

Wheelchair Foundation *Changing the World*

Volume 2, 2002

Wheelchairs Delivered Since June 2000

Afghanistan.....90	Korea, Dem. Peoples Rep.....240
Albania.....50	Kosovo.....240
Algeria.....140	Kyrgyzstan.....240
Angola.....240	Lebanon.....740
Armenia.....671	Macedonia.....240
Bahamas.....120	Mexico.....2762
Belarus.....240	Moldova.....240
Bolivia.....240	Mongolia.....390
Bosnia & Herzegovina.....710	Montenegro.....120
Botswana.....50	Mozambique.....130
Brazil.....615	Nepal.....206
Burundi.....240	Nicaragua.....200
Cameroon.....240	Niger.....240
Cape Verde.....175	Nigeria.....540
Central African Republic.....240	Pakistan.....415
Chad.....240	Palestinians/Israel.....1610
China/Tibet.....1480	Panama.....780
Colombia.....360	Peru.....25
Congo.....240	Poland.....11
Costa Rica.....240	Romania.....282
Cuba.....240	Russia.....985
Czech Republic.....120	Rwanda.....240
Dominican Republic.....2740	Senegal.....240
Ecuador.....554	Sierra Leone.....240
El Salvador.....430	Somalia.....88
Equatorial Guinea.....240	South Africa.....480
Ethiopia.....240	Sudan.....200
Gabon.....240	Taiwan.....756
Guatemala.....624	Tajikistan.....240
Haiti.....290	Thailand.....250
Honduras.....65	Turkey.....240
Hungary.....120	Turkmenistan.....240
India.....275	Ukraine.....336
Indonesia.....480	United States.....3100
Israel.....300	Uzbekistan.....240
Italy.....18	Venezuela.....125
Jamaica.....180	Vietnam.....1323
Jordan.....240	Western Sahara.....153
Kazakhstan.....240	Western Samoa.....160
	Zambia.....120
	Zimbabwe.....740

Total Countries 80
Wheelchairs Delivered..... 34,404

HOPE
MOBILITY
FREEDOM

The Wheelchair Foundation Mission to Southern Africa

Kenneth E. Behring and the Wheelchair Foundation team embarked on a 21-day mission of mercy and exploration to the countries of Southern Africa in August of 2001.

Livermore, California – August 1st

The trip departed from Livermore Airport in the San Francisco East Bay on August 1st with Nancy Rivard, Executive Director of Airline Ambassadors, her husband David, several volunteers, and Rodney Henderson representing LDS Charities joining the Wheelchair Foundation team. The first stop was Washington, DC to pick up Dr. Randy Smoak, past President of the American Medical Association, his wife Sandra, and Dr. Christine Warnke a valued advisor and Washington, DC liaison between the Wheelchair Foundation and numerous foreign dignitaries.



Nelson Mandela with Ken and Patricia Behring in South Africa.

The next stop was Florence, Italy to pick up a member of the Wheelchair Foundation's International Board of Advisors, Stefano Ricci and a group of Italian cyclists that would be participating in an awareness building "Bicycle Challenge" in Southern Africa. Mr. Ricci has been a

(continued on page 3)



Rotary Wheelchair delivery in Honduras.

Global Impact!



Throughout America, and many parts of the world, one of the first symbols a traveler sees when entering a city or town is the Rotary wheel. Proudly displayed in royal blue and gold, this emblem represents 1.2 million members that are dedicated to "doing good in the world." Rotary International consists of some 30,000 Rotary Clubs in 530 Rotary Districts, and 163 countries worldwide. In our busy lives, we don't always take note of what we see so often, yet since 1905 Rotary has been a part of America, and the vehicle by which the lives of **billions** have been changed around the world.

In 2005, the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, polio will have been eradicated from the face of the earth.

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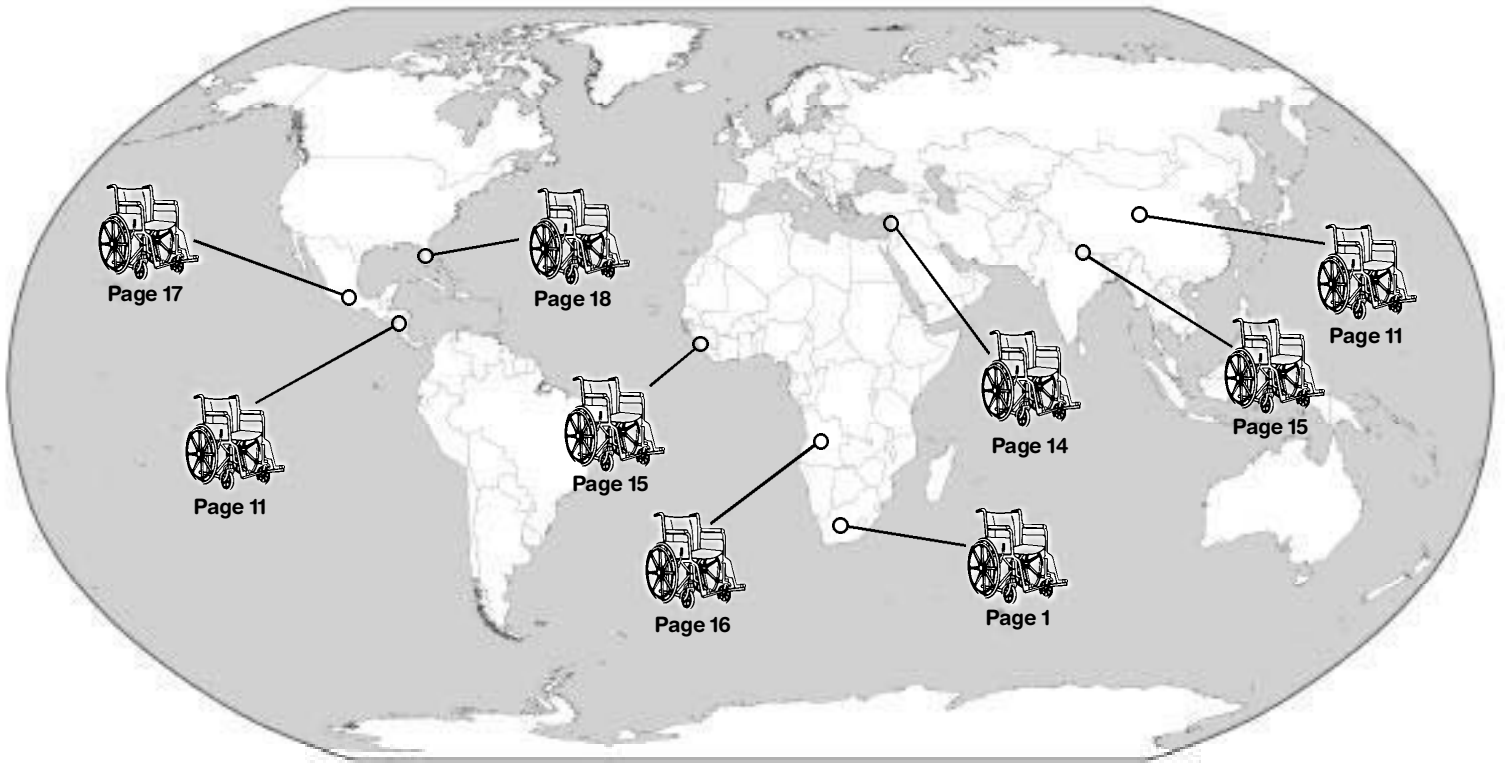


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To make a donation, please call toll free (877) 378-3839 or via the Internet at: WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG

Africa (continued from page 1)

staunch supporter of the Foundation since its inception, and is responsible for bringing the Foundation's efforts in Africa to the attention of former South African President Nelson Mandela, who agreed to serve as a member of the our International Board of Advisors.

Florence, Italy – August 3RD

The team departed Florence for Alexandria, Egypt and a meeting between Ken Behring and President and Mrs. Hosni Mubarak. The President and Mrs. Mubarak were very supportive of the Foundation's efforts in Africa, and Mrs. Mubarak agreed to Chair an international organization of First Ladies that would support and promote the efforts of the Wheelchair Foundation worldwide.

Cape Town, South Africa – August 6TH

As a part of an awareness building campaign for the Wheelchair Foundation and its mission to bring wheelchairs to Africa, a group of 5 dedicated bicyclists from Florence and Milan, Italy participated in "The Wheelchair Foundation Bicycle Challenge." Folco Camici, Marisa Guglielmetti, Giancarlo Fianchisti, Pietro Pecchioli and Sandro Falli set out on a 1,500 km trek from Cape Town, South Africa on August 6TH and arrived in Windhoek, Namibia in 11 days. The cyclists brought along several wheelchairs in their chase vehicle to deliver to needy people along the way. The journey was documented by Emmy award winning cinematographer Gordon Brown for a television program about the Foundation's efforts in Africa.

Johannesburg, South Africa – August 6TH

In the late morning of August 6TH Ken Behring, his wife Patricia and the Wheelchair Foundation team visited the home of Nelson Mandela and his wife Graca Machel (The former First Lady of Mozambique) in Santon, South Africa. Both Mr. Mandela and his wife are members of the Wheelchair Foundation's International Board of Advisors and were deeply touched by the distribution of wheelchairs to the disabled children that had traveled to their home from the surrounding area. The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund strives to better the lives of children throughout Africa, and is a willing partner in the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation. Mr. and Mrs. Mandela talked with all of the children, shook hands and embraced them as they received a new lease on life.

At the press conference immediately following the distribution, Mr. Behring was asked why he brought wheelchairs to South Africa. Mr. Behring replied, "We want to give people the ability to go to school, get a job, and become a part of society. But most importantly we want to give them hope for the future." Mr. Mandela said, "I am very happy that Mr. Behring has been so generous in bringing us these wheelchairs." Then looking at Ken he stated, "It is one thing to ask for help, but when someone comes to you on their own and gives you something without asking for anything in return, this is a sign of true friendship for the people of South Africa."



Ken and Patricia Behring with Nelson Mandela in South Africa.

Maputo, Mozambique – August 7TH

The team traveled to Maputo, Mozambique for a wheelchair distribution in conjunction with the Foundation for Community Development. At a rural ceremony welcoming the Wheelchair Foundation were officials from the FCD and the local government. Disabled people arrived to receive new wheelchairs by several modes of transportation. Some by car, some were carried, some by wheelbarrow, and several crawled the distance from their homes, which was up to 5 miles away.

Following the welcoming ceremony, everybody went outside to seat the recipients in their new wheelchairs. After several minutes of giving out the wheelchairs, Saundra Smoak, one of the Wheelchair Foundation



Teenager in Zimbabwe

volunteers, went back inside the building and noticed a young woman in the back of the room slowly crawling out the back door. Saundra quickly notified one of our English-speaking hosts, and the woman was brought to where the wheelchairs were being given out. She had thought that there were not enough wheelchairs, so she had begun her 5-mile crawl back to her home. Another wheelchair was quickly brought out for her, and her life of crawling on the ground became a thing of the past. Saundra and the team were very emotionally touched by this woman that had begun her day with a 5-mile crawl driven by hope, then resolved herself once again to immobility, and then had her life changed instantly in a positive way. Mr. Behring commented, "If we give these people hope for mobility then we **must** come through for them. If we don't, it is worse than them not having mobility in the first place." This was yet another example to the team of how we that are dedicating our lives to helping others, are constantly reminded of our gifts.

Mudzi, Zimbabwe - August 8TH

Patrick Mavros has been a great friend to the Wheelchair Foundation in
(continued on page 7)

Wheelchair Foundation International Board of Advisors

Members of the International Board of Advisors of the Wheelchair Foundation are individuals committed to providing wheelchairs to children, teens and adults around the world who cannot afford one. The Advisors bring their expertise to bear in providing valuable counsel and support to the Foundation, in the accomplishment of its goals and fulfillment of its mission.

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First Lady of Ecuador

SAMUEL NUJOMA

President of Namibia

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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

Some 100 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 already has 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 the next 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 advanced 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 100-130 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 wheelchairs 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 Founder

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 Blackhawk Museum is now an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.



Ken Behring with 6-year-old Luisa Perez in Mexico.

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 has 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.

Since June of 2000, Ken has traveled the world delivering thousands of wheelchairs to the disabled citizens of 5 continents. The relationships he has developed with world leaders and government officials have led to a greater awareness of the needs of the disabled, and are a great force in moving forward the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation.

Ken and Patricia, his wife of 52 years, 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

A STRONGER RESOLVE TO HELP THE LESS FORTUNATE

As good people around the world deal with sorrow and anger over the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Wheelchair Foundation and its global network of dedicated relief partners, intensify efforts to help the disabled worldwide.

For those of us that dedicate our lives to helping the less fortunate people of the world, the unthinkable human sorrow that has been inflicted upon the families of victims from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks is beyond our comprehension.

In conversations over the past months with relief organizations in various stages of our wheelchair deliveries, we are very pleased to announce that in spite of the hatred and fighting around the world, our missions of mercy will not be altered. Our partners worldwide have told us of their unwavering support for our efforts. Organizations working with us in the Americas, Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Middle East are committed to intensifying their efforts to spread the message of peace and helping others around the world.

We are saddened by the recent dark days in human history, but our mission will not be altered as we continue on a path to bring light and hope into the lives of the disabled members of our world community.

Africa (continued from page 3)

Zimbabwe. His dedicated efforts and considerable contributions have allowed the distribution of 480 wheelchairs into some of the most remote areas of Zimbabwe.

The 3-hour bus ride from Harare to Mudzi took the Wheelchair Foundation team through a country that possesses almost a surreal quality. Monolithic granite stones protruding from the earth, surrounded by oxen and baboon in the shade of baobab trees make the mind travel to places previously unknown. Dirt roads are pathways that traverse the flat landscape, and take people from distant place to distant place. Today, these roads also have people crawling along them or being carried, as the team noticed when approaching the village of Mudzi.

Patrick had delivered wheelchairs to Mudzi in December of 2000, and the word spread quickly among the friends and families of disabled people. Before that date, one wheelchair was shared among all the disabled people of the community, in one-week intervals. Now there were another 70 wheelchairs to be distributed, and the people that received a wheelchair 9 months earlier could thank Ken Behring personally for their gift of a new life. This also gave our team the opportunity to evaluate firsthand, the performance and longevity of the wheelchairs in very harsh conditions. All parties concerned were very pleased with the results.

One of the wheelchair recipients that day was a schoolteacher. A neighbor carried this young woman 20 miles from her village to receive a wheelchair. When asked why he did it, he replied, "She asked me to." The woman was very happy that she would no longer have to crawl to school every morning, and she could spend extra time teaching with less time spent going to and from school. This type of story was heard dozens of times over in the course of the day.

As the team departed Mudzi later that day for the 3-hour bus ride back to the airport, the dirt road that once possessed a mystical charm, was now lined for miles with grateful people in wheelchairs waving and singing in thanks, for making it a path much easier to travel.

Johannesburg, South Africa – August 10TH-13TH

One of the most valued friendships of the Wheelchair Foundation in South Africa is with the chain of 700 Spar grocery stores. Under the guidance of principles Michael and Fidos Englezakis, Spar has helped in the distribution of wheelchairs through their network of stores in several countries. Using supply trucks that frequent grocery store locations throughout Southern Africa, wheelchairs are included in the shipments and distributed to disabled residents in close proximity to the stores.

Over the course of three days the Wheelchair Foundation team participated in wheelchair distributions at Spar and Kwikspar stores in Johannesburg, the surrounding area, and Sun City.

During one of the deliveries, a 40-year old woman who had been disabled by polio received her first wheelchair ever. The look of disbelief on her face soon changed into happiness, as she was able to propel herself easily for the first time in her life. One of the physical therapists attending the distribution commented, "She is not a young woman here in South Africa, and I am happy to see that her dream has finally come true." It is beyond the comprehension of most people in America to consider a 40-year old as "Not a young woman." But when you consider a lack of health care for the poor in South Africa, and

the constant struggle just to stay alive, or to crawl on the ground from one place to another, those 40 years become quite a different story.

Windhoek, Namibia – August 14TH

President Sam Nujoma welcomed the Wheelchair Foundation team in the capital of Namibia, for the distribution of 180 wheelchairs to disabled citizens identified by the Namibian Ministry of Health. This distribution of wheelchairs was the first of its kind in the country's history.

Namibia is a country that has only been an independent nation since 1990. The average life expectancy of its 1.8 million people is 40 years old. There is not enough water to support adequate irrigation, and droughts are very common. The ability to support basic standards of living for healthy people is difficult, and the ability to provide for the disabled is often an impossibility. The Wheelchair Foundation and the government of Namibia are committed to working together to bring hope and mobility into the lives of disabled Namibians.

Windhoek, Namibia – August 17TH

The Italian cyclists completed their 1500 km "Bicycle Challenge" and arrived safely, but tired, in the capital of Namibia.

The Wheelchair Foundation team bid a fond farewell to Southern Africa and departed for Florence, Washington, DC, and finally arriving in Livermore, California on August 21st.

Conclusion

During the "Wheelchair Foundation Mission to Southern Africa" in the first 21 days of August 2001, there was an enormous amount of awareness generated by the 24 team members and participants.

Facts: There are 76,000,000 residents of South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia. We are told that an average of 5% of the population of these countries are immobile and without the ability to purchase a wheelchair. Those 3,800,000 people are the reason that this mission took place.

The Objective: To seek out partners in our fight against immobility, and to create awareness of our goal to deliver a wheelchair to every person that needs one.

Action taken: Meetings with heads of state, rallying support among local and regional governments, establishing distribution relationships, thanking our friends and supporters, learning how to do our job better, a 1500 km "Bicycle Challenge" through 12 cities and 2 countries, and changing as many lives as possible along the way by distributing 700 wheelchairs.

The Results: Heads of state have committed their assistance, awareness was raised for the needs of the disabled, support was rallied at all levels of governments, sponsors and distribution partners were recognized publicly and thanked, and hope, mobility and freedom were delivered to 700 people and their families.

It is the hope of the Wheelchair Foundation that we can create momentum on a global scale that will move our mission forward, and deliver a tangible, long lasting source of salvation into the lives of disabled children, teens and adults throughout Africa, and around the world. ■

Rotary (continued from page 1)

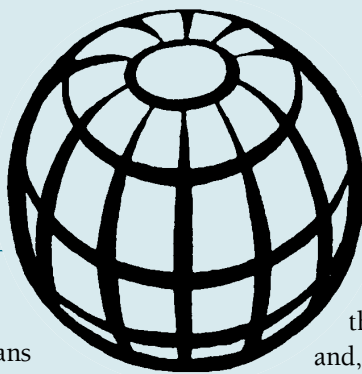
Think about that for a moment. A disease that in 1952 permanently disabled over 58,000 Americans, and in recent decades has disabled hundreds of thousands of people worldwide, **will no longer exist**. In 1985 Rotary International launched one of the most ambitious humanitarian undertakings ever by a private entity. Rotary's PolioPlus campaign is responsible for the delivery of over 2 billion oral polio vaccines worldwide. The mobilization of hundreds of thousands of Rotarian volunteers, and their contribution of \$373 million has made this possible. By the time of the anticipated certification of a polio-free world in 2005, the Rotarian's financial commitment will have reached \$500 million. And this is only one of the many relief projects that Rotary sponsors annually.

Throughout Rotary's history, collaborating with civic and humanitarian organizations, government agencies, and international entities has allowed Rotarians to lead by example in their goal to improve the lives of people around the world. Working in concert with the WHO (World Health Organization), the CDC, (US Centers for Disease Control) and UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) Rotary has established relationships that are making the eradication of polio a reality. It is documented by the United Nations that countries have actually stopped wars long enough to let the Rotarians in to deliver the polio vaccines!

In September of 2000, Frank Devlyn, Rotary International President (2000-2001), spearheaded initiatives that would bring the

mission of the Wheelchair Foundation to the leaders of Rotary Districts, Clubs and Task Forces around the world. President Devlyn recognized the potential to help the tens of thousands of people worldwide that the PolioPlus campaign was too late to protect, and the other victims of disease, war, natural disaster or advanced age. By March of 2001, a Rotarian volunteer, Dr. Jon Grant, had helped to coordinate the Rotarian sponsorship of sixteen 240-wheelchair containers to 13 countries.

In July of 2001, Richard King, Rotary International President (2001-2002), invited Wheelchair Foundation founder, Kenneth E. Behring, to New Orleans, Louisiana. During a presentation by Mr. Behring to the Rotary International Board of Directors, President King proposed a worldwide "Strategic Alliance" with the Wheelchair Foundation. Mr. Behring stated that the Wheelchair Foundation would "match any contribution made by Rotarians" to sponsor Wheelchair Foundation deliveries. This brings the price of a 240-wheelchair container from \$36,000.00 to \$18,000.00 delivered, or \$75.00 per wheelchair. The Rotary International Board unanimously approved the alliance, and to date Rotarians have helped sponsor over 10,000 wheelchairs to 20 countries.



The gift of a wheelchair to an immobile person is a life changing experience. The ability to witness a life being changed forever is also an incredible gift. Rotary Clubs in the United States are working with Rotary Clubs in the country receiving the wheelchairs to bring the mission full circle. Rotarians are traveling from the US to the country of destination and actively participating in the distribution of wheelchairs. The stories that return to the club at home are described as "incredible" or "once in a lifetime experience." "The ability to lift a disabled person into a wheelchair for the first time, and witness the happiness of their prayers being answered, is like nothing you could ever imagine," says Dr. Jon Grant after a Wheelchair Foundation mission to Panama. Dr. Grant continued, "These people can now go to work, school or worship services, and contribute to the well being of the family."

When statistics are compiled and estimates are totaled, over 100 million people in the world are in need of a wheelchair but cannot afford one. The challenges that we face to address the needs of people without mobility, freedom, or hope are daunting. But it was not all that long ago that the world cringed and lived in fear of polio. In 2002, we look three years into the future, and the certification of a polio-free world. It is with great pride and gratitude that the Wheelchair Foundation welcomes the members of the world's oldest service organization, to our mission of ending the suffering of immobility. ■

Rotary International Facts

From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians were concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives. One of the world's most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is the 4-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor.

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



“Changing the World” interview: Jerry Lewis

Jerry Lewis was born into the world of show business on March 16, 1926 in Newark, New Jersey. The son of theatrical entertainers, his debut was at the age of five. The stage was home, and his unequaled comedic energy was soon crafted into precision comedic insanity.

In 1946, after several solo years of doing comedic pantomime on stage, the team of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis would forever change the way the world laughed. In ten short years they became the highest paid act in show business, as well as international radio, television, stage, recording and motion picture stars. After their professional split in 1956, Jerry wrote, produced, directed, and starred in motion pictures and television programs as the top box office star in the world.

If only one word could be used to capture the essence of Jerry Lewis, it would be humanitarian. For the past 5 decades he has dedicated his heart and soul to the fight against neuromuscular disease. The Muscular Dystrophy Association was formed in 1950, and Jerry has served as National Chairman ever since, in the global effort to fund patient care and research for the victims of 40 neuromuscular diseases. Jerry’s annual MDA Labor Day Telethon is the most successful fund raising television effort in history, and has been a part of the American culture since 1966.

1977 marked the year that the highest honor ever bestowed upon an entertainer would recognize the tireless efforts Jerry Lewis displayed since 1949, in his fight against Muscular Dystrophy. **“Jerry Lewis is a man for all seasons, all people, all times. His name has, in the hearts of millions, become synonymous with peace, love and brotherhood.”** With those words, Congressman Les Aspin of Wisconsin concluded his nomination of Jerry Lewis for the **Nobel Peace Prize**.

Labor Day weekend 2001, the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon raised a record \$56.8 million from the global television and Internet audience for the fight against neuromuscular disease.

Jerry Lewis is a member of the Wheelchair Foundation’s International Board of Advisors, and was interviewed for “Changing the World” by his son Chris Lewis (Director of Development for the Wheelchair Foundation).



CTW: When you first started raising money for Muscular Dystrophy patients in 1949, how did the general public receive your first efforts?

JL: The first perception was, ‘We don’t understand.’ They weren’t sure what I was doing in the first year or two, just because it had not really been done before.

CTW: So it took a couple of years until they really grabbed on to it?

JL: I really started to see responses from 1950 on, and as there were more televisions in America.

CTW: The first starring appearance of Martin & Lewis on the Colgate Comedy Hour was in 1950, (when there were only 35 million televisions in America), and your next 27 appearances on the show ran until 1955. At the end of several programs you pitched MDA to the nation. When did you realize the power of television as a fund raising medium?

JL: Actually I pitched it at the end of every program. I saw the power in 1951, because I could see more people remembering what I had done in 1950.

(continued on page 10)



Jerry Lewis (continued from page 9)

CTW: And probably because there were lots more televisions being bought every day?

JL: Yes. Every month we were getting a new number of how many televisions and viewers there were in America.

CTW: Most people don't know how involved Dean was in the first 7 years of your efforts to help dystrophic patients. How did the two of you as the top box office, stage and television stars in the world, find time to raise money for disabled children?

JL: Dean was doing it for me. He knew it was my baby, so he went along with anything that I asked him to do. It wasn't as easy as when I was by myself, because I didn't have to ask anybody anything. But on the whole he was very supportive. He was just a very giving, good person that did nice things for people without looking for accolades. We made the time, because it was important.

CTW: You started the Labor Day Telethon to benefit MDA in 1966 and it is the most successful annual fundraising event in history, yet many people don't know that you were on television raising money for MDA every year back to the early 1950's. An example is the staged fight between you and world heavyweight boxing champ Rocky Marciano at Grossingers Hotel in New York, with Dean as the referee, and all 3 of you wearing t-shirts that said "Help Fight Muscular Dystrophy." It was broadcast on television and, in Paramount newsreels around the country. What kind of change has taken place in the effectiveness of television, as a vehicle to ask people to donate to a worthy cause, over your 5 decades of doing it?

JL: Well, if we used just a voluntary force, going door-to-door and working in local communities, we could raise maybe \$2 million in a year. The difference is that with television I can do \$50 million. So that's indicative of how important that media is. In the early days, theaters would only throw you a bone, in comparison. You could never have as large an audience, even if you were in every theater in the country, as you could with one television spot. So it became an incredible tool, which we are still using.



Jerry Lewis in 2001.

CTW: Probably the most famous telethon moment was in 1976 when Frank Sinatra reunited you and Dean on stage for the first time in 20 years. You have said for years that Dean was the bravest man alive to be there. Why was he so brave, and why did that one live televised moment cause so many people to donate money right then and there?

JL: He was brave because he was coming on my turf. I don't know that I could have done it, if the tables were turned. But he knew me well enough to know that I wouldn't embarrass him or humiliate him. So when Frank wanted to get it on, I'm sure Dean agreed immediately without a problem. And I thought it took tremendous courage, even though he knew in his heart that I wouldn't do anything to hurt him. But still when push comes to shove, all of your intellectual pre-thoughts mean nothing. If you get emotionally involved in a situation, sometimes you don't do the right thing. But he did the right thing, and it was a meaningful moment that brought in a lot of money. People could see the genuine affection between us, and loved to see us together again. Remember they were very upset that we split up. It was like we took a gift away from them. So the reverse happened on Labor Day, September 6, 1976.

CTW: In 1977 when you became the only entertainer in history to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, because of your work for MDA, how did that make you feel?

JL: It was a shock, an absolute shock. I'm still not over it, when anybody mentions it I get gooseflesh. It's just as high as you can get as far as an accolade or a bravo from your fellow man.

CTW: All of my life, I have witnessed hundreds, if not thousands, of dystrophic patients or their family members thank you for the hope that you have given them, to continue the fight for a cure to neuromuscular disease. As probably one of the world's authorities, what have you learned about the value of hope to a person with a disease or disability?

JL: Well, that's one of the tough ones. I can only look into their eyes, because they look at me differently than they do most everyone else. They look at me like their hero, and I get other readings from them. I get very, very deep, passionate and emotional readings from them. Readings of thanks and gratitude for keeping them alive, when in fact all I'm doing is funding and getting as much money as I can for research that will one day stop neuromuscular disease. But on the whole, hope is probably the strongest tool that they have to sustain their life. Without hope it's futile. There would be no point of getting up in the morning. And we bring them hope. You know, our catch line with MDA for years has been 'People help MDA, because MDA helps people.' And it's that simple. It gives them hope.

CTW: We place hope very high on the list of what we are trying to give people that are receiving our wheelchairs around the world.

JL: The important thing that you have to remember is, when you do something for a group of people somewhere in the world, another group of people that hasn't received your benefits yet, can look upon that as 'We're next.' And that's the key. You can't look at the work you do on Monday, and forget that it is going to affect Friday.

CTW: Since the establishment of the Muscular Dystrophy Association in 1950 you and MDA have raised \$1.8 billion for patient care and research. How would you thank the people that made that number possible, if you could?

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Central America

In the first week of October 2001 Ken Behring and the Wheelchair Foundation team traveled to Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador to deliver wheelchairs and establish stronger partnership relations with the governments and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) working together to bring wheelchairs into the region.

Participating in the wheelchair distributions and other humanitarian relief efforts were representatives from LDS Charities, Rotary International, several of our partner NGO's and Wheelchair Foundation volunteers.



Ken Behring with the President and First Lady of Nicaragua.

The delegation met with the President and First Ladies of each country and agreed upon an expanded cooperation in each. The Wheelchair Foundation and LDS Charities committed to an initial sponsorship of 480 wheelchairs (2 containers) to each country.

The Rotarians left the team in Honduras and delivered 30 wheelchairs and medical supplies up into the rural region of Santa Barbara.

Mr. Behring extended an invitation for each First Lady to become a member of the Wheelchair Foundation International Board of Advisors, and they happily agreed. The cooperation of governments, in harmony with our

partner NGO's in each country, will allow us to deliver wheelchairs more efficiently and frequently to the countries in greatest need. These partnerships will also allow for expanded sponsorships of wheelchairs by outside organizations and corporations.

China Enabled

Deng Pufeng is the son of China's late leader Deng Xiaoping. He is paralyzed and lives each day in a wheelchair. It is possible that the estimated **60 million** disabled Chinese citizens have hope for the future because Deng Pufeng is the very vocal and visible president of the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF).

People with disabilities face many obstacles in China. Schools and businesses have traditionally not been designed to provide for the basic mobility needs of the disabled. This leaves many educational and vocational options physically beyond the reach of many citizens in the rural areas.

The China Disabled Person's Federation is working to change the accessibility barriers that exist in China. Deng Pufeng is seen as the leader that will bring the disabled of China into the mainstream of society. This is no easy task when considering the government must attend to the needs of 1.3 billion people.

On September 7, 2001 a "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed in Beijing between the CDPF and the Wheelchair Foundation.



Fred Gerhard and a wheelchair recipient in Beijing.

Founder Kenneth E. Behring, and President Stephen Beinke were present. The Wheelchair Foundation will initially provide 1,750 wheelchairs to disabled Chinese citizens. The CDPF will distribute the wheelchairs to those people that cannot afford to purchase one. The wheelchairs will be built in China and the CDPF will identify the recipients, and provide for delivery.

The recent attention that has been given to the plight of the disabled in China is welcome to many that have been waiting years for help. On July 28, 1976 a devastating earthquake struck the city of Tangshan in the NE Hebei province. 242,000 people lost their lives, and many thousands were left disabled. The sheer numbers of injured people completely taxed the national relief systems, and thousands remain disabled to this day.

One of the first missions of the Wheelchair Foundation/CDPF cooperation was the deliv-
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(L to R) Deng Pufeng, Ken Behring and Steve Beinke signing an agreement between the Wheelchair Foundation and the China Disabled Person's Federation.



Ken Behring at the Rotary Wheelchair Distribution in Texcoco, Mexico.



4-year-old Jirdan Herrera in Honduras.



Young man working in Botswana.



Disabled children in Kazakhstan.



(L to R) Frank and Gloria Rita Delvyn, Mexican First Lady Martha Fox, Ken and Patricia Behring.



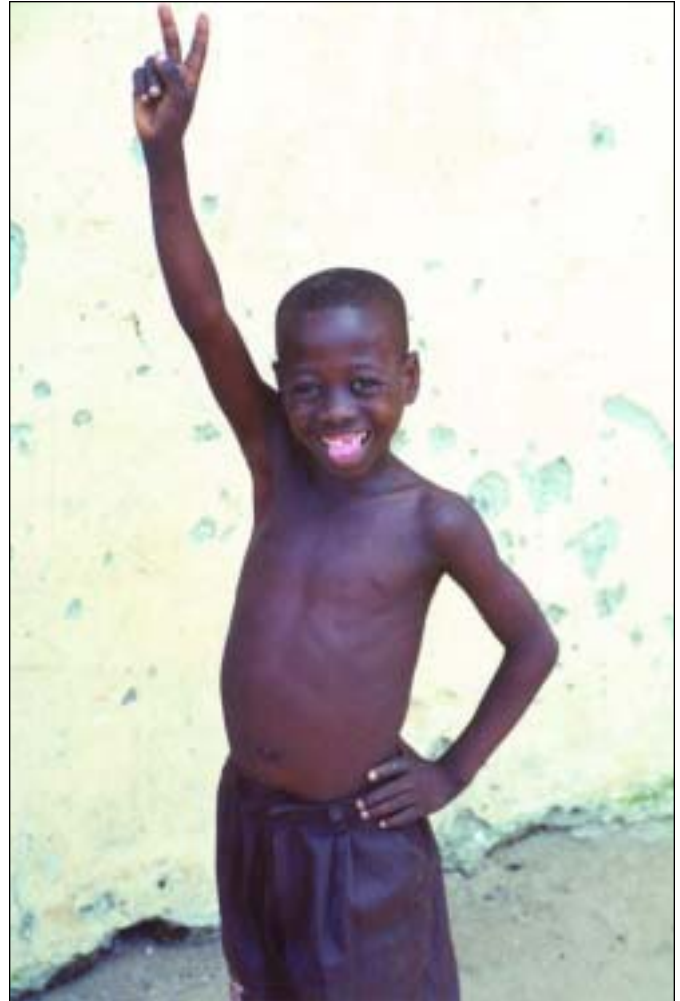
Waiting for Wheelchairs in Texcoco, Mexico.



(L to R) Mike Deland, Mitzi Perdue, Ken Behring and Alan Reich at the FDR Memorial, Washington, D.C.



Ken Behring with Soledad O'Brien on NBC's Today Show, October 24, 2001.



A happy youngster in Nigeria.



Rotarians at work in Honduras.



China (continued from page 11)

ery of 500 wheelchairs in late October of 2001 to Tangshan. The stories of disabled people waiting 25 years for a wheelchair and the gratitude they expressed was overwhelming.

In cooperation with Sister Cities International, Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco, California attended a wheelchair distribution in Beijing. His commitment to helping the disabled at home and abroad, as well as his thanks to Ken Behring and the Wheelchair Foundation, demonstrated how leaders of local communities can join forces with their counterparts abroad to acknowledge and support relief efforts around the world.

The Wheelchair Foundation delivered the first 1,750 wheelchairs in China through the CDPF by the end of 2001 to Beijing, Shanghai, Tangshan, Xian, Chongqing, Tianjin and Shenzhen, and is committed to raising awareness and funding for a national wheelchair relief effort in the coming years.

At a time in our lives that so many questions surface about who should receive a share of the relief dollars available, the Wheelchair Foundation remains dedicated to a narrow focus of delivering a tangible item that will immediately change the life of a disabled person and their entire family. 100% of your tax-deductible donation goes to buying and delivering a wheelchair. This wheelchair will allow a child, teen or adult to go to school, earn an income, attend worship services, and in many cases, become a part of, or re-enter society. No value can be put on independence, hope or freedom, and the tears of joy that we have seen so many times, are gifts that we most sincerely cherish, and hope to share with the world.

Helping the People of Lebanon

The Republic of Lebanon is located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea in Southwest Asia. The country of 4,036 square miles has a population of 3.6 million residents. In ancient times, Lebanon was the heart of sea-



Actress Loretta Swit delivering wheelchairs in Lebanon.

far Phoenicia, and experienced numerous infusions of cultures over the centuries. The historical events through the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires could fill volumes of textbooks, and the Western influences of France and America helped establish Lebanon as an independent nation in 1943. The American University of Beirut was established in 1920, and remains one of the finest educational institutions in the world.

The Lebanese people value individualism, which has contributed to their great creativity and inventiveness throughout history. Close family relations, honor and loyalty to friends are vitally important. The people of Lebanon are one of the most educated and technically prepared populations in the world. In 2001, 95 percent of Lebanese aged 15 and older were literate. Primary education is compulsory, and attendance is near universal. Beirut is home to six universities, and there are over 100 technical, vocational and other specialized schools throughout the country.

The people of Lebanon have suffered greatly

since the civil war of 1975 to 1990. Their entire culture and way of life was disrupted and in danger of changing forever. There are numerous factional influences within the framework of the society, and the government is striving to reach a harmonious balance.

The social services of Lebanon were severely disrupted during the civil war, but the government-provided services are in the process of being restored. Refugees from neighboring countries are numerous, and the governmental ministries struggle to meet their needs.

The Wheelchair Foundation in conjunction with sponsorship from several foundations and Dr. Joe Zeiter of Stockton, California, delivered 480 wheelchairs to Beirut, Tripoli and Sidon in June of 2001, with a coalition of six local non-governmental relief organizations. First Lady Andree Lahoud participated in wheelchair distributions and agreed to become a member of the Wheelchair Foundation's International Board of Advisors, to assist future distributions in the region. Actress Loretta Swit accompanied our distribution team and contributed greatly to the mission and the video produced by the Wheelchair Foundation. Volunteers

from Airline Ambassadors and local high schools were also valued participants.

The team also visited a Palestinian refugee camp in Southern Lebanon to distribute wheelchairs. The trip took them through both Lebanese and then Palestinian military check points, and past dozens of unmarked mine fields. A privately funded clinic, in the camp that was established by the United Nations in 1948, serves 80,000 refugees living in an area of approximately 160 square acres. The disabled that need a wheelchair are numerous, and generally without hope.

At one point, a woman being seated in a wheelchair began crying from her happiness of actually receiving one. Suddenly her 10-year-old daughter ran up and started hitting the team members adjusting the footrests. She thought her mother was being hurt, because she had never seen her cry before. The realization that came over the girl's face when her mother explained it to her, brought tears to the eyes of many members of the gathered crowd.



The three days of distributions were very successful, and would set the stage for the next shipment in August of 2001.

During the August distribution of 240 wheelchairs, co-sponsored by the Lebanese-American Foundation, First Lady Andree Lahoud brought national media attention to our efforts, and helped us organize a distribution network of 20 rehabilitation centers, hospitals, nursing homes and non-governmental relief organizations throughout the country.

During a visit to another refugee camp, a wheelchair was delivered to a 23-year-old girl with a severe neurological disorder. She and her mother lived on the 4TH floor of a narrow concrete structure with no windows and only steep stairs as access. The mother cried with joy when the wheelchair was delivered, because now her daughter could sit up in the wheelchair and look out of the door to see outside, or

be moved around the small room to be closer to her. The girl had spent the last 23 years laying flat on a mattress, looking at the ceiling, without the ability to move or be moved easily.

These real-life stories are encountered on every one of our wheelchair distributions, and inspire us all to do as much as we can to help.

The people of Lebanon are doing their best in attending to the needs of the disabled, but their health care system can't possibly keep up with the injuries caused by landmines in the south, or disabilities due to illness and advanced age. It is the goal of the Wheelchair Foundation, and our supporters internationally, to continue developing our distribution network, which will allow for the increased sponsorship and delivery of wheelchairs to children, teens or adults that are in dire need of mobility worldwide.

The Children of Nepal love Ronald McDonald

In the Kingdom of Nepal, the ancient Kathmandu valley is a melting pot of people and cultures.

This country of 23 million people is North of India, South of Tibet, and is just over 500 miles long by 140 miles wide.

A natural treasure of drama and grandeur, Nepal possesses the world's deepest gorges and the highest point on earth . . . Mount Everest. From tropical forests at lower elevations to arctic conditions on the "roof of the world" the geography is as diverse as its people.

The towering peaks are worshiped by locals as homes of the gods, and challenge

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A Wheelchair Story

By Anika Olen, Physiotherapist for Mercy Ships New Steps – Sierra Leone.

Kai Njama tells me about an adult man who is not able to walk and so Alfred and I "carry" one of our last eighteen-inch wheelchairs to Waterloo. Bendu, the vice-chairman of the polio community, sends a messenger to go and call the man. Fatmata and I walk in the direction of his home to meet him on the way. The man we have come to see is called Abass Conteh. In 1997 he was shot by the rebels in both legs, shattering the femurs and since then he has not been able to walk, his brother explains. He moves around the village by crawling on the rough ground on his hands and knees. His older brother, walks alongside the crawling fully grown man who is making slow progress along the dusty road. Abass himself has little to say. I offer to bring the wheelchair to him to save him from making the whole journey. His brother tells me that he should go all the way there – this is his end of the bargain and he should receive the chair at the place of assembly of the community. This is what I understood from his gestures and explanation and Fatmata whole-

heartedly agrees with him. We walk back to the vehicle to unload the wheelchair.

The shiny, new, cherry-red wheelchair, with its front wheels still wrapped in plastic, elicits much admiration and attention among the instant crowd of onlookers. The wheelchair is part of a consignment donated by the Wheelchair Foundation, which Mercy Ships New Steps is distributing in Sierra Leone.

The messenger returns to inform us that there has been a change of plan – Abass is tired can we go to meet him with the wheelchair? The crowd around the wheelchair has grown. One of the young men who has ventured to touch it asks if he may push it. All those who lacked the courage to touch or ask, now look on enviously as with a triumphant smile he strides out across the rough ground pushing the chair in front of him.

Alfred, Fatmata, the designated wheelchair pusher, myself, and the small crowd make a stately progress towards Abass. The procession draws many curious "pikin" tumbling out of their houses to join in the exciting

event. By the time we reach the waiting man, I cannot spot my colleague Alfred in the crowd. Abass is encouraged to climb into the chair and I start to adjust the height of the footrests. We have to lower the footrest to the farthest setting possible. Abass is a tall man. By this time, Alfred has managed to make his way through the crowd and he ceremoniously removes the plastic from the wheels and explains how to use the breaks. Abass using his strong arms, which have been his legs for 4 years, effortlessly rolls the wheelchair through the sand for a test drive. The crowd applauds spontaneously. As we start to leave and the crowd begins to scatter, several old ladies come to hold my hands in theirs as a sign of their appreciation, shaking their heads and indicating the horror and shame of an adult man who had to "drag he waist" in this way. They are all so thankful; as if they have received a precious gift themselves. They pray a blessing from God over us. I have already been blessed. ■



Nepal (continued from page 15)
human perspective. Drops of water that begin at the highest points on earth, travel to slopes of medicinal herbs and into valleys of grain.

Family and religion are of paramount importance to a prayerful people that depend on agriculture or livestock for their daily existence. 40 ethnic groups that speak 70 different languages have melded into one society that is rich in tradition and complex in makeup.

This spiritual society is heavily influenced by the presence of numerous temples, shrines, and monasteries. The needs of people are simple, but numerous. Refugees from neighboring countries are given safe haven within the borders of Nepal, even though it is not a wealthy country. The bright-eyed children are at peace in their innocence, and enjoy the simple pleasures of life.

This developing nation has only recently opened its borders to the Western world. Many elements of Western society are just now starting to enter Nepal. When the average income of a local farmer is less than \$200.00 per year, luxuries are rare, and prayer is an essential part of keeping families together. Basic human needs are a daily concern, and the needs of disabled children are beyond the resources of most.

In July of 2000 a team of concerned professionals entered the Kathmandu valley to explore the needs of the physically disabled. A child in Nepal with a neurological or other serious disease must be carried anywhere they go, but for most, their sentence is life in bed, or on the floor of a room until they die.

Upon the team's return to the US, the newly founded Wheelchair Foundation was told about the needs of 206 children with severe disabilities in Kathmandu. We accepted the challenge of helping these children, and dedicated our efforts to getting the specialized wheelchairs that they needed.

It was Ronald McDonald House Charities that said, "We can help you save these children."

In May of 2001, less than one-year after the

assessment team first traveled to Nepal, the Wheelchair Foundation, physical therapists, specialists and volunteers from Airline Ambassadors, and the Association of Mobility Providers joined representatives from the Nepalese National Federation of the Disabled, and delivered 206 specialized wheelchairs that were paid for with a grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities.



During the 4-day distribution of wheelchairs, the team met and interacted with people that represented a cross section of the Nepalese. Their thankful gestures and smiling faces revealed hope for the future of their families, and happiness that they never

thought possible. The mother of a 12-year-old boy with cerebral palsy said, "It is very difficult at home. He can't stand or even sit. We must do everything for him, and it takes 2 people to



Wheelchair recipient in Nepal.

move him. This wheelchair will make it much easier, and now he will be able to go outside." When asked why she has traveled as a volunteer so far from home, physical therapist Robin Corey said, "I do this to give something back.

We are so blessed and have so much, and the people of Nepal have so little. This is a way that I can use my skills to give something to people that have so much less than me. This is really why I do it."

The lives of these children have been changed in a positive and long lasting way, and their families have been given the ability to take their child to school, worship, or just outside to see the world around them. The gift of a wheelchair brings together the lives of entire families, which is of significant importance in the culture of the Nepalese.

This story of children and their families with a new lease on life in the Kingdom of Nepal, is a tribute to the dedicated efforts of Ronald McDonald House Charities—people that make a difference in so many lives, every day.

The Wheelchair Foundation thanks Ronald McDonald House Charities for their overwhelming commitment to the children of the world, and helping us in our global mission, to change the lives of people and their families, one wheelchair at a time.

To watch a video about this wheelchair distribution in the Kingdom of Nepal, please visit wheelchairfoundation.org and go to "Wheelchair Deliveries."

Angola ~ The most disabled

Located on the Atlantic Coast of Southern Africa, Angola has been plagued by civil war ever since its independence from Portuguese colonialism in 1975. The warring factions have brought about as many as 1.5 million deaths and the United Nations estimates that there are currently 2.7 million Angolan refugees. The average Angolan has a life expectancy of only 47 years.

From the standpoint of disability, the situation is equally dire. Millions of landmines lurk beneath the country's soil, killing and maiming thousands of Angolans per year. A 1995 UN study estimated there were 70,000 amputees in Angola and, with 4,000 to 6,000 new victims per year, the number is steadily rising. It is these statistics that bring Angola the chilling



12-year-old land mine victim.

distinction of having the world's most disabled population. It is estimated that 20% of the 12 million people of Angola are disabled.

The Wheelchair Foundation thanks the Chevron Corporation for sponsoring the shipment of 240 wheelchairs to Angola. In June of 2001, the Wheelchair Foundation team was welcomed to Luanda, Angola by Chevron and First Lady Ana Paula dos Santos. Mrs. dos Santos and her Liwini Foundation participated in the distribution of the wheelchairs and witnessed firsthand the delivery of hope and mobility to people that once only knew despair.

Liwini and Mrs. dos Santos were most prominently featured in the public spotlight when Princess Diana visited Angola in 1997 to raise awareness of the devastation caused by land mines.



Princess Diana and First Lady Ana Paula dos Santos in Angola.

John D. Gass, Managing Director of Chevron in Luanda said, "What I saw was tremendous gratitude and disbelief that they were receiving a wheelchair." Gass continued, "We want to give something back and be a positive force of change in the communities where we operate. These 240 wheelchairs only scratch the surface here in Angola, and we will have to do more."

Although the fighting has slowed down in recent months, Angola is still listed as one of the world's most dangerous places to visit. It is by the dedicated efforts of the Chevron Corporation and Liwini that the Wheelchair Foundation is able to continue our global mission of changing lives for the better every day. Upon receiving a wheelchair, children, teens and adults are now able to go to school, work, attend worship services or just go outside for the first time in many years or for the first time in their lives.

A Neighbor in Need ~ Mexico

It was cold and windy at 7:30 AM on November 5, 2001 in Texcoco, Mexico. The location was a small soccer stadium at a public park in this suburb of Mexico City. The population of Mexico City and its surrounding area is 25 million people. It is estimated that 1.2 million of them need a wheelchair but cannot afford one.

Today 240 children, teens and adults are going to be receiving brand new wheelchairs. For many, this would be the first wheelchair that they have ever owned or even used. For most, this was a day too good to be true, that only prayers could have brought.

Even though the distribution ceremony was not scheduled to begin until 11:00 AM, the number of people walking with crutches, being carried or crawling on the ground to the stadium at 7:30 in the morning was amazing. But taken in context, what was a 3½-hour wait for a wheelchair, compared to a lifetime of needing one.

The festivities of the day had been planned for several months. The Rotary Club of Texcoco



Rotarian Chuck Harper delivers Hope in Mexico.

de Gante had been working with the agencies for disabled people in Mexico, and local rehabilitation organizations to identify the recipients for 240 wheelchairs. Texcoco de Gante Rotary Club President Humberto Mayorga had made this his personal mission. Upon learning from Jim Walker of the Rotary Club of Cupertino, California that Cupertino and several surrounding clubs would be sponsoring a container of 240 wheelchairs to Texcoco, Humberto was elated, but careful not to get too excited. He knew the difficulties of importing goods into Mexico, but offered his complete cooperation.

What Humberto didn't know at the time was that the Wheelchair Foundation has an International Board of Advisors that is second to none. Rotary International President 2000-2001 Frank Devlyn is from Mexico City and is well respected by both the business world and the Presidency of Mexico. Through President Devlyn's connections with the Mexican government, and the dedicated efforts of his staff at Devlyn Optical, the container of 240 wheelchairs was delivered to Texcoco in plenty of time before November 5TH.

One of the reasons that this date was so
(continued on page 18)



Mexico (continued from page 17)
 important is that 34 members of the Cupertino and San Francisco Bay Area Rotary Clubs were traveling to Texcoco to actively participate in the 240-wheelchair distribution. Another reason was that Wheelchair Foundation founder Ken Behring and his wife Pat were scheduled to meet that morning with Mexican First Lady Martha Fox at Los Pinos. (The Mexican Presidential residence) The meeting with Mrs. Fox, Ken & Mrs. Behring, and Frank & Mrs. Devlyn was wonderful. Mrs. Fox embraced the Wheelchair Foundation efforts in Mexico and agreed to become a member of our International Board of Advisors.

It was now 11:00 AM and the ceremony was to begin. On the running track were 3 rows of 80 chairs with wheelchair recipients anxiously waiting. Over 600 people were in the bleachers or on the field. A marching band played the Mexican national anthem, a drill team marched in, and children carrying flags on poles with the Wheelchair Foundation logo and the Rotary Emblem proudly entered in single file. One of the children was only 4-years-old and could barely carry the flag, but he was proud to be there.

After welcoming speeches by Humberto Mayorga, Frank Devlyn, Ken Behring and government officials, the wheelchair delivery was ready to begin. Children in sky blue jogging suits, marked with the logo of their local school, wheeled in 50 wheelchairs at a time. Ken Behring and Frank Devlyn lifted the first recipient into his wheelchair, and the crowd roared. The Rotarians from California and Texcoco matched the registered recipients numbers to their wheelchairs and lifted them in one by one, then several at a time. Over 70 volunteers from both countries participated. They took pictures of the recipients in their new wheelchairs with numbered cards, writing their names and ages on each one. People were crying with joy, as volunteers adjusted the footrests and talked to each person. Mr. Behring was surrounded by people thanking him for his generosity, and news crews documenting this never-before-seen level of giving in Mexico. Mr. Behring said, "We are so thankful to Rotary both here and at home, and Frank Devlyn for making all of this possible. We just hope that this is the beginning of many more deliveries like the one here today." Cu-

pertino club president Charlie Schramm and his wife Debbie were obviously very proud of what they had accomplished.

Martina Miranda (42) had told us the day before as we visited her home, that she had a wheelchair about 20 years ago, but it only lasted 5 years. Her nephew wheels her on a hand truck as she sits on a milk crate, to get to the bus each morning. She works at a roadside stand selling shoe polish. Otherwise she walks on her knees, being disabled from birth. Her 85-year-old mother has lifted and helped her for the past 42 years. The tears of joy that were in their eyes when they received her wheelchair were a mixture of happiness and disbelief. Martina said, "I have prayed so long for an-



Martina Miranda and her mother.

other wheelchair, and I knew that my prayers would be answered." Her mother told us that they could never afford such a beautiful red wheelchair, and that this gift would make the remaining years of her life so much easier.

During our visit to Martina's home November 4TH, she told us that 10 years ago a man had said he could get her a wheelchair from the government free of charge if she just paid the shipping. The 70 pesos (Less than \$8.00) that she lost to his scam was all the money her family could scrape together over the course of 3 months. This is just one example of the stories we hear from people who need a wheelchair but cannot afford one. (An anonymous mem-

ber of our team handed her mother 200 pesos as we were leaving, to make up for the money lost to the con man.)

For the 240 recipients of wheelchairs and their families that traveled to the soccer stadium that day, there was a new feeling of happiness in the air. The combination of meeting friendly people who only wanted to help, and receiving a gift beyond any dream possible, brought smiles to faces that might have thought they had forgotten how. There was singing, there was praying and lots of thankful gestures that warmed the hearts of everyone in attendance. The Rotary Club of Texcoco had done an incredible job and made this event something they could be very proud of.

Our hope is that every person who attended the events in Mexico on November 5, 2001 will spread the word about the lives that were changed that day — the wheelchair recipients, their families, and every witness to the gifts of hope, mobility and freedom being given to thankful people that before this day didn't dare to dream.

The Wheelchair Foundation ~ Florida

The relief efforts of the Wheelchair Foundation focus on any part of the world that has disabled people in need of a wheelchair and cannot afford one. There are a great number of disabled people worldwide, but we have distributed more wheelchairs right here in the United States than anywhere else in the world.

The establishment of the Florida Chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation has greatly increased awareness of the plight of the disabled in America. Through the dedicated efforts of our Florida Chapter President Jack Drury, donations have been received that are sending hundreds of wheelchairs to Florida, as well as Argentina, the Bahamas, Brazil, Israel, Nassau, Turkey and Swaziland.

As an active member of the Ft. Lauderdale community, Jack Drury has worked closely with Broward General Medical Center, the Center for Independent Living, nursing homes and numerous organizations helping the dis-



Florida Chapter President Jack Drury (far left) delivering wheelchairs in the Bahamas.

abled in Florida to get wheelchairs to people without mobility.

During a recent distribution of 120 wheelchairs to the Bahamas Association for the Physically Disabled, the Bahamian Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Zhavargo Laing said to Jack Drury, "All across the world we are rec-

ognizing that no man is an island, and no country is an island unto itself. We need each other, and the fact that we extend ourselves across the waters to help our neighbors, defines our humanity."

Jack is an active member of the Ft. Lauderdale Rotary Club, and is working closely

with Rotary Clubs in Florida to sponsor wheelchairs through local and international service projects. In a newly formed alliance with Sister Cities International, the Wheelchair Foundation Florida Chapter is participating with the Ft. Lauderdale Rotary Club to distribute wheelchairs in their Sister City of Mar del Plata, Argentina. This type of international cooperation will allow the Wheelchair Foundation to help the disabled at home and abroad.

The Wheelchair Foundation wishes to thank the Florida Chapter for creating awareness and raising funds to send wheelchairs to the disabled people of Florida and around the world. As our emissary of good will, and front door to the Caribbean and South America, the Wheelchair Foundation – Florida Chapter will continue to forge alliances with organizations and individuals dedicated to helping people in need of a wheelchair, but without the money to buy one.

The Wheelchair Foundation – Florida Chapter, 2800 E. Commercial Boulevard, Suite 207, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308 USA (954) 776-0722; WheelsFlorida@aol.com.

Welcome

Wheelchairs For Peace

The Wheelchair Foundation has recently reached an international cooperation agreement with Sister Cities International (SCI) to jointly provide 60,000 wheelchairs over the next five years to communities throughout the world.

Sister Cities International is a non-profit citizen diplomacy network creating and strengthening partnerships between U.S. and international communities in an effort to increase global cooperation at the municipal level, promote cultural understanding, and stimulate economic development. SCI leads the movement for local community development and volunteer action by motivating and empowering private citizens, municipal officials, and business leaders to conduct long-term programs of mutual benefit.

The Wheelchair Foundation will commit a minimum of \$4.5 million in matching funds over a five-year period, to match dollar for dollar, funds raised by U.S. Sister City Chapters and their local affiliates.

At least 50 U.S. Sister City chapters will be selected to participate in a program that will provide 240 wheelchairs (A 40-foot container) to

one of their respective Sister Cities. This will bring a total of 100 cities into the program titled "Wheelchairs for Peace." Each U.S. chapter will raise \$18,000.00 to match the funds provided by the Wheelchair Foundation, and send a \$36,000.00, 240-wheelchair container. (A wheelchair costs \$150.00 delivered)

In addition to the distribution of the wheelchairs, the Sister City partnerships will commit to working jointly on making their communities more accessible and welcoming to people with disabilities, and establish continuing relationships with the wheelchair recipients.

This initiative will take place from 2002 to 2006, culminating in the 50th anniversary of Sister Cities International.

It is the hope of the Wheelchair Foundation and Sister Cities International, that these efforts will result in an increased awareness of the *abilities* of the physically challenged, and allow for greater community participation in a new way of thinking. ■





Jerry Lewis (continued from page 10)

JL: How would I thank them? Well... thank you just feels so inept, or so skimpy, and my deepest gratitude seems like I'm not saying anything. I mean, we are talking about numbers only General Motors ever puts on a piece of paper, or the Treasury Department. A billion eight hundred million dollars. Remember, they have been coming back to me for fifty years. And the interesting thing is, that the numbers we get at the end of the Telethon is from only 2% of the viewers. Do you realize that if we got 4% that would mean \$120 million? So if we are seen by 80 million people, 2% is giving us \$56.8 million. And many of them are the same people that have been with me for 50 years. It's always that same audience that sends in the money, 'Jerry we've been with you 39 years,' or 'Jerry I've been with you 43 years.' Those are the people that have stuck with me all of the way. Then come their families, from baby boomers right up to now. I would just keep thanking them until they believe me.

CTW: As the person with more experience raising money for the disabled than any other human being in history, what was your reaction when you learned of Ken Behring's goal to deliver a million wheelchairs in the next 5 years to people that need one, but cannot afford one?

JL: Well, my first reaction was, 'There's the man that should be getting the Nobel Peace Prize.' For what Ken is doing, we don't know enough about him and his work, and the other Ken's of the world. And it is a shame that we don't. As I said earlier about what you do on Monday affects Friday, what Ken is doing now is going to pull people out of the woodwork, and if it were not for him they would never have come around. So he is a tremendous force for all of those down the line that are thinking about doing something for others and just don't. And when what Ken is doing gets around to them, I think he will be one of the greatest forces ever.

CTW: That is probably true.

JL: (Adamantly) Without question! There is some guy like a J. Paul Getty sitting on 3 or 4 billion dollars and not knowing what to do

with it. I'll show him what to do with it, and so will Ken.

CTW: The other great unknown that we have discovered since the establishment of the Wheelchair Foundation in June of 2000 is the number of disabled worldwide. The World Health Organization publishes that there are 20-25 million people around the world in need of a wheelchair, but without the money to buy one. In working with our wheelchair distribution partners and governments around the world, we now know that the number is really at least 100-130 million people. 20% of Angola's 12 million people alone are disabled and without the ability to get a wheelchair.

JL: I never knew the number was that high.

CTW: None of us did. But through our efforts, hopefully the world will learn the true number.

JL: The injuries from land mines are so tragic, and there are so many millions still out there. The numbers are staggering, and they need help.

CTW: We are working at it every day. O.K. last question. When a person dedicates their life to helping others, who receives the most benefit?

JL: The one that's doing the good work. You've heard me say that since you were a little kid.

CTW: I know. That's why I wrote the question.

JL: It's the most selfish thing that I do in my life. Because, although I am serving people in need, and I do it through selflessness, it's really selfish. I wish they could get as much benefit as I get. I mean, my feeling of worth, of personal esteem is enormous, after I have done something specific for my kids. And there is no way that you can avoid feeling those feelings of depth and gratitude and appreciation. If it were not for the American people, I couldn't be such a hero. But my appreciation for what they do, and my love for what I do, gives me such satisfaction and the want to go on. And every time in the past 50 years or so that I have spoken to a dystrophic child, like the child I called yesterday

who is terminal, and is not going to be here this coming week, we talked and we laughed and we giggled, and he was so happy that he was able to talk to me, and finally was able to meet me on the phone. How do you put a price on that?

CTW: You can't.

JL: I know you can't.

CTW: Do you have anything that you would like to add for our readers?

JL: Yes. I think that whenever somebody makes a donation to the Wheelchair Foundation, they should go up to a mirror and say . . . thank you!

Jerry Lewis has a motto that reflects his love for humanity:

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again!"

*For information about the
Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon,
please visit the MDA web site at
www.mdausa.org.*



Affiliate Organizations that Receive and Distribute Wheelchairs

The Wheelchair Foundation is the world's leading wheelchair relief organization. We purchase wheelchairs from factories building high quality, long lasting products that will best provide mobility to the disabled people around the world who are in need of a wheelchair but without the ability to afford one.

It is estimated that 100-130 million people worldwide are disabled by war, disease, natural disaster, or advanced age. The Wheelchair Foundation relies on its "Affiliate" organizations to receive and distribute the wheelchairs provided. A photograph of each recipient is returned to us, along with a card containing the person's name,

age, country and wheelchair number. We can then supply a presentation folder containing a photograph and certificate to our donors, with all of the information about the recipient.

The wheelchairs provided are available in 5 sizes: 12 & 14-inch width for children and 16, 18 & 20 inch widths for adults. All wheelchairs have removable armrests, adjustable footrests and fold for ease of transportation.

The following is a partial list of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) that we are proud to be working with in providing mobility to the disabled populations of the world.

In Alphabetical Order

Aid to the Church In Russia	First Lady of Coahuila, Mexico	National Federation of People with Disabilities in Namibia
Airline Ambassadors	First Lady of Columbia	Nelson Mandela Foundation
Al-Hussein Society	First Lady of El Salvador	Oakland Athletics Baseball Company
American Friends of Alyn Hospital	First Lady of Guatemala	Operation USA
American Red Cross	First Lady of Honduras	Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs
Assaf Harofeh Medical Center	First Lady of Mexico	Patient's Friends Society
Center for Independent Living of South Florida	First Lady of Nicaragua	Perpetual Help for Africa
Center for Independent Living of Reno, Nevada	First Lady of Nigeria	Project Hope
Cheshire Home	First Lady of Panama	Red Cross of Bosnia/Herzegovina
Chevron, Angola	First Lady of Paraguay	Rehab Association of Burundi
Child Care Trust Nigeria	First Lady of Peru	Rehab Association of CAR
China Disabled Person's Federation	First Lady of Tamaulipas, Mexico	Rehab Association of Rwanda
Christian Orthopedic Partners	Goodwill Industries	Rotary Clubs – Worldwide
LDS Charities	Graca Machel Mandela Foundation of Community Development	Sabelkheir Association
Counterpart International	Haitians Living Abroad	Scottlee Holdings
Deseret Industries	Hope Haven International	Sirindhorn National Medical Relief
Direct Relief International	International Service of Hope	Technology – Transfer International
Englezakis Group / Spar Stores, South Africa	Kham Aid Foundation	The Auto Collections – Las Vegas, Nevada
Entrena, Dominican Republic	Liwini, Angola	The Salvation Army
First Lady of Angola	Manos de Ayuda	Tzu Chi University
First Lady of Baja, Mexico	Medical Outreach for Armenians	Wheels for Humanity
First Lady of Bolivia	Mercy Corp International	World Vision
First Lady of Brazil	Mercy Ships	
	MICA, Inc.	
	Mobility Project	
	National Federation of the Disabled	

Frequently Asked Questions

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

A: It is estimated that at least 100 million children and adults worldwide need a wheelchair but cannot afford one. Some international organizations believe that the number could be higher.

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 much do I have to donate to deliver a wheelchair to a disabled person?

A: \$75. The Wheelchair Foundation has been gifted a specific amount of funds to combine with each new \$75 donation to deliver a wheelchair.

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

A: For every \$75 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 Gallery at the Blackhawk Museum

The Blackhawk Museum is a Smithsonian Institution-affiliate that is renowned for its galleries of the finest "classic" automobiles anywhere in the world. The Museum features Smithsonian traveling exhibits such as "SPIDERS," the fascinating "POSTED ABOARD THE TITANIC," and the Smithsonian's salute to the American Musical called "RED, HOT & BLUE." The Museum presents rotating exhibitions of art, science, culture and natural history for public enjoyment and daily scholastic programs.

Opened in December 2001, is a 2,000 square foot display to showcase the Wheelchair Foundation's work around the world. The display features information about the Foundation's wheelchair distributions and videos telling the stories of people affected by the Foundation's work. Moreover, visitors to the display will learn about the need for wheelchairs around the world and what they can do to help.

The display also includes a collection of wheelchairs that represent the creative elements applied to the problem of immobility. Antique wheelchairs from the early part of the 20TH century share the stage with their contemporary equivalents. The Wheelchair Foundation is seeking donations of antique wheelchairs, or creative examples of mobility devices for this exhibit.

The Wheelchair Foundation is grateful to the Blackhawk Museum, the Behring-Hofmann Educational Institute, its directors and staff for their dedicated support of our global effort to provide mobility, hope and freedom to over 100 million people around the world.

(For more information about the fabulous Blackhawk Museum, visit their web site at www.blackhawkmuseum.org or call (925) 736-2277 between the hours of 10 AM and 5 PM, Wednesdays through Sundays) ■

Planned Giving

Whether supported through an outright gift or planned gift, the Wheelchair Foundation's efforts are made possible through the generosity and commitment of people like you. A planned gift to the Wheelchair Foundation helps to ensure the future of our wheelchair deliveries worldwide and may further your financial goals.

Planned gifts include gifts through your will, charitable gift annuities, gifts of life insurance, and charitable trusts.

Bequests

Many of our supporters make charitable gifts by naming the Wheelchair Foundation as a beneficiary in their wills.

Gift of Life Insurance

Some of our supporters no longer need their life insurance that was purchased years ago to provide for children or other family members, and donate the policy to the Wheelchair Foundation.

Gifts of Retirement Plans

Some people have chosen to name the Wheelchair Foundation as the beneficiary to their IRA. The IRA can provide income to the owner of the account, and then pass to the Wheelchair Foundation as the beneficiary recipient.

Charitable Lead Trust

Individuals with very large estates can use a charitable lead trust to benefit the Wheelchair Foundation and pass principal to family members with little or no tax consequences

Charitable Remainder Trusts

Families have used the Charitable Remainder Trust as an intricate part of their estate planning. This type of plan provides income to the family and the remainder is gifted to the Wheelchair Foundation in the name of the Family Trust. This type of plan is intended to help decrease the value of one's estate, in order to alleviate tax consequences to the family beneficiaries.



Worldwide toll free (877) 378-3839

The Wheelchair Foundation will deliver a future to a child, teen or adult who has been disabled by war, disease natural disaster, or advanced age. 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.

Honor someone special in your life with a gift to The Wheelchair Foundation!

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

- \$25 \$50 **\$75** \$150 Other \$ _____
 \$18,000 DELIVERS A 240-WHEELCHAIR CONTAINER TO A DESTINATION OF YOUR CHOICE*

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 _____

Signature _____

* PROVIDING THAT THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION HAS, OR IS ABLE TO ESTABLISH A DISTRIBUTION RELATIONSHIP IN THAT COUNTRY.

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

Post Office Box 2973

Danville, CA 94526 USA

Worldwide toll free (877) 378-3839

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

How Much is Mobility Worth to You?

The Wheelchair Foundation will deliver a future to a child, teen or adult who has been disabled by war, disease, natural disaster, or advanced age. 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.



Sample Presentation Folder

\$75 Can Now Deliver a New Life!

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.

*Honor someone special in your life
with a gift to The Wheelchair Foundation!*

Worldwide toll free (877) 378-3839

www.wheelchairfoundation.org

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