Changing THE WORLD
I want to thank Josh Burroughs, a Cal Poly Alum and Rotarian, for supporting our cause as a volunteer. Josh went to school with my granddaughter, Jessica, and I remember him as just a kid! He has become a true leader and he gives from his heart. He has succeeded in using his education to better himself, and to help people around the world.

We are also awfully proud of Nina D’Amato, a Marine from San Francisco, California, who went through our U.C. Berkeley Principal Leadership Institute and then used what she’d learned to build and support schools in Helmand province in Afghanistan. Her story is one of many successes this program has produced.

I am glad we have helped keep National History Day going for kids across the U.S., and I enjoy helping children learn about the world around them. I’m also happy to have the chance to give wheelchairs to the shy and lonely ones, and those who have been forgotten, so that they might have the chance to succeed as well.

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
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.
Wheelchair Foundation recently donated 20 wheelchairs to the Veterans Home of California-Yountville. Founded in 1884, VHC-Yountville is the largest veterans’ home in the United States. Some 1,100 veterans of WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom now live at the home.

DOUBLE AMPUTEE HECTOR MANLEY COMPLETES KAYAK TRIP DOWN THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI

Earlier this summer, Hector Manley completed his 2,400 mile kayak journey from Minnesota to New Orleans on the Mississippi River. Hector, who lost both legs in an earthquake in El Salvador at age 11, recently graduated from the University of Tampa. He was paddling in support of The Wounded Warrior Project and Wheelchair Foundation, and raised more than $36,000 for both organizations.
FROM OUR FLORIDA OFFICE

Thanks to donations from the Harry Mangurian, Jr. Foundation and the CVS Caremark Corporation, Jack Drury of our Florida office was able to give new wheelchairs to numerous hospitals in Florida. Besides Cleveland Clinic, four others were children’s hospitals named after famous people, such as Joe Di Maggio, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Chris Evert.

We are also happy to celebrate another great turnout on the links in support of Wheelchair Foundation Florida. This year’s Florida golf tournament featured golf legend Bob Murphy, who not only led an instruction clinic, but played a hole with each foursome in attendance. When all was said and done, more than $26,000 was raised to help those in need of mobility. Our most sincere thanks to everyone who participated!

-Jack Drury

11TH ANNUAL DRIVE FORE MOBILITY GOLF TOURNAMENT HONORS VETERANS

This year’s Drive Fore Mobility golf tournament to benefit Wheelchair Foundation was highlighted by the presence of our guest of honor Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Major Jon Cavaiani (pictured below-right, in red, with Wheelchair Foundation President, David Behring, also in red).

Jon served in the United States Army in Vietnam and was a POW from June 4, 1971 until his release by the Provisional Government on April 27th, 1973. He is a recipient of the Medal of Honor, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Jon arrived at the 11th Annual golf tournament held at the Blackhawk Country Club by way of a beautifully restored UH-1 Huey helicopter. The chopper landed on the fairway of the 18th hole prior to the start of the tournament. Seats aboard the UH-1 Huey were auctioned off later in the evening, with proceeds going to the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley, in support of their third wheelchair distribution trip to Vietnam in November of this year.

In all, the tournament raised more than $60,000 for Wheelchair Foundation. Thank you to everyone who participated for keeping Drive Fore Mobility the premier golf tournament in the San Francisco Bay Area!
A GIFT TO LAST A LIFETIME

Rotarian Guillermo Garcia Burgueno shares his personal experience of getting his young son, and namesake, involved in wheelchair distribution.

I brought my son Guillermo to one of our first deliveries. As he delivered his first wheelchair, the man receiving the wheelchair wanted to thank him by shaking hands. My son quickly moved away, and ran to me to explain what had happened. As we approached the gentleman again, I said to my son, “He just wants to thank you.”

My son asked, “Is he my uncle?”

I answered, “Yes, son, he is your uncle.”

It wasn’t until then that my son approached him and shook hands. The beneficiary was very happy and he kissed my Guillermo. After this moment, my son asked, “Why did you bring me here?”

I just answered what first came to my mind, “Because this is something money cannot buy, and this is what I want you to take from me, something that you will keep forever.”

Since then, my family has worked in many wheelchair projects with enthusiasm, and respect, for anyone needing a tool to keep up with his life. What really matters now is to see how a single wheelchair can transform lives. There are many other stories that have left a mark on us, but it is because of this moment that I chose wheelchairs as a life lasting project.

The members of the Rotary Club of Hermosillo del Desierto in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, District 4100, pride themselves in their willingness to travel great distances to assist those in need, often times delivering single wheelchairs to disabled individuals in areas that would otherwise not be served at all.

Although they are a small Rotary club, they have been very proactive, distributing nearly 3,600 wheelchairs over the past decade, and have partnered with other Rotarians from around the world to accomplish their goals. Over the summer, they hosted PDG Doug Fowler and 30 Rotarians from District 5300. Together they distributed 560 wheelchairs, which had been funded by District 5300 Rotarians through a Rotary International Matching Grant.
Rotarians deliver wheelchairs in Medellin and Paipa, Colombia

Rotarian Diego Velasquez, from the Rotary Club of Conejo Valley, California, has led several wheelchair trips to his beloved home country of Colombia. Due to its long civil war and remaining landmines, Colombia has a special need for wheelchairs. Thanks to many committed Rotarians, wheelchairs are being delivered throughout the country with friendship and love.

On this most recent trip, our group was impressed with a distribution that took place at the Monica Uribe For Love Foundation in Medellin. Monica Uribe was born with spina bifida, yet was able to live her life to the fullest despite her disability. Sadly, Monica has passed away but her sister Sonia continues to give kids with spina bifida (and some adults) a place to grow, explore and develop. When you see the smiling kids that live within the walls of this facility, you understand how special this place is – it is filled with love and dedication. We were so happy to be there and to be providing mobility.

From Medellin we travelled to Paipa, which is several hours outside of Bogota. Paipa is nothing less than bucolic, with gentle rolling green hills, cows everywhere, mineral and mud baths, colorful weavings, and the friendliest of people. Yet, just 30 minutes away, a young man recently lost his life when he stepped on an unexploded landmine as he was walking farm land. Twenty six year old Mauricio was walking alongside his brother at the time of the blast and survived. He was the recipient of one of our wheelchairs. Unfortunately, there is no map for where the landmines have been planted, and others are destined to be hurt as well.

On our last day in Paipa, we spotted two wheelchair users who had received their wheelchairs some six years ago in one of our first deliveries to Colombia. One was Carmensa, who works in a handicraft store. The other was Emiliano, who gets tips for guarding people’s cars. Both of them are part of the community because they have mobility. A big thank you to Rotary!

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: Pictured left to right, Carmen and Luis Vargas, Sue Duffy, Denise Vivero, Jeff Blum, Diego and Anna Velasquez. Landmine blast survivor Mauricio with his family and Rotarian Diego Velasquez. Monica Uribe For Love Foundation beneficiary, Samuel, age 6 in his wheelchair. Emiliano, who received his wheelchair six years ago and makes a living guarding cars in Paipa. Young girls painting at the Monica Uribe For Love Foundation.
Gordon Holmes is a Wall Street entrepreneur, maker of excellent wines in Kenwood, California, and developer of his own online financial portals, to mention just a few of his many activities. Most important to us, however, is his understanding of the value of mobility and what wheelchairs mean in the lives of people who cannot move about on their own.

For years Gordon has been encouraging the mining companies he invests in to become socially responsible in the areas where they work. Often, as is the case with Almaden Minerals, these companies are already large local employers, and their providing community support brings benefits to everyone involved. Gordon promotes wheelchair distribution as a form of community engagement and likes to show corporations and their investors how this form of philanthropy can have enormous impact on individuals and families in need of mobility.

For Almaden investor Jeff Philipps, this gesture of kindness came from much deeper in his heart. Jeff’s four-year-old daughter, India, had recently passed away unexpectedly. To honor her, he shared a message from India with every wheelchair recipient and their families, words that convey why it is so important to give back and continue to reach out to help all mankind.

“India is looking out for you. She wants everyone to remember to live life slower and make a difference in the life of someone who needs your compassion and friendship.”

Morgan Poliquin, CEO and President, and Duane Poliquin, Founder and Chairman of Almaden Minerals, and their investors, Jeff Philipps and Robert Bishop, personally seated recipients in wheelchairs providing all with an emotional impact and sense of satisfaction they were unable to imagine beforehand.
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Princeton Class of 1977’s finest, Bill Farrell and Donna Freeman’s husband “Wild Man” Bill Freeman, blend in with the natives while distributing wheelchairs in Molina, Peru. 

Long time Wheelchair Foundation supporter Gordon Holmes poses with three sibling recipients of wheelchairs being donated by Almaden Minerals in Oaxaca, Mexico. Prior to this day, the family had traveled more than eleven hours to receive these wheelchairs. Prior to this day, the family had only one wheelchair to share among the three of them.

Jack Drury and golf legend, Bob Murphy, announce the winners of the annual Florida Wheelchair Foundation golf tournament.

District 4100 and District 5300 Rotarians come together in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, this summer to share smiles and distribute 560 wheelchairs throughout Sonora.

A woman in need of a wheelchair receives the gift of mobility in memory of India Philipps, a beautiful little girl who believed that everyone should have the chance to have a happy life.

Josh Rafner and son, Jeremy, assemble one of the specialized pediatric wheelchairs the Princeton Class of 1977 donated to La Clinica de San Juan de Dios in Lima, Peru, this August.

Sometimes a smile says everything. Here three generations share their happiness for receiving a new red wheelchair from Almaden Minerals distribution in Veracruz, Mexico.

In Medellin, Colombia, Rotary volunteers help a young man into his new wheelchair at the Monica Uribe For Love Foundation.

High in the Andes Mountains of Peru there are happy people, and the skies are blue!

Wine for Wheels host a fundraising event in Plano, Texas! Laura Perkowski, Dan Finch and Marleny Farrell all got to use their Spanish throughout the Andes of Peru. Thank you all for your help in giving hope, freedom and mobility to people in need worldwide!
Class of 1977’s finest, Bill Farrell and Donna Freeman’s husband “Wild Man” Bill Freeman, blend in with the natives while distributing wheelchairs in Molina, Peru. Long time Wheelchair Foundation supporter Gordon Holmes poses with three sibling recipients of wheelchairs being donated by Almaden Minerals in Oaxaca, Mexico. The family had traveled more than eleven hours to receive only one wheelchair to share among the three of them. Gordon Holmes announces the winners of the annual Florida Wheelchair Golf Tournament. District 4100 and District 5300 Rotarians come together in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, this summer to share smiles and distribute 560 wheelchairs throughout Sonora. A gift of mobility in memory of India Philipps, a beautiful little girl who believed that everyone should have the chance to have a happy life. Josh Rafner and son, Jeremy, assemble one of the specialized pediatric wheelchairs the Princeton Class of 1977 donated to La Clinica de San Juan de Dios in Lima, Peru, this August. Sometimes a smile says everything. Here three generations share their happiness for receiving a new red wheelchair from Almaden Minerals distribution in Veracruz, Mexico. Volunteers help a young man into his new wheelchair at the Monica Uribe For Love Foundation in Medellin, Colombia. High in the Andes Mountains of Peru there are happy people, and the skies are blue! Wine for Wheels host a fundraising event in Plano, Texas! Laura Perkowski, Dan Finch and Marleny Farrell all got to use their Spanish at every distribution they attended throughout the Andes of Peru. Thank you all for your help in giving hope, freedom and mobility to people in need worldwide!
It is said that the friendships developed in college are among the most lasting made in life. The Princeton University graduating class of 1977 certainly shares a bond that might be described as that of a surrogate family. They also share a desire to help make the world a better place to live.

So, it comes as no surprise that at their 35th class reunion, as a class project, they pledged to travel high into the Andes Mountains of Peru to deliver wheelchairs where there are none, and to help some of the most underserved people in the southern hemisphere.

This year’s wheelchair distribution was the class’s fourth international service trip with the Wheelchair Foundation, and their second trip with partner Railroad Development Corporation (RDC). Both partners are led by classmates, David Behring and Henry Posner III, respectively.

The route would include some 50 tunnels and 50 bridges along the way, not to mention the numerous switchbacks. Before the train can leave the railyard to start its journey back up the mountain, the locomotive must first be turned around. This is accomplished with a locomotive turntable and a little youth energy, provided here by Dan and Christina Finch.

The group makes it to the cool thin air of Galera Station, 15,681 feet above sea level. Until the recent completion of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway it was the highest standard gauge rail passage in the world.
The train carried us to an altitude of 16,000 feet. We stopped for a photo at Galera Station. At an altitude of 15,681 feet, it is FCCA’s highest station and one of the highest in the world.

At over 12,000 feet in altitude, La Oroya is listed as one of the most polluted cities in the world because of smelting operations that go back 90 years. It is a stark city of gray with the exception of the surrounding mountains, bleached white by sulfuric acid formed by the smelter’s sulfur oxides combining with moisture in the air.

City Hall was a short walk from the train station and we assembled and distributed wheelchairs in the cold, unheated basement amidst speeches and thanks. I could not miss the tears of happiness from the recipients and their families as they received the chairs, toys and shirts that we brought to give them. During the hour or so that we spent there, we heard one ‘God bless you,’ in Spanish after another. We use that phrase in a perfunctory manner in our country after a sneeze. Here they were truly asking God to bless us.

-William J. Farrell, Princeton Class of 1977
Nine second generation Princetonians and I were able to travel with our Class of ’77 parents through the Andes of Peru while helping distribute wheelchairs with the Wheelchair Foundation. We ranged in age from 10 to 24, the oldest of us having heard about these trips for the last 10 to 15 years from our parents and their classmates.

I was just 13 years old when my dad went on the Class of ’77’s 25th Reunion trip to Guatemala, and I thought it was such an incredible adventure. Little did I believe that ten years later I would end up with his classmates, in Peru, on one of the most exhausting and rewarding trips of my life.

We went from 0-15,681 feet in one day by train, got to ride the locomotive (on the front!), were served gourmet food at high altitudes, sucked on coca leaves, and saw wild flamingos and herds of alpaca.

The wheelchair distributions were just as breathtaking as the views on the train, but for entirely different reasons. While we were riding in luxury on the train, we were distributing wheelchairs and toys in places that are among the poorest and most polluted in the world, not to mention the altitude!

We heard inspiring stories about how family and friends would carry these people who couldn’t walk and how much these wheelchairs would help them. For us oldest ones, this trip showed us how we might be in 30 years and what an impact we could make. It certainly inspired us to push our own college classes to doing a community service project of some kind to correlate with our own reunions. Who knows? Maybe in five years, the Princeton Class of ’77 will be doing a joint trip with one of our classes!

-Laura Perkowski, daughter of Princeton Alum Ron Perkowski
As a teacher of Spanish, I was eager to lend my language skills to the Class service project in Peru. As David Behring often says, “Every distribution is different.” Here are some vignettes illustrative of the value of our Class’s service project.

A general spoke at the distribution in Huancayo. Among his words were a few which have stuck with me and will remain with me:

“There are no physical handicaps, just challenges. These can be overcome with personal effort and the assistance and support of others. There are, however, spiritual handicaps. Those who see need and turn a blind eye and a deaf ear; or those who seek to deliberately harm others. These spiritual handicaps are evil and harmful not only to the individual but to the community.”

At the distribution in Molina a woman gave a moving speech. I am sorry to say I did not get her name or her title. She thanked us for the gift of mobility and choked back tears as she spoke from her own experience:

“We with disabilities are often marginalized by society. Our families love us deeply but we are aware of the burden we place on already stretched resources. These wheelchairs will enable us to participate in the life of our community. Some of us will be able to work. It is a big step toward regaining dignity.”

-Donna Freeman, Princeton Class of 1977
Josh Burroughs began his legacy of supporting Wheelchair Foundation in his college days at Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo, California. In August of 2008, Josh was a team leader among a group of students who traveled to Peru to distribute 400 wheelchairs. The students purchased these 400 wheelchairs through a year’s worth of work as a class project. Josh was totally overwhelmed by the powerful, life-changing experience of placing someone in a wheelchair, and from that point on, committed to continuing this wonderful work.

In the fall of 2009, Josh again traveled with Dr. Lynn Metcalfe, Professor of Marketing and humanitarian, and fellow students whom she had challenged, guided and encouraged to become philanthropic. This time they flew to Oaxaca, Mexico, to deliver 400 more wheelchairs they had purchased.

Following graduation from Cal Poly, and still smitten by his desire to make a difference in the world, Josh joined the Rotary Club of San Jose, California, and began a career with Barry Swenson Builders. Through his business and Rotary connections, Josh has helped fund and organize distributions in Shanghai, China, and Bangladesh, where Josh and fellow Rotarians visited community centers, hospitals and homes to deliver the gifts of hope and mobility directly to recipients.

This spring, San Jose Rotarians and Wine for Wheels worked in partnership with the Forever Love Foundation and the Department of Social Development and Welfare to arrange wheelchair distributions in Chiang Mai, Bangkok and Chon Buri Provinces in Thailand. Ceremonies were held at rehabilitation centers, a veteran's hospital, individual homes and a home for the disabled. These home deliveries were especially emotional, allowing the Rotarians to witness first-hand how wheelchairs would help the recipient and family members around their home.

Josh is back to work, championing a new project to send wheelchairs to Croatia. He is a shining example of the philanthropic spirit of a new generation and of how just one person can make a huge difference in the world by helping others and changing lives.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: <<< Josh Burroughs in Shanghai, China, at the official handover of wheelchairs sponsored by his Rotary club, the Rotary Club of San Jose, California, for the 2010 World Expo. <<< Josh with Wheelchair Foundation China Staff making a home delivery to a thankful family in Shanghai. <<< Josh in Oaxaca, Mexico, as a Cal Poly student.
THE WORLDWIDE NEED FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Tremendous Need

People need wheelchairs for many reasons - accidents, birth defects, war injuries, debilitating diseases, advanced age – just to name a few . . .

- An estimated 100-150 million people worldwide need wheelchairs, though less than one percent own or have access to one.
- The number of people who need wheelchairs will increase by 22 percent over the next 10 years. The greatest need exists in developing countries.
- In developing countries, only a small percentage of those who need wheelchairs have them, forcing dependence upon family and friends. For the others, the only way to get around is to crawl or to lie in a bed or corner of a room.

Addressing the Need

Wheelchair Foundation purchases both solid tire and mountain bike tire wheelchairs in volume designed for use in developing countries. They are shipped in 100- to 280-wheelchair ocean-freight containers and provided free of charge to those most in need. These wheelchairs can cost as much as $1,000 each in developing countries.

How You Can Help

Donate

A donation of $150 sponsors, ships and delivers 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 or 280 wheelchairs. For details, contact Wheelchair Foundation Operations Staff at 877-378-3839.

Spread the Word

Tell everyone you know that you support an ambitious relief mission that’s already delivered nearly 920,000 wheelchairs to 150+ countries in just twelve years.

Host an Event

Host an event to encourage people to become involved in changing the world. Local businesses, schools, and organizations can all help. We’ll supply marketing materials.

Find Corporate Sponsors

Find corporations that have an interest in countries that need our help. We provide custom logo embroidery for containers of wheelchairs to recognize sponsors.

Leaving A Legacy

Our dear friend Scharleen Colant (1920-2010) loved to distribute wheelchairs during her travels around the world. She energetically participated in deliveries and took great interest in the recipients and their life stories. Scharleen included a substantial gift to Wheelchair Foundation in her will - a legacy to carry on her work. Wheelchairs embroidered with Scharleen’s logo are still changing lives and bringing hope.

Your Future Legacy

You believe in what we do – you’ve proven it with your gifts. Through an estate gift you provide the power to continue our important work in years to come. Some advantages of bequests:

- Easy – A few sentences in your will complete the gift.
- Versatile – A bequest can be a specific item, an amount of money, a gift contingent upon certain events, or a percentage or remainder of your estate.
- Revocable – You are free to alter your plans until the will goes in effect.
- Tax Wise – Your estate is entitled to an unlimited estate tax charitable deduction for gifts to qualified charitable organizations.

Consult an experienced estate-planning professional to create or modify your will or living trust. Then contact Wheelchair Foundation so that we may acknowledge your gift and make certain that your intentions are understood.

Every Gift Counts!

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www.wheelchairfoundation.org
877-378-3839

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OUR THANKS FOR YOUR GIFT OF MOBILITY!

With your donation of $100 or more you will receive our incredible triple function flashlight-pen with stylus!

Donate $150 or more and you will also receive a personalized certificate with a photo of a wheelchair recipient, sent in a beautiful presentation folder!

Donate $500 or more and you will also receive our exclusive “World of Thanks” umbrella!

DONATING IS EASY, SAFE AND SECURE AT WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG
DONATE BY PHONE: 877-378-3839 BY FAX: 925-736-0309