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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Behring ~ Founder and Chairman

Our Mission

The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organization leading an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of people with physical disabilities, to promote the joy of giving, create global friendship, and to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one. For these people, the Wheelchair Foundation delivers Hope, Mobility and Freedom.

Our Goal

Over the next five years, the Wheelchair Foundation aims to deliver one million wheelchairs to people who cannot afford to buy one, and to further the awareness that a wheelchair is no longer an unaffordable relief option for delivery to developing countries around the world.

Mobility

Since its establishment on June 13, 2000, the Wheelchair Foundation has witnessed hundreds of thousands of examples of how mobility creates independence and new possibilities for recipients and their families. A mobile child is able to attend school. A mobile adult is able to get a job and provide for their family, or care for the children at home so the spouse can work. An elderly person can rejoin society or family activities after years of staying in a bed. The joy and hope that a simple mobility device can deliver is what gives people a new outlook on life and hope for the future.
WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED

Afghanistan 7,150
Albania 550
Algeria 640
Angola 4,590
Antigua and Barbuda 280
Argentina 8,151
Armenia 2,964
Australia 292
Azerbaijan 280
Bahamas 1,680
Bangladesh 240
Barbados 560
Belarus 990
Belgium 280
Belize 2,520
Benin 280
Bolivia 4,904
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1,480
Botswana 1,688
Brazil 7,305
Bulgaria 530
Burundi 520
Cambodia 3,300
Canada 3,485
Cape Verde 780
Central African Rep. 240
Chile 8,484
China 2,190
Colombia 9,400
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the 205
Costa Rica 6,565
Croatia 1,300
Cuba 1,800
Cyprus 280
Czech Republic 4,197
Dominica 280
Dominican Republic 8,848
East Timor .110
Ecuador 2,559
Egypt 1,596
El Salvador 7,275
Eritrea 250
Estonia 1,500
Ethiopia 3,208
Fiji 1,620
France 560
French Polynesia 560
Georgia 1,030
Ghana 2,240
Greece 520
Grenada 280
Guam 250
Guatemala 7,963
Guyana 250
Haiti 1,620
Honduras 6,284
Hong Kong 970
Hungary 120
India 2,716
Indonesia 3,340
Iran 3,880
Iraq 4,300
Israel 7,830
Italy 580
Jamaica 3,100
Japan 1,750
Jordan 5,022
Kazakhstan 1,510
Kenya 2,820
Kiribati 250
Korea, North 552
Korea, South 2,380
Kosovo 1,300
Kyrgyzstan 1,240
Laos 780
Latvia 740
Lebanon 2,430
Lesotho 1,060
Liberia 1,784
Lithuania 1,090
Macedonia 760
Madagascar 1,030
Malawi 3,530
Malaysia 3,940
Mali 520
Malta 240
Marshall Islands 240
Mexico 113,559
Micronesia 1,390
Moldova 1,720
Mongolia 1,520
Montenegro 120
Morocco 4,640
Mozambique 1,660
Myanmar (Burma) 500
Namibia 466
Nepal 3,165
N. Mariana Islands 410
Oman 280
Pakistan 3,715
Palestine/Israel 1,005
Panama 6,781
Papua New Guinea 2,080
Paraguay 2,344
Peru 8,251
Philippines 8,620
Poland 2,420
Portugal 990
Porto Rico 997
Romania 3,252
Russia 2,110
Rwanda 2,200
Saint Lucia 560
Saint Petersburg 120
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 280
Samoa 1,360
Senegal 520
Serbia 2,090
Sierra Leone 2,340
Somalia 1,889
South Africa 20,020
Spain 500
Sri Lanka 3,170
Suriname 280
Suriname 1,240
Swaziland 1,860
Syria 641
Taiwan 756
Tajikistan 489
Tanzania 3,268
Thailand 7,760
Tibet 331
Tonga 500
Trinidad & Tobago 3,844
Turkey 4,990
Turkmenistan 520
Uganda 9,444
Ukraine 5,070
United States 29,754
Uruguay 1,632
Uzbekistan 1,240
Vanuatu 250
Venezuela 1,580
Vietnam 13,316
Virgin Islands (UK) 284
Virgin Islands (US) 280
Western Sahara 153
Zambia 2,170
Zimbabwe 2,320

TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS ............... 153
TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS .......................... 756,407

For current totals visit wheelchairfoundation.org

Newslines
Wheelchair Foundation provider of wheelchairs for US Navy’s Operation Continuing Promise

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

Eighty for an 80th!

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

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

Preparations are already underway for the 8th Annual Drive Fore Mobility Golf Tournament to benefit the mission of Wheelchair Foundation. Certainly one of the pre-eminent Charity Golf Tournaments in the San Francisco Bay Area, we will be returning to the beautiful championship courses at Blackhawk Country Club in Danville, California again this year. Book your foursome early, as space is limited!
Charity, one of the founding principles of the Knights of Columbus (established in 1882 as a fraternal benefit society), has always been an important part of life for the Knights. Since joining the global mission of the Wheelchair Foundation in 2003, Knights are extending their charitable efforts across international borders and changing lives with the gift of mobility.

In late 2008 the first ever joint humanitarian mission between Knights from Canada, the United States and Mexico took place in Mexico City. Funds were raised in all three countries to help sponsor the delivery of hundreds of wheelchairs to children, teens and adults in and around the most populous city on earth.

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

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

Mexican Knights participating in the wheelchair mission were led by the Supreme Coordinator for Mexico William Olivera. William brought together Knights from many areas in and around Mexico City to participate in the distributions and to work hand in hand with their brothers from Canada and the United States.
On Thursday the group traveled by bus from Mexico City to towns surrounding the famous pyramids of Teotihuacán. During one home visit in the area, 68-year-old Cirina Palmas was so excited to receive her new wheelchair that she could not stop smiling, hugging and thanking everyone for the gift of mobility that will allow her to once again go to church. The Canadian, U.S. and Mexican Knights were all extremely touched by her tears of happiness.

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

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

Sunday revolved around the 16th century Metropolitan Cathedral at the center of the city. There were tours of the cathedral before mass and then the wheelchair distribution in the courtyard. A 42-year-old man named Jose spent 25 years using a metal skateboard for his means of mobility. When we gave him his first wheelchair, his smile could almost outshine the sun. His gratitude and happiness were infectious. The impact of this first effort between Knights from three countries was magnified by the unity felt by all who participated. Some of the discussions over the course of the four days included the following: The gift of mobility we give to the needy is equaled by the joy we give to ourselves. The fraternal bond between Knights is similar to the feeling of brother and sisterhood felt by all participants when we tangibly change people’s lives and answer their prayers. And, the tears of joy that are shed by the wheelchair recipients and their families inspire everyone to want to do more for more people.
Nearly a decade ago, British Rotarian Milton Frary approached Wheelchair Foundation founder Ken Behring with the proposition of launching a branch of Wheelchair Foundation in the United Kingdom. For several years Milton and his lovely wife, Elaine, have traveled and encouraged people to participate, donate and give back to their fellow man. Their success is evident in the fact that Wheelchair Foundation Great Britain and Ireland has managed to sponsor over 20,000 wheelchairs to some 14 countries in Eastern Europe and Africa.

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

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

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

In January of this year, a group of British Rotarians, Donors and Wheelchair Foundation representatives traveled to Uganda, Lesotho and South Africa to participate in the distribution of some of these wheelchairs. Starting in Entebbe and traveling in an arc across central Uganda, they stopped frequently, in places like Kampala, Mubende, Kasese, Mweya, Bushenyi and Masakato to give away wheelchairs and meet with the Rotarians who were coordinating the nationwide distribution.
The traveling group left Uganda and flew south to Kimberley, South Africa, where they were hosted by Rotarians from District 9230 and distributed wheelchairs at the Martie Du Plessis School, and the Helen Bishop Home. Kimberley was the launch point for a trip southward to the coast, with stops in Bloemfontein at the Jean Webber Home and Association for Persons with Disabilities. Onward to Maseru, in the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho, to distribute wheelchairs with the Rotarians of that country and marvel at the lush green terrain.

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

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

Wheelchair Foundation would like to thank Gary and Sandy Loesch and their family for their support of our Mission.
Over 756,407 Wheelchairs Delivered . . .

THIS PAGE, COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:
>> Ugandan Rotarians celebrate the distribution of more than 5,000 wheelchairs to their country as part of one of Rotary Foundation’s largest Matching Grants for wheelchairs. >> Dr. Scharleen Colant and Rotarian Rudi Harwardt in Chile. >> A Grandmother embraces her granddaughter upon receipt of a wheelchair in Il- ingwe, South Africa. >> British Rotarian Norma Pearce and a happy young recipient at the Martie Du Plessis School in South Africa. >> Elaine Frary embraces an unsuspecting wheelchair recipient in rural Uganda. >> Bill Wheeler and a new friend.
Millions of Lives Changed in the Spirit of Giving
Josh Routh, a 30-year-old avid supporter of the Wheelchair Foundation, has been in a wheelchair since he was four. A wheelchair is so much a part of his life that he never thinks about it nor does his family. Josh exemplifies all that is possible when you push the boundaries and expand your horizons. Among many other activities, Josh works as a cashier at Nob Hill Foods, plays basketball, participates in the Bay to Breakers races (12 races so far), drives a car, and distributes red wheelchairs all over Latin America. He travels with his dad Don Routh and their friend Bill Wheeler, a fellow Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Pleasanton North, because he thinks large and is greatly inspired: “It makes my heart happy when I am able to help somebody who has a disability like me but has no wheelchair to get around. I feel fortunate and I want to share with others.” Josh lights up when he thinks of the time he gave his own custom knee wedge to a poor, thin man in the hinterlands of Nicaragua to help prevent the chafing that can occur to unprotected legs.

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

Meet Bill Wheeler who went on his first wheelchair distribution in 2001. He says of his first experience: “I wept like a baby at the transformation of people without mobility suddenly having mobility and seeing the joy of the caretaker.” The Rotary Club of Pleasanton North has sponsored 14 containers of wheelchairs, and Bill has taken part in every single wheelchair delivery! In 2006 Bill rode his BMW motorcycle to Tabasco, Mexico ahead of the distribution that was scheduled the following month. As has now become customary, Bill rides his motorcycle to the next wheelchair distribution location to meet the local partner organization to start the connection. A month later he returns with his Rotary Club to be part of “putting every butt in every wheelchair seat.”
Don Routh, Josh’s father, choked up as he explained what it all meant for him, and why he never gets tired of fighting for the cause. He says that his connection is seeing the parents and the caregivers, especially the parents. “Being a parent you want to do the best for your kids and that is true for parents all around the world whether you are here and can afford anything or whether you live in a small village in Bolivia. It hurts when you cannot provide that. “When I see the look on the faces of the parents when their kids receive wheelchairs, that is a very special moment. You see the parents come in, some of them hesitate as they don’t know what to expect, some of them feel embarrassed to receive something for nothing, but you can tell that they want to do whatever they can to help their child. Josh’s wheelchair cost $6,300 – perhaps you fight with your insurance company or are not happy with the brake adjustment - while millions of others worry how to get their child from point A to B, how they can be part of the community, and how to work and go to school when you don’t have any mobility.”

Josh’s motto says it all. “Don’t Give Up, Just Do It.”
How To Turn Wine Into Wheelchairs

A Grassroots Advocacy Campaign for the Wheelchair Foundation Mission

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

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

• All event hosts will have the opportunity to join the Wheelchair Foundation in delivering wheelchairs to an annual Wine for Wheels designated project.

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

o Host a Wine for Wheels “Wine and Dine” party. Information is available at www.wineforwheels.org or email Jeff Behring at jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org.

o Host a dinner, luncheon, picnic, or tea party at your home, church, community center, local restaurant or business to raise funds.

o Host a benefit concert, speaker series, talent show, bake sale, or movie.

o Sponsor a run, Dance-a-Thon, sports event, talent show or community event.

Wheelchair Foundation will provide:

• Newsletters & DVD’s that show the need for and the joy of giving mobility and freedom to a recipient and their caregivers.

• Marketing materials and ideas on how to host an event and discuss the topic of providing mobility to those in need.

• Letters of personal gratitude and tax donation receipts to all hosts and participants for sharing in these extraordinary events.

• The new Wine for Wheels website as a conduit for hosts and participants to provide and collect donations online for their private or public events.

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

For more information on hosting and participating in a Wine for Wheels event, email jeffbehring@wineforwheels.org, call (925) 648-3829 or go to www.wineforwheels.org.
Asia, South America and Antarctica?
...trying to keep up with Dr. Scharleen Colant

After eight decades, it was amazing to learn the true meaning of Christmas in Valparaiso, Chile. Three of my adopted family had flown in from California to share this experience with me. On meeting and greeting a great friend of Wheelchair Foundation, Rotarian Rudi Harwardt, he kindly escorted us to a wheelchair distribution with a band welcoming us and the red carpet rolled out. But the highlight was the opportunity to share time with the wheelchair recipients. The smiles, the hugs and kisses we exchanged all said “Merry Christmas!” Words could never express the appreciation and joy that blessed us on this special Christmas Eve.

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

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

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

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

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

How I wished I could bring this precious child home with me. She changed my life through my privilege of association with the Wheelchair Foundation. You too can change lives, even with one wheelchair. But a container is great!
The floor was dirt; one room with a cooking grate in the corner over the small wood fire. Clothing hung from the walls and the meager belongings were scattered here and there. In the air was the smell of urine and close living. A bathroom? No, that was outside.

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

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

This was but one of the experiences shared by 60 people, young and young at heart, on a Rotary mission to Mazatlan, Mexico, to deliver wheelchairs and connect with folks less fortunate. Rotarians, spouses, Interact and Rotaract students, family and friends moved out of their comfort zones to experience up close “service above self.” Rotary Club of Foster City, California first went to Mazatlan seven years ago under the guidance of Jon Grant. The eight people who participated came back changed. That was nearly 4,000 wheelchairs ago! Can you make a difference? Lift them from the ground and offer them a life. The life you change will likely be your own.
People require the use of a wheelchair for many reasons: accidents, birth defects, war injuries, debilitating diseases and advanced age, just to name a few... One of the most horrific causes of disability worldwide can be attributed to landmines or unexploded ordinance (UXO). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), every year more than 29,000 people are injured by landmines or UXO around the world. This number does not include unreported cases or those who are killed by the explosions. An estimated 100-150 million people worldwide with physical disabilities need wheelchairs, though less than one percent own or have access to one. The number of physically disabled is likely underestimated, due to the difficulty in accounting for “forgotten” citizens who spend their lives hidden from sight. It is estimated that the number of people who need wheelchairs will increase by 22 percent over the next 10 years, with the greatest need existing in developing countries. In developing countries, only a small percentage of those who need wheelchairs have them, forcing dependence upon family and friends to get around. For others, the only way to get around is to crawl, or lie in a bed or corner of a room for years at a time.

HOW THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION IS ADDRESSING THE NEED

• We purchase wheelchairs in bulk, sometimes up to 10,000 wheelchairs a month, of a design that’s the best possible solution for use in developing countries. They are shipped in a 100 to 280-wheelchair sea container and provided free of charge to those most in need. If purchased on its own, this wheelchair would normally cost up to $500 in the US and can sell for up to $1,500 US in some developing countries.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

• Your donation of $150 will help sponsor, ship and deliver a wheelchair to someone in need. If you are interested in a specific country and/or wish to participate on a distribution trip, consider sponsoring an entire container of 100 to 280 wheelchairs. For those details, please contact our Operations Staff at (925) 736-8234.

• Get the word out! Tell everyone you know that you are now a part of an ambitious relief mission that’s already delivered over 756,000 wheelchairs to 153 countries in just seven years!

• Have a fund-raiser! A dinner or cocktail party in your home can serve as a venue to tell people about helping others. Local businesses, organizations and schools can all help. We can supply materials to you to help us change the world.

• Corporate Sponsorship: Help us find corporations that have interests in countries that need our help. We can target their sponsorship to specific countries and needs, and can provide custom logo embroidery on the wheelchairs to identify the sponsor of an entire wheelchair container. They will be heroes, and many people will be given a new lease on life. For further information, please visit our website www.wheelchairfoundation.org or call toll free (877) 378-3839.

YOUR FUTURE LEGACY

You believe in what we do – you’ve proven it with your gifts. Your support gives us the resources today to continue sending mobility to the physically disabled. Your support can also provide the power to continue our important mission in years to come.

Please consider ways to magnify your gifts and to give them a life of their own. An estate gift of a specific amount or a percentage of the remainder of your estate will provide support for the future of the Wheelchair Foundation – a terrific way to leave a legacy.

One solution is to make a gift to Wheelchair Foundation by means of a bequest – a gift in your will. Here are some of the advantages of bequests:

Easy. A few sentences in your will completes the gift.

Versatile. You can bequest a specific item, an amount of money, a gift contingent upon certain events, or a percentage or remainder of your estate.

Revocable. Until your will goes into effect, you are free to alter your plans.

Tax Wise. Your estate is entitled to an unlimited estate tax charitable deduction for gifts to qualified charitable organizations.

Your generosity enables us to reach out to all who need our support, one wheelchair at a time. Every gift counts. Give a gift to the Wheelchair Foundation today.

Visit www.wheelchairfoundation.org for information about our planned giving options or call 877.378.3839 for more information.

Wheelchair Foundation is a Division of Global Health and Education Foundation. Our Federal Tax ID # 94-3353881.
Check out our new website! We’ve streamlined it and added new features. For instance, we now have more regular updates to distribution stories, which also include pieces about where the greatest need is at the present time. This can be timely in the event of a natural disaster when aid must be focused as quickly as possible. There are more articles to send to media outlets, there is easier access to our online video library, and an easier interface for online donations. Best of all, we’re continuing to improve and evolve the website as the best source of information about all things Wheelchair Foundation.