations, the Wheelchair Foundation has set its goals as high as its commitment.

\$15 Million from the Kenneth E. Behring Foundation: Only the Beginning

The Wheelchair Foundation was established in 2000 with a grant by the Kenneth E. Behring Foundation. In recent years, Mr. Behring has shifted his focus from business to philanthropy, and his foundation has committed to contribute \$15 million over the next five years to endow the Wheelchair Foundation effort.

The Wheelchair Foundation hopes to raise \$150 million in its first five years from corporations, other foundations and individuals to support its worldwide effort to provide hope, freedom, mobility and new independence to those in need.



The Overwhelming Need for Wheelchairs

- People require the use of a wheelchair for many reasons: accidents, birth defects, war injuries, debilitating diseases and old age.
- The leading cause of disabilities worldwide can be attributed to landmines, particularly in developing nations. Every year, 26,000 people are injured or killed by landmines around the world.
- An estimated 20-25 million disabled people worldwide need wheelchairs, though less than 1 percent own or have access to one. The number of disabled is likely underestimated, due to the inability to account for “forgotten” citizens who have been hidden away by their families.
- Experts predict 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.
- Despite tremendous efforts of relief organizations, their efforts are still not sufficient to meet the overwhelming need. Currently, there are three basic wheelchair options – sadly, none of which is adequate for a country's poorest disabled citizens:
 - Wheelchairs manufactured in the West: The most basic of these costs about \$375, not including shipping charges. This sum is out of reach for many impoverished people. In Vietnam, for example, a disabled person may earn about \$30 a month – if she or he is able to work.
 - Refurbished wheelchairs: There are several organizations that refurbish and distribute wheelchairs to those in need. Unfortunately, their efforts cannot hope to meet the overwhelming need. Quite often these chairs may be inadequate for rough conditions and terrain.
 - Wheelchairs manufactured in country: Some developing countries have domestic wheelchair manufacturing operations. But the chairs still must be sold to disabled citizens and may be too expensive for the destitute.

The wheelchairs provided by the Wheelchair Foundation are selected to withstand the rugged conditions of developing countries. They cost \$150 each and are offered free to those most in need.

Kenneth E. Behring

The establishment of the Wheelchair Foundation marks the most recent chapter in Kenneth E. Behring's philanthropic efforts to improve the lives of disadvantaged people around the world.

From his successful career as an automobile dealer in Wisconsin, Ken entered the world of real estate development in the 1960's. Over the course of the next 35 years, his companies created numerous planned communities in Florida and California, including the world-renowned Blackhawk development near San Francisco.

After purchasing the Seattle Seahawks football team in 1988, Ken established the Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation, which benefited numerous children's charities. The Seahawks Foundation was the most substantial benefactor for the Western Washington Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Ken Behring founded the Blackhawk Museum, The U.C. Berkeley Museum of Art, Science and Culture and the Behring-Hofmann Educational Institute in Blackhawk, California, to benefit the San Francisco East Bay region. In 1997 he pledged \$20 million to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and in 2000 he pledged an additional \$80 million to rebuild the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. For only the fourth time in the Smithsonian's 170-year history, the prestigious James Smithson Award was bestowed on Behring in recognition of his generosity and vision. The Black-



Ken Behring delivering wheelchairs in Shanghai.

hawk Museum is now an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

During his years of travel around the world, Ken has made it his personal mission to help those in need. His donations of food, medical supplies, clothing, toys and educational materials have helped people in some of the most impoverished nations on earth. His first-hand involvement has given him a realistic picture of how much help is needed worldwide.

In 1999 Ken donated shipments of wheelchairs to relief organizations in Eastern Europe and Africa. His personal contact with the recipients gave him a greater understanding of how much hope and happiness can be given to a person who receives a wheelchair. In the following months, he traveled the world delivering wheelchairs to Italy, Romania, Botswana, Vietnam, Guatemala and the Crow Indian Nation in Montana. In June of 2000, Ken committed \$15 million to his newly created Wheelchair Foundation.

Ken Behring was inducted into the American Academy of Achievement in 1989. He has served on the boards of national and international institutions, received numerous honors and awards of recognition, and been embraced by nations around the world.

Ken and his wife Patricia reside in Blackhawk, California. They have five sons and ten grandchildren.

“When I see the happiness on the faces of the people who get a wheelchair, I feel that this is the best thing I have ever done in my life.”
— **Kenneth E. Behring**

Wheelchair Foundation Sponsors Include:

**The Oakland Athletics
Smithsonian Magazine
Quidnunc**

**Scott's Seafood – Oakland, CA
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Samsung
Chevron**

**Christopher Reeve Paralysis
Foundation
The Auto Collections**

True Heroes (continued from page 3)

spent the last 13 years of her life in her bed, a wheelchair allowed her to come out into the warm, tropical sunlight. A young man from Bani who was struck by polio as a child was most happy to receive a wheelchair because it would allow him to go to church with the rest of his family. Perhaps the most powerful image of the whole week took place at one of the practice fields at the A's baseball academy, where young men in wheelchairs played a spontaneous game of pick-up baseball, batting with their free hands and speeding around the bases with newfound freedom. There are many challenges facing the Dominican Republic, and the Oakland A's are committed to helping its people face them. Through its partnership with the Wheelchair Foundation, the A's have helped give Dominicans with disabilities access to the most basic right of mobility and even the simplest pleasure of a game of baseball on a warm afternoon.

Please go to our website www.wheelchairfoundation.org/sponsors.html to watch the video “True Heroes” that tells the story of the Oakland Athletics gift to the people of the Dominican Republic.



No Borders Recognized

Israel / Gaza

THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION celebrated the New Year in 2001 by bringing the gift of mobility to people in war-torn Israel and the Palestinian Gaza Strip. By distributing 940 desperately needed wheelchairs to people of all ages just outside of Tel Aviv and in Gaza City, Foundation workers and a team of volunteer physical and occupational therapists sent a message of hope and highlighted the fact that human need knows no borders.

The team first went to Gaza City in the Gaza Strip, where it worked in partnership with the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund and the Holy Land Foundation to distribute wheelchairs through the Society of Physically Handicapped People. Within the Gaza Strip, which is sandwiched between Egypt and mainland Israel, there are an estimated 3,500 people who need wheelchairs, many of whom are refugees, according to Dr. Sameer Z. Abu Jayyab, Executive Chairman of the Society. Few of the 1.1 million residents can afford wheelchairs, as the densely populated area has suffered greatly from the recent conflict in the region. Some estimate unemployment to be as high as 65 percent and the average resident lives on less than \$3 per day.

Working under the shadow of looming violence and even the occasional rumble of nearby artillery, the Wheelchair Foundation team sought to aid the innocent and spread hope and healing amid the rubble of war. One man, who had once lived in America but returned to Gaza, had been searching for six years to find a wheelchair for his daughter. He gratefully explained that the Foundation was able to provide his eight-year old girl the gift that no local governmental or charitable group was able to give her. His was just one story of many populating the large room where the Foundation and its volunteers fitted individuals to wheelchairs. From miles around, elderly women carried in on blankets and aged men hoisted on wooden planks received new wheelchairs. In one family alone, immobile twin boys and one young girl left the room smiling, in new wheelchairs where before they had none.

Crossing the border to Zerifin, Israel, just outside of Tel Aviv, the Wheelchair Founda-



Seven-year-old Esmael Sabah of Gaza City

tion distributed wheelchairs at the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center. Half of the donated wheelchairs were refurbished and specially designed to assist children with spinal curvature problems. These wheelchairs, which went to the Center's Special Pediatric Rehabilitative Unit and School, were refurbished by Los Angeles-based Wheels For Humanity, who also provided refurbished wheelchairs in Gaza City. The other half of the wheelchairs pledged to the Center will be distributed throughout the Center, but will be particularly useful in its geriatric ward. "We never imagined in our wildest dreams that we would get such great wheelchairs," said Dr. Mordechai Waron, former Director of the Medical Center.

The donation was sorely needed, according to Erica Reiter, of the California-based Friends of Assaf Harofeh, which helps raise funds for the Israeli hospital. "Even with limited funds for equipment, the hospital serves some of the poorest people in Israel and is in an area with one of the fastest growing populations," Reiter explained. She continued, "Because the demand for these wheelchairs is much greater than the supply, the Wheelchair Foundation's gift is a much-needed boost for the hospital."

The Foundation's Wheelchairs are being donated strictly based on need and without any

regard to the recipients' political or diplomatic stance in the region's ongoing conflict, said philanthropist Ken Behring, who founded the organization in June of 2000. "This is about nothing other than helping make life more livable for some world citizens who struggle daily with mobility," Behring said. "We are a humanitarian organization, not a political group. We are concerned with getting wheelchairs to people who need them, not taking sides in international disputes." If the Foundation did take a side this January, it stood behind the values of dignity and mobility for those in need, regardless of where they can be found on a map.

Bridge of the Americas

Panama

IN JANUARY OF 2001, a Wheelchair Foundation delegation headed by founder Kenneth E. Behring teamed up with Panamanian President Mireya Elisa Moscoso Rodriguez and First Lady Moscoso de Young to deliver 240 wheelchairs to disabled people in Panama. In a whirl-

(continues on page 8)



Waiting for his wheelchair in David, Panama.



Panama (continued from page 7)

wind tour of the isthmus, the team brought hope and mobility to people from ages 1 to 96 in addition to presenting other humanitarian goods to the First Lady's foundation.

Visiting hospitals and orphanages, Mr. Behring and First Lady de Young saw the need for the Foundation's work. A visit to the Mother Theresa of Calcutta Orphanage inspired the attending Rotarians to finance a delivery of specialized cerebral palsy wheelchair for each of the orphanage's 18 children. In the city of Colón, a 70 year-old man who could not afford a wheelchair broke down crying in gratitude. The First Lady was deeply moved by her experience. "The work and generosity of the Wheelchair Foundation has changed the lives of so many of my country's people," she said. "I was so moved and inspired to see the results of the Foundation's donation and to personally help those who received wheelchairs. Panama is very grateful for the Foundation's work, and I look forward to cooperating with them in the future."

Mr. Behring and the Foundation's work were not limited to simply providing wheelchairs to people in need. Using the space available on his airplane, Mr. Behring presented the First Lady with quilts, early education and pre-natal kits donated by LDS Charities. The Foundation team also toured a workshop run by Goodwill Industries that employs people with disabilities who refurbish bicycles and build wheelchairs for resale. The Foundation will provide Goodwill with assistance in obtaining low-cost wheelchair components for assembly and sale, and Goodwill will participate in the Foundation's wheelchair distribution in the country.

The visit was commemorated by a ceremony and press conference hosted by the First Lady and later by a reception with President Moscoso. When asked after the conference for his impressions, Mr. Behring said he viewed his trip to Panama as a great success. "No matter how many times I travel to see the work the Foundation is doing, I always get a lump in my throat when I see the smile on a child's face or happy tears in the eyes of an elderly person."

He continued, "I was so impressed by the First Lady. She spent all day working with us and she greeted her people with real warmth

and a kind, personal touch." Finally, Mr. Behring expressed enthusiasm about Goodwill's work. "Giving a wheelchair to a person is a wonderful act. Helping people with disabilities help themselves is even better. It helps bring them back into society and shows the community that even though they have a disability, they have lots to offer."

The Foundation looks to continue its work in Panama in the future, and a new relationship with Rotary Clubs worldwide will help make that possible. Not only did the Rotarians assist with this trip's wheelchair deliveries, but after meeting with Rotary District Governor Vicente Pascual, the Foundation struck a deal where the Rotarians will match a donation of 240 wheelchairs, ensuring that the Foundation will bring an additional 480 wheelchairs to Panama this coming year. The relationship with Rotary will also provide wheelchairs to all other Latin American countries in the coming months.

Haiti – Poorest Nation in the Americas

HAITI IS THE POOREST NATION in the Americas. On a map, Haiti lies less than 600 miles from the luxurious resorts of Miami Beach. But judging by the scale of sheer human need, the small island nation is light years away. With limited resources, one of Haiti's few industries is the production of Rawlings baseballs. Much poorer than the neighboring Dominican Republic, 7 million of the 8 million Haitians live on less than \$1 per day, and 60% of Haiti's workers



A caring touch means the world to a disabled child.

are unemployed. The few wheelchairs available in the country can cost as much as \$400 or \$500. For most Haitians, a wheelchair is something that they cannot even afford to dream about.

Seeking to witness the human face behind this statistical gap, the Wheelchair Foundation sent a team to the Haitian capital of Port au Prince to accompany a shipment of 240 wheelchairs. To ensure the speedy and effective delivery of the donation, the Wheelchair Foundation partnered with Haitians Living Abroad, a charitable consortium of Haitian professionals living primarily in the United States, and the National Organization for the Advancement of Haitians (NOAH). The Wheelchair Foundation team visited two orphanages where wheelchairs were going to make a difference.

"No matter how kind and hardworking the people running the orphanages were, it was clear that they barely had the means to attend to even the most basic needs of the children, let alone afford wheelchairs," explained Fred Gerhard, Wheelchair Foundation Director of Distribution.

"We went in and saw twelve double beds in a room that should really only hold four. Children were lying on mattresses without blankets, and there were no toys or books to entertain them. For those children who could not walk, this overcrowded room of bare beds was their world."

Access to a wheelchair provides more than just a change of scenery for a child in need. For the healthy development of children, being able to play and actively interact with the world around them is critical. As a result, those stranded within the four bare walls of an impoverished orphanage not only face the burdens of boredom, loneliness and bedsores, but also stunted psychological growth that will follow them into their adult years. The Wheelchair Foundation's donation will make a serious impact on these children's lives, brightening their existence and literally opening a whole new world to them.

Ralph P. Chevy, Haiti's director of NOAH, tells the story of the difference a wheelchair made in one girl's life:

"A handicapped pre-teen mentioned the difficulties of keeping her skirt clean because she had to crawl to get around. Thanks to your



Orphanage for disabled children in El Salvador.



Refugee camp in El Salvador.

organization she will no longer have to face the embarrassment of a dirty skirt, and we know how important those things are to a young girl.”

According to Haiti’s Minister of Health, an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 Haitians need wheelchairs but cannot afford them. The challenge of making the world a better place is great, but so is the impact of one person who reaches out to help. And together we can make a world of difference.

Help for El Salvador

THE PAST TWO DECADES have not been kind to the Central American nation of El Salvador. This nation of over 6 million people has faced a civil war, a major earthquake in 1986, and the ravages of hurricane Mitch in 1998. But January 13, 2001 began a string of natural disasters that would cause as much damage as the previous three forces combined. The Wheelchair Foundation knows . . . we were there at ground zero of the great earthquakes of 2001.

On January 13, 2001 an earthquake of 7.7 on the Richter scale rocked El Salvador, killing more than 800 people and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. The Wheelchair Foundation responded by delivering an emergency shipment of wheelchairs to the capital city of San Salvador. In partnership with the non-profit organization Airline Ambassadors, the American Medical Association and the local Kiwanis organization, Foundation representatives went to survey the damage and assist the already-impooverished Salvadorans with disabilities. It just so happened that while the Wheelchair Foundation team was there, a February 13th earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 struck, raising the nation’s death total above 1,100 and increasing the costs of rebuilding the country to \$3 billion. That price tag is equal to the government’s entire annual budget.

The Wheelchair Foundation’s Director of Distribution, Fred Gerhard was one of the earthquake survivors who saw the harrowing impact nature had on the small nation. “Just being in the second major earthquake gave me a greater sense of empathy for the people who

(continues on page 10)



El Salvador (continued from page 9)

lost their family members and their homes, and increased my commitment to helping them,” Gerhard explained. He recalled, “So many people now live in tents and suffer through the aftershocks, not knowing where they will go and when the next earthquake will hit.” Seeing the destruction on the ground in San Salvador, the Wheelchair Foundation pledged additional wheelchairs to help the misfortune-struck nation. On Salvadoran national television, the Foundation gave away wheelchairs and promised to do more.

The Avalo Family is one of many that the Foundation has helped. Sandra is a single mother who has been left by her husband to care for three disabled children alone. Rising every morning at 5:00 am, she picks berries and sells them on the street to support her family. Her youngest daughter Lupita is blind and, while her middle son Wilbur can walk to school, Sandra must carry her eldest son Dannes everywhere. Sandra walks miles barefoot every day to help her family survive, and she sleeps on the floor every night. For Dannes, a wheelchair means that he will see more of his surroundings and his tired mother does not have to carry him. But even before the earthquakes shook El Salvador, affording a wheelchair was out of the question for Sandra. The Wheelchair Foundation has opened a new world to her son and given her arms some well-needed rest.

There is so much more to be done for El Salvador. The scale of the destruction and the need overwhelms the mind and challenges the soul. But the Wheelchair Foundation is staying true to its mission, one family at a time, to make El Salvador and the world, a better place.

Remembering the Balkans

Bosnia / Herzegovina

FOR ANYONE WATCHING THE EVENING NEWS in the 1990s, the names Bosnia & Herzegovina bring back images of refugees fleeing ethnic cleansing, citizens in Sarajevo dodging sniper fire and the long and complicated struggle toward



Bosnian girl with muscular dystrophy.

a NATO-negotiated peace in the former Yugoslav Republic. As a hot spot for conflict, the country has cooled, and the number of NATO troops necessary to keep the peace is smaller. The news cameras have turned their lenses elsewhere and the correspondents write of fresher troubles in other nearby regions, so it is easy to forget about the people who still must live with the wounds inflicted by the battle between the citizens of Bosnia.

If we think about them or not, they are there and need our help. Many are the innocent people injured in the crossfire of war. All of the 3.8 million people in Bosnia and Herzegovina live in an economy severely wounded by the conflict. In addition to the tax of human suffering, the war cost the country between \$20-\$40 billion dollars. To put that into perspective, Bosnia and Herzegovina’s economy produces only \$800 million a year – or as little as 2% of the losses incurred by the war. 50% of the population is unemployed and few have access to proper health care. In Bosnia, disability is rampant and the resources to cope with it are scarce.

The Wheelchair Foundation is lending a hand to the rebuilding effort in Bosnia and Herzegovina and looking to help heal the wounds of war. On April 24, 2001 the Foun-

datation held a distribution ceremony at the Zetra Sports Center in Sarajevo, the former Olympic stadium. In a setting that once could be viewed from the beautiful park on the hillside, we experienced a surreal setting beneath 10,000 headstones that have overtaken the land that once was that park. The lush hill-sides and historic buildings are now silent witnesses to the loss of innocence and normal life in the shadow of the former Olympic venue. The 270 wheelchairs that were delivered bring a new life to the people who have been rendered immobile by war, disease, old age, and the poverty of a nation brought to its knees. A 20-year-old man that was paralyzed by a sniper’s bullet when he was only 14 said, “This wheelchair is like a window to the world for me. It will make my life happy again.”

United States Air Force General Joseph W. Ralston, a member of the Wheelchair Foundation’s International Board of Advisors, accompanied the delegation, which included Kenneth E. Behring, founder of the Wheelchair Foundation. General Ralston said, “When these people receive a wheelchair you can see hope come into their life.” As Commander in Chief of the U.S. European Command, Supreme Allied Commander of the NATO forces in Europe, and commander of the United States’ unified forces, an area that includes 89 countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, one of General Ralston’s responsibilities is the distribution of humanitarian aid. He will be helping to facilitate the distribution of the wheelchairs the Foundation has donated. The Foundation’s distribution partners include the nation’s Ministry of the Disabled and the Red Cross of Bosnia & Herzegovina. This guarantees that the most deserving people will receive this first wave of wheelchairs, and those receiving them will benefit from proper care.

Mr. Behring was very pleased with the mission and is grateful for the General’s help. “Gen. Ralston’s guidance is very helpful for the success of this effort,” Mr. Behring explained. “Because the situation is so difficult in Bosnia, it is very important that we do this right. We don’t want to leave the most vulnerable people behind, and we want to make sure the people we help get the best care available. NATO and the United States have done their best to stop the fighting. Now it is time for us to start the



healing. I am so happy the Wheelchair Foundation can do its part." The Wheelchair Foundation plans on returning to the Balkans in the very near future.

Vietnam Revisited

LONG AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL of American troops and their nation's subsequent skirmishes in the region, the people of Vietnam are working for a better, more peaceful life. Relations with its former combatants are slowly warming, and the nation's communist government has been taking small steps toward economic liberties. In addition to having few political and personal freedoms, the nation of 79 million people is still very poor, with the average Vietnamese making less than \$1 per day. And while the rattle of gunfire and rumble of mortars has left the countryside, telltale scars of the nation's wars still mark the population.

One of the greatest reminders of that troubled past is the unusually high rate of disability among the nation's population. Keeping its commitment to go wherever there is need, the Wheelchair Foundation is set to help those in Vietnam who are immobile, and cannot afford a wheelchair. In March of 2001 the Wheelchair Foundation sent a shipment of 638 wheelchairs to My Tho, a city in the Mekong Delta just south of Saigon. The wheelchairs were distributed by the Foundation and California-based Hope Haven Ministries through a local society for the disabled.

According to Hope Haven Director Mark Richard, a large percentage of the wheelchairs are for children, and many of the people receiving them are innocent victims of war. A number of the wheelchairs will go to non-combatant landmine victims who have lost their legs. Many more need wheelchairs because of polio or birth defects. As Richard explains, "during the war and after the war, Vietnam was not able to bring its health care system up to par, and their vaccination network was cut off during the fighting." As a result, conflict cut off the preventive care than can reduce the chance of birth defects and the vaccinations that can halt the spread of polio, leaving immobile war victims who were never even near



A wheelchair means a new life in Vietnam.

a battle. Other major causes of immobility in the region are cerebral palsy and severe arthritis.

The Wheelchair Foundation went off the beaten path to reach people less frequently touched by aid efforts. As is the case in other rural parts of Vietnam the people in My Tho are far away from the rehabilitation hospitals, so they have less access to medical clinics and care from international aid organizations. Because the southern portion of Vietnam sided against the communist government in the north before unification, southern areas like My Tho generally receive less assistance from the Vietnamese government than their neighbors to the north.

Going to Vietnam this year has special meaning for the Wheelchair Foundation. One of the group's first major shipments of wheelchairs went to disabled people in the northern city of Hanoi, Vietnam's capital. It was there that Founder Kenneth E. Behring saw the positive effect that large distributions of wheelchairs bring to a population, and that understanding encouraged the launch of the Foundation. Now, one year, 72 countries and 26,000 wheelchairs later, the Foundation will bring another large shipment of healing and

hope to equally grateful families, this time to the southern portion of a nation once defined only by conflict.

The Isolated Kham

China / Tibet

THE SICHUAN PROVINCE is home to almost 110 million people, making it one of the most populous regions in China. Located in the south-western portion of the country, Sichuan lags behind the rest of China in development. Perhaps the most impoverished group in the already-underdeveloped area is the small minority of ethnic Tibetans in the western portion of the Province. Bordering the Tibetan Autonomous Region and isolated from much of the rest of world, Kham – as Tibetan locals refer to this sparsely populated area of Sichuan – is politically a part of China, but culturally it is much more similar to its Himalayan neighbor to the west.

The people of Kham face more than the difficulties of being a Tibetan outpost in a politically and culturally Chinese nation. In addition to social and linguistic barriers, they also struggle
(continues on page 12)



Giving a child a future in China.



China (continued from page 11)
 gle against the challenge of distance that faces people of every extraction in the far-flung portions of China's frontier. Because they are so far away from the heart of political and economic activity in China, many people in the remote regions of Sichuan are cut off from the nation's flow of healthcare and education. Life at the extremities of China means that the most basic medical supplies and technology are scarce, that children are often out of the reach of mainland vaccination programs and that poor education prevents the development of effective and proper health habits. Living on the edge of geography and culture means preventable disability goes unprevented and that congenital disability goes without proper care.

Even in just one county in the Kham region, we could find 3,300 people with disabili-



Kham and other needy and deserving people in the Sichuan Province. Working in partnership with Wheels for Humanity, and the Kham Aid Foundation, the Wheelchair Foundation was able to change 240 lives.



A Kham Aid field team coordinated on the ground with two local humanitarian groups to identify people in need and bring back their stories from afar. They tell the story of Jing Xiaoyong, a 25-year-old man who was physically and mentally disabled from a fever he suffered as an infant. Cared for by his mother, who was unable to move him, Jing spent the bulk of his life on a bed inside a small wood dwelling. Kham Aid President Pamela Logan recalls that Jing's face was "the palest I've ever seen on a

ities ranging from spinal cord injury and birth defects to loss of limbs and old age. In November of 2000, the Wheelchair Foundation sought to bring relief, hope and mobility to people in Kham, where the average healthy farmer can make a few hundred dollars a year, but the disabled struggle. Thanks in part to a grant by the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, the Wheelchair Foundation was able to provide 240 wheelchairs to the Tibetans of

Tibetan." A wheelchair would soon bring the sun's warmth to that same face, and a smile was not far behind. Logan explained, "Jing looked wondrous, as if he had suddenly been beamed to a never dreamt-of world. When David [of Wheels for Humanity] tilted the chair backward to go over the doorsill, Jing broke out in a huge grin. He loved it! After 25 years in bed, a tilted chair was like a roller coaster."

Like Jing, many recipients were shy but grateful. One 70 year-old Tibetan man named Zhang Dongwen, however, would not accept a wheelchair until he had made a speech through an interpreter. The spontaneous orator addressed the group, saying, "You have come so far to this remote place to help us. On behalf of disabled people here, I thank you. For disabled people, self-sufficiency is really important. We want to take part in the opening and development of this area. I promise to do my best to take advantage of this gift."

Zhang Dongwen's words cut to the heart of what the Wheelchair Foundation's mission is all about. For some, a wheelchair is a means to leave the prison of a small room. For Zhang and many others, a wheelchair is also a tool of independence and of participation in the betterment of the community. Because Zhang and others like him are now free to work as a part of the Tibetan society in Kham, his neighbors will now see the contribution people with disabilities can bring to the community.

For some very thankful people in one of the most isolated places in the world, Kham has become a little less lonely.



Jing Xiaoyong

Rotary Clubs and Goodwill Industries

The Wheelchair Foundation welcomes a relationship with Rotary Clubs worldwide that will soon bring wheelchairs to people throughout Latin America and around the globe. Rotary International is an organization of business and professional leaders that provide humanitarian service worldwide, and their mission is good news for people with disabilities throughout the world.

Rotary Clubs and Districts in the US are working with Clubs and Districts around the world and the Rotary Foundation to provide considerable financial support toward the distribution of wheelchairs. Through the Rotary Foundation matching grant program, the Wheelchair Foundation is able to double the amount of wheelchairs donated by Rotarians. The local Rotary Clubs in the area of wheelchair distribution coordinate with entities that can distribute the wheelchairs to people in need and assist those organizations with distribution, documentation, follow-up, and getting work for the disabled.

The Wheelchair Foundation is excited about the relationship and is grateful for the Rotarian's overwhelming generosity. Wheelchair Foundation Fundraising Director Chris Lewis believes that work with the Rotarians will be huge contribution to the successful achievement of the Foundation's mission. "In all of my years working to help the disabled, I have never encountered such a large, consistent, and dedicated group of people that really care about helping the less fortunate people of the world." Currently, Rotary International has a



membership of 1.2 million individuals in 29,000 local Clubs and almost 200 nations.

A new relationship with Goodwill Industries should also increase the impact of the Foundation's work with Rotary and other organizations throughout the world. Goodwill social workers plan to help



Rotary and other organizations locate

people who need wheelchairs, but cannot afford them. Once those people receive wheelchairs, Goodwill and the Rotarians will work to help the recipients find jobs. Goodwill, Rotary and the Wheelchair

Foundation share the understanding that while a wheelchair alone can open up a whole new world to a recipient and their family, helping those individuals find meaningful work brings them independence and

empowerment. The Foundation, Rotary and Goodwill will launch a pilot test of this project with their upcoming distribution in Panama, and they look to expand this co-

operation in the future.

With Goodwill Industries affiliates in 34 nations and Rotary Clubs in almost 200, the Wheelchair Foundation hopes these relationships will ensure that the message of hope and jobs for the disabled will have long lasting roots in every corner of the world.

For questions about Rotary participation, please contact Rotarian volunteer Dr. Jon Grant (California) at (650) 574-0520, Fax (650) 571-0965, JonBGrant@aol.com or Chris Lewis at (877) 378-3839.



Events

Nicaragua Awards Prestigious Jose de Marcoleta Medal to Wheelchair Foundation Founder

On February 14, 2001 in Washington, DC, Wheelchair Foundation founder and chairman Kenneth E. Behring received the prestigious Jose de Marcoleta medal from Nicaragua honoring his humanitarian efforts in delivering needed wheelchairs to disabled Nicaraguans. The medal is Nicaragua's highest diplomatic decoration.

"Through compassionate and humanitarian efforts, Ken Behring is performing an extraordinary service to the people and the government of Nicaragua," said Eduardo J.

Sevilla Somoza, Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United Nations. "By helping people who struggle daily with immobility, he is setting an example for us all."

Behring received the medal, officially known as the Orden de Jose de Marcoleta, during a reception at the Hall of the Americas at the Organization of American States in Washington, DC. This cocktail fundraiser, which was attended by leaders in the Washington diplomatic, medical and business communities, was organized by Dr. and Mrs.

Steven B. Hopping and their daughter, Julia Sacasa. Sevilla Somoza bestowed the award on behalf of the President of Nicaragua.

Recipients of the medal, which is named after a Spaniard who defended Nicaragua's sovereignty in the 19th century, are honored for excellence in diplomacy and service to Nicaragua's people and government. The Wheelchair Foundation has already provided 175 wheelchairs to the Central American nation of Nicaragua and plans for more chairs are already underway.

The Wheelchair Foundation On the Web ~ Around the World

By James G. Stolich

As I was crossing Battery Street near Embarcadero Center in San Francisco, I heard the familiar chirp of my mobile phone. It was my old friend and colleague, Chris Lewis. Chris and I go way back to the early days of Internet—circa 1996. Chris informed me that he had accepted a position as Director of Marketing at a new non-profit organization, the Wheelchair Foundation, and that he was officially back in the Bay Area.

As we had not spoken in some time, we arranged to have lunch later that week. During the course of our conversation it became evident that the Wheelchair Foundation's web site was in need of a serious revamp. We discussed various options—including utilizing a freelance designer—and arrived at the conclusion that the new company I had joined could potentially assist.

I had only been at Quidnunc (www.quidnunc.com) a short while, and I knew that we were interested in pursuing more work around branding and customer experience to create richer user experiences for our digital projects.

It was not difficult to convince Quidnunc's senior management in San Francisco that this would be a very worthwhile cause. Quidnunc has always placed a great deal of emphasis on its people and culture, so it comes as no surprise that they were more than willing to indulge in our

excitement about this project and donate 100% of our work for the Foundation.

It became clear that the Foundation needed a strong global brand which could be leveraged across all media, offline and online. Within a few days our team came back to Chris with several campaign ideas. In the end we settled on a campaign based around the inspiring idea of "momentum." Throughout all media (including the permanent Wheelchair Foundation display at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville, California) the idea of momentum would be captured and portrayed.

The challenge for Quidnunc was to implement this brand online in a way which speaks clearly to and addresses the needs of the site's two main target audiences: individual visitors and potential corporate sponsors.

Choosing the right display technology for the site is as important as coming up with the right design. Pages with excessive graphics or advanced technologies can quickly isolate users and make for a frus-

trating online experience.

Given that our target audience is truly global spanning countries around the world, we elected to build the site in basic HTML with some simple JavaScript. In this way, we can ensure that the pages will display correctly on the majority of web browsers and platforms in use around the world. Avoiding more exclusive technologies such as DHTML also meant that we were able to keep the page download times to a minimum, an important benefit to our visitors in Africa (and other less technologically developed countries) on slower connections.

Once we had come up with the right design and messaging for the new site's homepage, we quickly proceeded to build out the second levels. At this stage we had a fully functioning static site with first and second level content. It was now time to initiate the hand-over to Universal Internet, the firm handling the hosting and database functionality for the site.

I am very pleased to say that we successfully launched Wheelchairfoundation.org early this year, and the response has been very positive. We continue to work closely with Chris and the Foundation to keep the site fresh and interesting, and come up with new strategies for leveraging the brand within the off and online mediums.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How many people need wheelchairs but cannot afford one?

A: It is estimated that at least 20 million children and adults worldwide need a wheelchair but cannot afford one. Some international organizations believe that the number could be as high as 1-2 percent of the population.

Q: How much does a wheelchair cost?

A: We can purchase and deliver a wheelchair for \$150. This wheelchair would normally cost \$375, but the large quantities that we purchase allow us to deliver one for only \$150.

Q: How do I know that my money has purchased and delivered a wheelchair?

A: For every \$150 tax-deductible donation, you will receive a beautiful presentation folder containing a 5x7 inch, color photograph of a person in the wheelchair that you provided for them, along with a certificate telling you the person's name, age, country and the wheelchair number.

Q: Are all of the wheelchairs going to countries other than the United States?

A: No. The Salvation Army is working with us here in the US to distribute wheelchairs to people that need one but cannot afford one.

Q: Are these wheelchairs designed for rough, third world conditions?

A: Yes. The wheelchairs that we distribute are specifically designed for the rough conditions of developing countries. Extra heavy wheels, tires and additional welding make these wheelchairs the best possible for most conditions.

Q: How can I help?

A: 1. Your **tax-deductible donation** will make the difference between people wanting to live or die. 2. **Get the word out!** Tell everyone you know that you are now a part of the most ambitious relief mission of its kind in the history of our civilization! 3. **Have a fund-raiser!** Local businesses, organizations and schools can all help. We will supply everything you need to help us change the world. 4. **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. They will be a hero, and so many people will be given a new lease on life.

Wheelchair
Foundation
"Serving the World"

The Wheelchair Foundation will deliver a future to a child, teen or adult who has been disabled by war, disease or natural disaster. The wheelchair that will allow a future including school, worship and interaction with family, can be donated in the name of a special person in your life.

\$150.00 buys and delivers a wheelchair to a person in desperate need of Hope, Mobility and Freedom. The Wheelchair Foundation has been gifted a specific amount of funds to combine with each new \$75 donation to deliver one wheelchair.

For each new \$75 donation, you will receive a beautiful presentation folder with the picture of a wheelchair recipient and a certificate with their name, age, country, and wheelchair number, until these combinable gifted funds have been exhausted.

To mark a birthday or anniversary, in honor or memory of a loved one, a wheelchair brings a new life to a person in such desperate need.

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:
(\$75 delivers a wheelchair for a limited time.)**

\$25 \$50 **\$75** \$150 Other \$_____

Your gift can be made in honor or in memory of a special person.

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In Honor Of In Memory Of _____

Presentation Folder Sent To _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Credit card: Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

Name as it appears on your card _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Please charge my credit card \$25 per month for 3 months 6 months

Signature _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **The Wheelchair Foundation**

Post Office Box 2973

Danville, CA 94526 USA

Toll Free (877) 378-3839

To watch our videos of wheelchair distribution around the world or to donate online,
please visit – www.wheelchairfoundation.org

\$75 can now deliver a new life!

The Wheelchair Foundation will deliver a future to a child, teen or adult who has been disabled by war, disease or natural disaster. The wheelchair that will allow a future including school, worship and interaction with family, can be donated in the name of a special person in your life.

\$150 buys and delivers a wheelchair to a person in desperate need of Hope, Mobility and Freedom. The Wheelchair Foundation has been gifted a specific amount of funds to combine with each new \$75 donation to deliver one wheelchair.



For each new \$75 donation, you will receive a beautiful presentation folder with the picture of a wheelchair recipient and a certificate with their name, age, country, and wheelchair number, until these combinable gifted funds have been exhausted.

To mark a birthday or anniversary, in honor or memory of a special person, a wheelchair brings a new life to people in desperate need.

Worldwide toll free (877) 378-3839

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DANVILLE, CA
PERMIT NO. 260

The Wheelchair Foundation
Post Office Box 2973
Danville, CA 94526 USA

Special Thank You's

For our Public Service

Announcements

Regis Philbin

Ed McMahon

Jim Kelly

For friendship and guidance

MDA

Goodwill Global