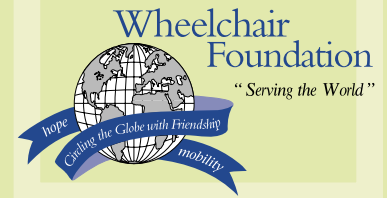


Changing THE WORLD



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a success story that is changing the world

It was June 2000, almost a month before the official launch of the Wheelchair Foundation, and Ken Behring was seated at a conference table in his Danville, California, headquarters with six other people. They shared good intentions and ambitious goals—but had no way of knowing the tremendous impact they would soon have on many of the world’s neediest and most deserving citizens.

Jump to early 2003, just two and a half years later. The Wheelchair Foundation is an unqualified success and has already delivered, or is in the process of delivering, over 110,000 wheelchairs in more than 100 countries.

But something even more remarkable has occurred as a result of the foundation’s accomplishments. There’s a new awareness in the humanitarian relief community that wheelchairs are now affordable and easy to deliver, even to disabled citizens living in the most remote corners of the world.



A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



We have made so much progress in the first two and a half years of the Wheelchair Foundation that I truly believe our efforts will lead to the eradication of immobility worldwide.

Our friends and supporters around the world have made it possible to do the impossible! We have taken a basic mobility wheelchair, and made it available to any organization, group or individual that can contribute a mere \$75

per wheelchair, which we match, and then deliver those wheelchairs, in 280-wheelchair containers, worldwide through our distribution partners.

I have been embraced and thanked by people throughout the world who would never have had much of a life without a wheelchair. This is the greatest feeling in the world to me, and I encourage everyone to participate in this humanitarian effort of delivering a tangible, life-changing wheelchair.

We have heard so many stories about kids who now are going to school, adults who now have jobs or can go outside and be with their families for the first time in years.

I must take this opportunity to thank the United States Department of State and the Department of Defense for their overwhelming support and dedication to our humanitarian relief worldwide, and to our great friends at LDS Charities, Rotary International, the Oakland A's, ChevronTexaco, Major League Baseball and literally hundreds of groups and organizations around the world that are helping us get the message out—that a wheelchair immediately changes the life of a person who might otherwise be discarded by society.

We are blessed to live in the greatest country in the world, and to be able to help those who cannot help themselves.

Thank you for joining me in our mission of peace and friendship.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Behring
Founder & Chairman of the Board

mission and values

Our Mission

The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organization leading an international effort to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one. For those individuals, the Wheelchair Foundation delivers Hope, Mobility and Freedom.

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 its first five years, the Wheelchair Foundation aims to distribute one million wheelchairs to people who cannot afford to buy one, and to further the awareness that a wheelchair is no longer an unaffordable item for delivery in developing countries around the world.

Kenneth E. Behring, Founder and Chairman

The Wheelchair Foundation was established in June 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 first five years to endow the Wheelchair Foundation effort. In addition, Mr. Behring travels the world, constantly expanding the reach and support of the Wheelchair Foundation.



Changing the World is published three times a year by the Wheelchair Foundation, PO Box 2973, Danville, California 94526 USA. Copyright 2003 Wheelchair Foundation. All rights reserved. Volume 3, Issue 1. Written and edited by Chris Lewis, Director of Public Education. Contributing writers: Scott McRae, Joyce Perry, Penny Rambacher.
www.wheelchairfoundation.org

COVER: This Mexico City girl loves her new red wheelchair.

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, or lie in a bed or the corner of a room for years at a time.

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:

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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, delivered by a 280-wheelchair container, and are offered free to those most in need.

Kenneth E. Behring

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

From his successful career as an automobile dealer in Wisconsin, Mr. Behring entered the world of real estate development in the 1960s. 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, Mr. Behring 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 UC Berkeley Museum of Art, Science and Culture and the Behring-Hofmann Educational Institute in Blackhawk, California. In 1997 he pledged

“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.” —Ken Behring

\$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. In recognition of his generosity and vision, Mr. Behring received the Smithsonian’s prestigious James Smithson Award, an award the Smithsonian has bestowed only four times in its 170-year history. The Blackhawk Museum is now an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

During his years of travel around the world, Mr. Behring 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 involvement has given him a realistic picture of how much help is needed worldwide.

In 1999 Mr. Behring 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 numerous countries. In June 2000, Mr. Behring committed \$15 million to his newly created Wheelchair Foundation.

Since June 2000, Mr. Behring has tirelessly traveled the world delivering tens of thousands of wheelchairs to the disabled citizens of five continents. The relationships he has developed with world leaders have led to a greater awareness of the needs of the disabled, and are a great force in propelling the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation. In 2002 Mr. Behring was awarded an honorary doctorate by Brigham Young University for his worldwide charitable efforts.

Ken Behring and Patricia, his wife of 53 years, reside in Blackhawk, California. They have five sons and 10 grandchildren.


KING JUAN CARLOS AND QUEEN SOFIA OF SPAIN, Co-Chairmen
(In alphabetical order)

PRINCE ALEXANDER & PRINCESS
 KATHERINE OF YUGOSLAVIA
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 Chancellor, University of California at
 Berkeley
 HERBERT G. BROWN
 President, Rotary International (1995–1996)
 RUTH CORREA LEITE CARDOSO, PH.D.
 Former First Lady of Brazil
 FRANK J. DEVLIN
 President, Rotary International (2000–2001)
 CLIFF DOCHTERMAN
 President, Rotary International (1992–1993)
 LORENA CLARE FACIO DE RODRIGUEZ
 ECHEVERRIA
 Former First Lady of Costa Rica
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 Ehrenkranz & Ehrenkranz, New York
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 Mentally Disabled, Hong Kong
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 Baseball Hall of Fame
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 IMANTS FREIBERGS
 First Gentleman of Latvia
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 Former President of the USSR
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 Oakland Athletics Baseball Team
 TIM HONEY
 Executive Director, Sister Cities
 International
 JACK KEMP
 Former U.S. Representative & Secretary of
 Housing and Urban Development
 RICHARD D. KING
 President, Rotary International (2001–2002)
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 First Lady of Lebanon

JERRY LEWIS
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 GRACA MACHEL
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 Mrs. Nelson Mandela
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 Former President of South Africa
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 Research Institute, UCSF
 LIBBY PATAKI
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 Palladino & Sutherland, San Francisco
 ARNOLD PALMER
 Professional Golfer/Business Executive
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 Chairman, China Disabled Persons'
 Federation
 VIRGINIA GILLUM DE QUIROGA
 Former First Lady of Bolivia
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 OF JORDAN
 GENERAL JOSEPH W. RALSTON
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 FIDEL RAMOS
 Former President of the Philippines
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 of Educap Inc.
 STEFANO RICCI
 Clothing Designer

NANCY RIVARD
 Executive Director,
 Airline Ambassadors International
 ANNA ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
 Co-Chair, Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt
 Institute, New York
 CHRISTOPHER J. ROSA, PH.D.
 Director, Services for Students with
 Disabilities, Queens College, Flushing, NY
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 Chairman, Kosaido, Japan
 DON SHULA
 NFL Coach/Entrepreneur
 LAWRENCE SMALL
 Secretary, Smithsonian Institution
 CATHERINE STEVENS
 Alaska & Washington, D.C.
 VIVIANE WADE
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 ASI Agricultural Services & Investments

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 U.S. Senator, R-Alaska
 ELLEN TAUSCHER
 U.S. Representative, D-California
 TOM TORLAKSON
 State Senator, D-California

WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED SINCE JUNE 2000

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Afghanistan | 90 | Malawi | 1,920 |
| Albania | 50 | Malaysia | 480 |
| Algeria | 140 | Malta | 240 |
| Angola | 1,520 | Mexico | 15,413 |
| Argentina | 720 | Moldova | 240 |
| Armenia | 1,354 | Mongolia | 540 |
| Bahamas | 360 | Montenegro | 120 |
| Belarus | 240 | Morocco | 240 |
| Belize | 240 | Mozambique | 360 |
| Bangladesh | 240 | Nepal | 446 |
| Bolivia | 1,794 | Nicaragua | 1,105 |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 510 | Niger | 240 |
| Botswana | 50 | Nigeria | 540 |
| Brazil | 1,095 | Pakistan | 415 |
| Burundi | 240 | Palestinians/Israel | 1,965 |
| Cape Verde | 226 | Panama | 1,500 |
| Central African Republic | 240 | Papua New Guinea | 240 |
| Chile | 1,440 | Paraguay | 784 |
| China/Tibet | 12,383 | Peru | 2,529 |
| Colombia | 360 | Philippines | 480 |
| Costa Rica | 2,308 | Poland | 11 |
| Cuba | 240 | Romania | 1,090 |
| Czech Republic | 120 | Russia | 360 |
| Dominican Republic | 4,212 | Rwanda | 5 |
| Ecuador | 1,481 | Samoa | 240 |
| Egypt | 808 | Senegal | 240 |
| El Salvador | 986 | Sierra Leone | 480 |
| Estonia | 250 | Somalia | 88 |
| Ethiopia | 1,048 | South Africa | 1,720 |
| Ghana | 480 | Spain | 775 |
| Greece | 240 | Sri Lanka | 240 |
| Guatemala | 1,856 | Sudan | 200 |
| Haiti | 291 | Suriname | 240 |
| Honduras | 1,444 | Swaziland | 240 |
| Hungary | 120 | Syria | 88 |
| India | 2,686 | Taiwan | 756 |
| Indonesia | 520 | Tajikistan | 240 |
| Iran | 1,920 | Tanzania | 568 |
| Israel | 4,010 | Thailand | 1,530 |
| Italy | 18 | Trinidad & Tobago | 760 |
| Jamaica | 420 | Turkey | 750 |
| Jordan | 960 | Turkmenistan | 240 |
| Kazakhstan | 480 | Uganda | 764 |
| Kenya | 1,480 | Ukraine | 1,287 |
| Korea, Dem. People's Republic | 240 | United States | 11,731 |
| Kosovo | 300 | Uzbekistan | 240 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 240 | Venezuela | 605 |
| Latvia | 240 | Vietnam | 1,779 |
| Lebanon | 1,269 | Western Sahara | 153 |
| Macedonia | 260 | Western Samoa | 191 |
| | | Zambia | 120 |
| | | Zimbabwe | 740 |

TOTAL COUNTRIES 102
WHEELCHAIRS DELIVERED . . . 112,252

For current totals visit wheelchairfoundation.org.



STORIES OF HOPE, MOBILITY AND FREEDOM

Jordan: A father and son were trying to survive. The father was a carpenter who had lost his job. The son stepped on a landmine and lost both legs. The Wheelchair Foundation gave a wheelchair to the son, which gave hope for a better life to both father and son.

Vietnam: In the words of one observer, when the children first receive a wheelchair “they don’t know how to do it or what will happen. Others are scared at first, but when they can finally move themselves, they have a smile from ear to ear for the first time.”

Honduras: A lady came in requesting one wheelchair. Three weeks prior her husband had a stroke and she had two children at home with cerebral palsy. She said if she could just get one wheelchair, she could use it for all three of them. The family received two wheelchairs.

South Africa: Some 250 patients at one hospital were immobile, and had only one dirty wheelbarrow in which they could be moved. Now, thanks to the Wheelchair Foundation, the hospital has one wheelchair for every 10 patients.

Yugoslavia: A scientist is physically disabled by cerebral palsy, yet his brain still functions perfectly. A new wheelchair fills his life with hope and guarantees that tomorrow will be a better day.

Guatemala: Ken Behring met an injured man who had developed gangrene in his leg. He

was given 30 days to get the leg amputated or he would die. The cost: \$100 for the amputation and an extra \$25 for anesthesia. Mr. Behring paid for the operation and the anesthesia and gave the man a wheelchair.

Ethiopia: A woman pulled herself along the ground with her elbows for nine hours in the hope that she might receive a wheelchair—only to arrive at the distribution after all of the wheelchairs had been given away. Wheelchair Foundation team members found the woman a wheelchair.

Romania: In four different homes for the elderly, a total of 480 people were given wheelchairs. In one of the homes, where 250 wheelchairs were distributed, there were only four wheelchairs before the Wheelchair Foundation team arrived.

Czech Republic: A 9-year-old boy who had never moved on his own was one of the wheelchair recipients. His parents cried tears of joy.

Spain: More than 500 people received the gift of a new wheelchair, after Queen Sofia brought together the leaders of groups that serve the disabled throughout the country.

Mexico: LDS Charities sponsored the largest single wheelchair distribution ever in Mexico City—800 people in one day. The gathering was addressed by President Fox. An additional 600 wheelchairs were distributed in the following days.

SISTER CITIES “WHEELCHAIRS FOR PEACE”



Before receiving a wheelchair, Tatyana Konstantinova sat in her bed every day wishing and dreaming she could go to college. Thanks to Sister Cities International and the Wheelchair Foundation, her dream has become a reality and she is now a student at the University of Arizona.

Since 1956, Sister Cities has been reaching people from “city to sister city.” The organization started when President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed a citizen diplomacy initiative called People to People. This program grew into the Sister Cities International Network. Today, Sister Cities represents 2,000 communities in more than 120 countries around the world.

“A wheelchair can start a life or it can re-start one,” says Jerry Gary, head of the Sister Cities Wheelchairs for Peace program. Gary understands first-hand, since he received his own wheelchair

when he was 11. “That was a conditioning thing for me. It made me want to do a payback ensuring that thousands of people around the world would have the opportunity to be mobile,” says Gary. “We can literally liberate thousands from a bondage they have related to their disability.”

Through the Wheelchairs for Peace program, Gary is seeing his dream realized. For example, a man who spent 40 years getting up, getting dressed and sitting on a couch every day now has the means to get around his house and to enjoy the outdoors.

The Wheelchair Foundation has provided a five-year grant to Sister Cities International. In five years, Gary has the responsibility to oversee the shipment of 60,000 wheelchairs to some of the world’s most far-flung locations. Already several Sister Cities chapters are engaging in fundraising efforts and partnering with other nonprofit organizations and local Rotary Clubs to meet the need. One of this year’s largest fund-raisers was Brazil Night, an event involving the Fort Lauderdale chapter of Sister Cities and Rotary Clubs from Fort Lauderdale and Miami. “It’s been a great partnership between Rotary and Sister Cities and the Wheelchair Foundation,” says Marty Kurtz, a Rotarian and member of the Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities chapter.

Barbara Chenworth, a Sister Cities volunteer, had the opportunity to participate in a shipment of wheelchairs funded by Rotarians from Arizona. The chairs went to Almaty, Kazakhstan. Meaning “Father of Apples” in Kazak, Almaty, one of the most beautiful cities of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), was originally settled in 1854 as a Russian fort called Zailiyskoe. It is situated at the foot of the Tien Shan Mountains and located on a major fault line, where earthquakes caused damage in 1811 and 1911.

While in Almaty, Chenworth took part in a few distributions, and was especially touched by a young boy about 7 years old. At first he was trembling, but once he was shown how to move the wheels of his chair, the realization that he could now move himself around began to sink in—and he began to smile. “It’s a feeling of, ‘Wow, this is going to be a new course,’” says Chenworth.

Recent events include the sponsorship of 280 wheelchairs to Merzifon, Turkey, by the “Friends of Merzifon” and the Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill, California. The Pleasant Hill Rotarians and Sister City members were hosted to a fund-raising luncheon donated by Scott’s Seafood Restaurant of Walnut Creek, which provided funding for most of the wheelchairs.

These joint efforts on behalf of the disabled are what makes the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation successful, and makes us proud to be a part of people to people relationships worldwide.



CONNECTING FAMILIES

Some of the most meaningful wheelchair distributions have connected families in the United States with families in other countries. Such was the case with a wheelchair distribution that linked a Peace Corps volunteer in Santa Barbara, Honduras, with members of the Rotary Club of Foster City.

Rotary volunteer Jon Grant discovered upon his arrival in Santa Barbara that 30 wheelchairs, the number that the Rotary Club had sponsored, was a good start, but did not come close to meeting the needs of this volunteer, who had taken on the role of community caretaker. She works to provide for the people in her community, particularly young mothers who need diapers, food and clothing for their babies.

Jon immediately called Rotary International to see if he could set up a matching grant, and within a week he had put everything together for a \$20,000 grant to cover wheelchairs and other supplies. All together, between the Rotary Club of Foster City and Rotary Int’l, \$68,000 was raised to pay for wheelchairs and to help this Peace Corps volunteer meet the needs of those around her.

ALEX'S STORY



From the day of his birth seven years ago until this past spring, Alex Cutz of Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, had never experienced freedom of movement. He had to be carried everywhere he went by his mother, Ana, a Mayan artisan who was forced to give up her job as office manager for Surunda (the Bead Lady of Santiago) and return to hands-on beading in her home so that she could take care of her son. Alex was born with cerebral palsy.

On April 26, the lives of Alex and Ana changed forever. Alex received the gift of mobility in the form of a wheelchair provided by the Wheelchair Foundation. But this was more than just another wheelchair donation. It is a “miracle of events” that began with Angel, a 15-year-old boy living near Solola. Angel received a wheelchair in January 2002 from the Wheelchair Foundation and Airline Ambassadors International (AAI), a U.S. charity that hand-delivers aid to poor children. In April, while checking up on Angel’s progress with his chair, I learned that he needed a larger wheelchair. Fortunately, I had one in my hotel room and made the exchange, taking back the smaller, child-sized wheelchair.

The following day, AAI volunteers were visiting Surunda to purchase beaded jewelry, which the group sells in the United States to raise money for transporting aid to Guatemala. I spoke to Surunda about Angel’s wheelchair exchange, and learned about Alex and his situation. Quickly, arrangements were made to bring Alex and his mother to Panajachel the next morning. At 8 a.m., less than 17 hours after the volunteers learned about Alex, he was carried off a boat by his mother and placed in Angel’s bright-red wheelchair. The smaller wheelchair was a perfect fit—as was the sequence of events leading up to this life-changing moment.

Those who cannot walk often refer to their wheelchair as their “best friend.” Thanks to the Wheelchair Foundation, Airline Ambassadors International and American Airlines, Alex has a new best friend. — *AAI volunteer Penny Rambacher*

AN EAGLE SCOUT'S DIFFERENCE

Inspired by Miguel Tejada, an Oakland A’s baseball player known for his grand slams, Justin Gonsalves, 17, has made a grand slam of his own.

Justin, a senior at Logan High School in Union City, California, attended an Oakland A’s game last year and saw video footage of the team distributing wheelchairs in the Dominican Republic with the Wheelchair Foundation. He immediately decided to do something for the disabled as his Eagle Scout project.

After meeting with his Eagle Scout coach, his idea took the form of a pancake breakfast fund-raiser, and a direct mail and outreach campaign to the community. One of the key requirements would be earning a minimum of 100 hours of community service. Justin could receive credit for each hour he worked, as well as each hour of community service given by friends and family. He pulled together a team and earned more than 130 hours—while raising \$8,328.49 for the Wheelchair Foundation.

“It feels good to be a Boy Scout and help disabled people like this,” says Justin. “It makes me even prouder to be a scout.”

Justin’s donation will be matched by the Wheelchair Foundation to deliver 111 wheelchairs to disabled people who cannot afford a wheelchair.

The Wheelchair Foundation is very proud of Justin and the young people everywhere who contribute their time and talents to helping the less fortunate. This type of dedication from our next generation of world leaders makes us believe in a bright future for our country and our world community.



JUSTIN, WITH HIS DAD, GILBERT.

SUPPORT FOR AN ARMENIAN HOSPITAL

The Orthopedic Children’s Hospital in Yerevan, Armenia, now has the money to pay for wheelchairs, thanks to a fund-raising dinner held in Florida. Hosts for the Fort Lauderdale party were Naomi and Carl Zeytoonian and Marta and Jim Batmasian. Ken Behring, founder of the Wheelchair Foundation, was present, along with Jack Drury, president of the foundation’s Florida Chapter, and Whitey Ford, a foundation Board of Advisors member and former New York Yankees pitcher now in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Jack, who has worked with dozens of celebrities over his 40-year career, including Bob Hope, Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon, said, “There is no celebrity more important to the disabled and needy people of the world than the stranger who provides a wheelchair.”



around the world in

four days

LDS AND THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION VISIT FOUR SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN FOUR DAYS, BRINGING HOPE AND JOY



Imagine being a curious 1-year-old and climbing up onto a roof to what seems like the top of the world—only to come crashing down into a world of immobility. That was the plight of one Paraguayan boy, until he received the blessing of a wheelchair from the Wheelchair Foundation.



This is just one of more than 2,000 stories shared by impoverished South Americans who received wheelchairs, blankets and homemade personal-care kits through the generosity of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS Charities), which partnered with the Wheelchair Foundation and the First Ladies of Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay and Costa Rica to deliver wheelchairs in these four countries in only four days.

Peru

Beginning in Lima, Peru, a team made up of Ken Behring, Wheelchair Foundation staff, Garry Flake and four other representatives of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Charities saw the impact that even a few wheelchairs can have. Working alongside First Lady Eliane Karpup, a naturalized U.S. citizen and Stanford University graduate, the team delivered some of the 544 wheelchairs designated for Peru on January 14, during a ceremony at the National Petroleum Building.

Particularly moving was the story of Gloria. For years, Gloria has struggled with a diminished level of bone density. She has broken or cracked numerous bones as people moved her from place to place. So grateful was Gloria for her new wheelchair—which will enable her to move about on her own and assist her family in the marketplace—that when the team offered her a second wheelchair for her 25-year-old daughter, who suffers from a similar condition, Gloria refused. She said that she would share her wheelchair with her daughter so that another family could be blessed.

“Seeing the humility and gratitude expressed was a beacon to my soul,” says Michelle Inkley, a senior analyst for LDS Charities and translator for the team. “Giving these people a wheelchair is giving them a life.”

Bolivia

The second distribution took place on January 15 in the mountains of Bolivia, set against a colorful backdrop of women in native dresses, men in bowler hats, traditional Spanish-style adobe architecture and a haze of political unrest. Here the team assisted more recipients with their wheelchairs. Due to political tension, First Lady Virginia Gillum De Quiroga, who organized the distribution, had to be quickly ushered in and out of the event.

Were it not for a nun who has made it her life's work to rescue severely handicapped orphans, two of the children who received wheelchairs that day may never have made it. One had been abandoned near death when she was only a few days old. The other, an 8-year-old boy, lost his mother during childbirth, and was abandoned by his alcoholic father just one week prior to the distribution. They were both taken in by the nun and her orphanage, and have now regained some of the dignity that was so tragically stolen from them.

received his wheelchair, he zoomed all over the place, envisioning his dream of playing basketball in the Paralympics.

It was also in Paraguay that the team met Jorge, a 25-year-old father of two who lost his legs to gangrene 10 years ago and has been dependent on his wife to provide for the family. Jorge said having a wheelchair made him feel like a man again, because it gives him the means to obtain work that will enable him to help with the family's finances.

Costa Rica

The last stop, and one of the most moving, was Costa Rica. The First Lady and her foundation, *Officina de la Primera Dama*, coordinated the distribution ceremony, and there were smiles all around when Medra, a 4-year-old who suffers from spina bifida, was lifted into her wheelchair. Merda, who had been carried everywhere since infancy, was wide-eyed with excitement when she realized that she now could finally explore on her own.

Independence through mobility made the difference



**KEN BEHRING DELIVERS
WHEELCHAIRS WITH
LDS CHARITIES IN BOLIVIA.**

The two children, who had been left lying in the street, can move about and see things that were once out of their reach. Mobility for these and other disabled orphans was also an answer to a prayer for the sister. The children with wheelchairs can now interact freely with other children, and the sister can spend more time with orphans not able to move on their own.

Paraguay

Moving on to Paraguay, the team attended a distribution ceremony organized by First Lady Susana Gaillide de Gonzalez Macci and her foundation, *Fundacion Primera Dama de la Nacion*. This distribution included the 1-year-old boy, now 9, who had fallen from the roof. As soon as he

between death and life for another recipient. Brought in on the back of his son because he had lost his legs to diabetes, John felt useless and had thought seriously about taking his own life. When he was lifted into his wheelchair, with tears streaming down his face, John proudly announced his renewed will to live and to serve others.

These South American distributions are just a glimpse of the projects that LDS Charities has planned with the Wheelchair Foundation. Together, they anticipate sending 13 more containers, each containing 280 wheelchairs, to the countries in the region that need them most.

The Wheelchair Foundation is very proud to have LDS Charities as a global partner in our mission to bring mobility to the disabled of the world.

a comprehensive campaign in china



MS. DONGHUA YE AND KEN BEHRING.

Deng Pufeng, chairman of the China Disabled Person's Federation (CDPF) and son of China's late leader, Deng Xiaoping, is working very closely with Ken Behring and the Wheelchair Foundation in a collaborative distribution program designed to deliver tens of thousands of wheelchairs to disabled Chinese in the next 12 months.

"This is the most efficient and comprehensive distribution relationship we have anywhere in the world," says Ken Behring, founder of the Wheelchair Foundation. "The CDPF picks up the wheelchairs at the factories in China, distributes them through the organizations established to help the disabled, and then gets a photo back to us of each recipient. We can concentrate on raising awareness of the needs of disabled people in China, and raise the money needed to get them the wheelchairs. The CDPF handles everything for us, and so many people are being helped."

The Wheelchair Foundation established an office in Shanghai to oversee the production of the factories that are currently producing 10,000 wheelchairs

a month, to be purchased by the Wheelchair Foundation. This presence has also enabled Mr. Behring and Wheelchair Foundation team members to experience numerous distributions throughout China, and has led to a comprehensive campaign for helping the Chinese disabled.

At a 2002 wheelchair distribution, the mayor of Shanghai expressed his gratitude that people would come from the United States in friendship, deliver wheelchairs and expect nothing in return. He stated that this gesture would do more for world peace than any political policies.

One of the wheelchair recipients in Shanghai was a man who had been bedridden for 25 years after being hurt in an earthquake. When he realized he was going to receive a wheelchair, he shook his head in disbelief, saying, "We have no money. Why are we here?" For those who are poor, receiving a wheelchair can be scary. Many have been offered wheelchairs in the past, spent all the money they had to acquire one—and then received nothing in return. So, those receiving new, bright red wheelchairs from the

SHANGHAI WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION.



Wheelchair Foundation are always pleasantly surprised to see that there really is a wheelchair, and that it is a gift with no payment expected.

A special highlight of the Shanghai visit for Mr. Behring was the opportunity to meet with Ms. Donghua Ye, 38, who was born paralyzed. She did have crutches prior to receiving a wheelchair, but her mobility was still so limited that she was unable to go for walks with her family or enjoy other outdoor activities. Now that she has a wheelchair, Ms. Ye can finally experience independence, go for walks in the rain with her son and play badminton. She calls her wheelchair her “best friend.”



Ms. Ye is also teaching herself English with the goal of being an interpreter when the Olympics come to China.

The Wheelchair Foundation welcomes any individual, group or organization that is interested in sponsoring wheelchairs for China to contact Chris Lewis, director of Public Education and Development at the Wheelchair Foundation, at (925) 736-8234. A \$21,000 donation will sponsor 280 wheelchairs to China, with a label acknowledging the name of the donor or organization. For sponsorships of 1,000 wheelchairs or more, the donor’s name will be stitched into the seat back of each wheelchair.



the story of Kun Sha

In August 1993, a severely crippled 5-month-old boy

with muscular dystrophy was abandoned in the Kunshan Shopping Center. The police investigated, his parents couldn’t be found and the young boy no one wanted was taken to the Kunshan Orphanage—where he was named Kun Sha.

By the time he reached age 2, Sha’s condition had improved slightly, but he was still unable to stand on his own. A report was made to The Amity Foundation in Hong Kong, which then funded operations on Sha’s fingers, ankles, elbows and knees in 1995 and again in 1997. Also, a special training program was developed by the orphanage to help Sha recover from the surgeries.

Two years passed as Sha continued to stretch muscles and ligaments in his determination to walk—which, with the aid of crutches, he was finally able to do in 1999. Then, in 2000, Sha began school, where the same spirit and desire to succeed that marked his physical

progress drove him to earn good grades and live as normal a life as possible.

In a recent visit to China, a team from the Wheelchair Foundation made Sha’s life even better by presenting him with a wheelchair and the increased mobility it represents. Ken Behring was particularly impressed with Sha, who sang a song at the ceremony titled “Little Boy Seeking Dad”:

*Not afraid of raining, not afraid of snowing.
I only want to find him, even if it's cold and windy and snowy.
I want to see him every day, my Dad;
I'm going to find my Daddy, no matter what outside looks like.
I'm going to find my Daddy,
To find my Daddy, no matter where he is.
I can't find my dearest Daddy;
If you find him, please ask him to come back home.*

“This song drove home the point,” says Mr. Behring, “of not only what it feels like to be disabled, but to be abandoned. I was very pleased that we were able to give this fine young man a new wheelchair, and help make his life easier and more enjoyable.”

season highlights



ED MCMAHON AND GOLFERS AT THE FIRST ANNUAL "DRIVE FORE MOBILITY" GOLF TOURNAMENT IN BRENTWOOD, CALIFORNIA.

KEN BEHRING AND PRESIDENT RICK KING GIVE WHEELCHAIRS TO SPANISH CHILDREN ON STAGE AT THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN BARCELONA.



LEFT: 9-YEAR-OLD BARBARA FROM SANTIAGO, CHILE, CAN NOW GO TO SCHOOL IN HER NEW WHEELCHAIR. RIGHT: A NEPALESE BOY ENJOYS HIS FIRST WHEELCHAIR.





LEFT AND RIGHT:
WHEELCHAIRS
BRING SMILES
TO THE FACES OF
THESE BRAZILIAN
CHILDREN.



A REPORTER
INTERVIEWS A
BOSNIAN WAR
VICTIM IN HIS
NEW WHEELCHAIR.



LEFT AND
RIGHT: A
NEW WAY OF
LOOKING AT LIFE
FOR WHEELCHAIR
RECIPIENTS AND
DONORS.



a success story ...



PHOTO BY JASON SWENSEN

The Initial Planning

One of the first concerns that Ken Behring and those six Wheelchair Foundation team members had to address was their ability to purchase and then distribute large numbers of wheelchairs worldwide. Was such a goal even practical? There were issues of design, purchase price and production capabilities. A photograph would be needed of each person who received a wheelchair, so that a personalized certificate of thanks with the recipient's name, age and country could be sent to individual donors. There was the cost of shipping to consider, and the reliability of distribution partners in other countries.

The problems may have seemed insurmountable, but Ken Behring and his team forged ahead. Manufacturers were chosen to supply the wheelchairs, and initial orders were placed in increments of 10,000. Most manufacturers had never received an order like this before, so Mr. Behring was able to get the price that he sought. Word was circulated among the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) providing humanitarian assistance worldwide that wheelchairs were now available for relief missions. A freight forwarding company was contracted to

handle the logistics of shipping 40-foot sea containers, each holding 240 wheelchairs.

If all of the planning and calculations were correct, the Wheelchair Foundation would be able to deliver a high-quality wheelchair anywhere in the world for the unheard-of price of \$150. This is a wheelchair that is designed specifically for use in developing countries, and will allow people who have spent many years (or their entire life) on the floor of a room or in a bed to be an active member of their family and/or community. Children can go to school, adults can go to work or worship, and the elderly can once again contribute to the well-being of their families.

The initial goal of the Wheelchair Foundation is to deliver one million wheelchairs worldwide in just five short years.

Garnering Support

Mr. Behring contacted his influential friends around the world and asked for their counsel in the creation of this trail-blazing organization. King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain agreed to be the Co-Chairmen of the Wheelchair Foundation's International Board of

SHE CAN NOW GO TO SCHOOL IN MEXICO CITY.

Advisors. Heads of state, first ladies, educators, humanitarians, celebrities, athletes and leaders of the military, industry, institutions and business—as well as members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives—have offered their counsel and participated in this global effort.

Two weeks after the official launch of the Wheelchair Foundation at a Capitol Hill ceremony in Washington, D.C., there were requests from NGOs for 160,000 wheelchairs. While in Washington, the Wheelchair Foundation team met with representatives from the U.S. government, U.S.-based NGOs and international organizations, and lawmakers from the U.S. and other nations. The information that was provided was numbing.

It appeared that the World Health Organization and the United Nations were using official estimates of immobile people worldwide that were only 20 percent to 25 percent of the actual need. NGOs operating in India told us that the number of physically disabled

people there approaches 6 percent of the total population. The same numbers can be used for much of China, Africa and Southern Asia. In countries that are littered with landmines, the percentages go as high as Angola's 20 percent.

Undaunted, the Wheelchair Foundation delivered approximately 25,000 wheelchairs around the world by the end of 2000. The Oakland Athletics baseball team sponsored 2,500 wheelchairs to the Dominican Republic. Ronald McDonald House Charities provided funding for wheelchairs to children in Nepal. The Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation provided funds for wheelchairs to Tibet. LDS Charities in Salt Lake City began a relationship with the Wheelchair Foundation that would blossom into one of the most substantial, life-changing relief missions of the disabled poor in the history of mankind.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) has ongoing humanitarian missions throughout the world, and is participating with the Wheelchair Foundation on a global scale to deliver wheelchairs to the disabled poor in dozens of countries on several continents. The LDS example of commitment to the less fortunate worldwide is a substantial step toward world peace, and the foundation of more friendship and trust between people.

These and other wonderful organizations were helping us spread the message that wheelchairs had become affordable, tangible items that could immediately change the lives of disabled people. This was a historical first.

Expanding the Effort

The awareness-building campaigns of 2000 led to great results in 2001. ChevronTexaco sponsored wheelchairs to Angola (the most disabled country in the world). Mr. Behring traveled the world tirelessly, expanding the wheelchair supply by establishing relationships with three new high-productivity manufacturers in China and meeting with world leaders about the Wheelchair Foundation mission. A "strategic alliance" was formed between Rotary International and the Wheelchair Foundation. (Rotary has 1.2 million members in 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries.) By early 2003, Rotarians have sponsored more than 45,000 wheelchairs to some 45 countries, and the pace is accelerating. As a hands-on service project, Rotarians send wheelchairs to

regions of the world where the organization has clubs. At the same time, Rotary actively supports a global polio vaccination campaign (PolioPlus) that will eradicate polio from our planet by 2005.

Because of Rotary International's involvement, the Wheelchair Foundation began matching all donations dollar for dollar with funds specifically gifted for that purpose. Previously, a \$36,000 donation was needed to target a 240-wheelchair container to a specific country or region, but with the matching program in place, a container can be targeted with a donation of \$18,000. Our NGO partners in those countries or regions handle all aspects of the importation and distribution, often in conjunction with a co-sponsoring organization. (280 wheelchair containers can now be sponsored for \$21,000.)

The September 11 terrorist attacks forever changed millions of lives. One of the results of that horrific event—and a result that not a single witness could have foreseen on that day—is that Americans would galvanize their inner resolve to give thanks for their blessings and, like never before, reach out to their neighbors in need. The Wheelchair Foundation was propelled to a new stature in the following days. The delivery of tangible, life-saving humanitar-



4-YEAR-OLD OMUR KARANLIK IN HIS FIRST WHEELCHAIR.

ian relief (a wheelchair) and the confirmation that a donor's good intentions had become reality helped many people to heal, and has continued to do so to this day.

Heading into 2002, the Wheelchair Foundation and Sister Cities International joined forces and initiated the "Wheelchairs for Peace" program. Sister Cities is a people-to-people, citizen-diplomacy initiative that was started by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. This organization is connecting people through a network of 2,000 member communities in 120 countries worldwide. The goal is for U.S.-member organizations to sponsor 60,000 wheelchairs to Sister Cities communities in developing countries in the next five years.

The global footprint of the Wheelchair Foundation has grown enormously within the international relief commu-

> a success story ...

Rotary volunteer Jon Grant in Honduras.

nity. U.S. Air Force Gen. Joseph Ralston, a member of our International Board of Advisors, distributed humanitarian aid to 91 countries in the course of his assignment as NATO Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, and has been very supportive in the distribution of wheelchairs.

Quantifiable Goals

Figuratively speaking, the Wheelchair Foundation is about to make the jump to light speed:

- In just over two years wheelchairs have gone from an expensive, hard-to-acquire luxury to an affordable, everyday mobility tool that is dramatically improving the lives of tens of thousands of immobile people worldwide.
- The Wheelchair Foundation is currently ordering and delivering approximately 10,000 wheelchairs per month.
- Three factories are supplying our wheelchairs and competing for our business, which keeps the prices affordable. Once identified, additional factories will become a part of the program.
- Religious, service, ethnic, school and civic organizations are taking advantage of the matching funds program to send containers of wheelchairs to needy people in developing countries and here in the U.S.
- The Wheelchair Foundation's "Spirit of American Giving" program combines Rotary Club and District donations with donations from corporations and institutions, and then matches them, to deliver twice as many wheelchairs. Participants in this program include ChevronTexaco, the Oakland Athletics, Major League Baseball and Scott's Restaurants.
- We have recently formed Wheelchair Foundation Australia and Wheelchair Foundation Canada with the aid of dedicated volunteers.
- LDS Charities is sponsoring tens of thousands of wheelchairs worldwide.
- More than 1,000 Rotary Clubs have participated in the Wheelchair Foundation program, and many clubs that participated in a wheelchair delivery last year have three to six happening this year.

Giving Hope—One Wheelchair at a Time

The delivery of wheelchairs to children, teens and adults provides the gifts of hope, mobility and freedom and is changing the way people worldwide look at the physically disabled. These people can now contribute to the economy of a family, town or village; they can go to school and learn a trade; and oftentimes they help teach



the younger generations the valuable lessons of life. Relief organizations are now including wheelchairs in their budgets, and corporations in developing countries are donating wheelchairs to expand the workforce and increase productivity.

The concept that was envisioned by Ken Behring in 2000 first made a transition from an ambitious project to a commendable program. But now, with the involvement of tens of thousands of people worldwide, the Wheelchair Foundation has become a movement of people, organizations, governments and world leaders who have collectively witnessed the immediate benefits and the long-lasting impact a wheelchair can have on disabled members of our world community. Together, we are changing lives, giving hope, providing independence and making dreams come true—every day, around the world, and one wheelchair at a time.

“angels from heaven”



A GROUP OF PRINCETON ALUMNI CELEBRATES ITS 25TH REUNION BY DELIVERING MORE THAN 200 WHEELCHAIRS TO GUATEMALA

Hailed as “angels from heaven bringing gifts from God,” 14 graduates of the Princeton University Class of 1977 celebrated their 25th reunion by delivering wheelchairs to 240 people in Guatemala.

Princeton alumni are known for making a difference in America and around the world, and have long incorporated community-service projects into their class reunions. This year, as the 25th reunion approached for the Class of 1977, David Behring, a member of that class and son of Ken Behring, the founder of the Wheelchair Foundation, proposed a wheelchair project in South America. Previous projects had been local, and he wanted to see the class broaden its efforts. David’s classmates loved the idea, and further expanded the scope of the project by adding educational and medical components.



Princeton University Class of 1977 distribution participants.

The mere coordinating of logistics developed a spirit of teamwork and unity among the classmates. While groups of graduates in San Francisco, Boston, Indianapolis and Washington, D.C., collected and packed 287 boxes of educational and medical supplies, David and others who were going on the trip coordinated flight schedules and last-minute details—including a request for basketballs made by a Guatemalan teacher less than 24 hours before the team departed.

Thanks to the use of Ken Behring’s plane, there were no worries about supplies getting lost, people traveling alone or the juggling of flight schedules. On Wednesday, March 13, David Behring loaded the supplies on his father’s plane and flew to Dallas to meet his classmates.

Anticipation filled the air as the team members greeted one other at the airport and realized that together they had already collected 17 basketballs. Each team member was eager to share his or her talents. Some would share their medical skills by volunteering in hospitals and health clinics. Others would share their skills as Spanish teachers by volunteering in local schools, working with the children and serving as translators. All of the team members shared their compassionate hearts.

EDUCATION TEAM CONNECTS

Members of the Class of 1977 education team also had several moving experiences on the Guatemalan trip, including the day they spent with students at San Antonio Aguas Caliente. This is an educational center for children with disabilities. One young man, Osciell, was flailing all over the place, so when team members handed him his chalk, they expected him to just scribble. Much to their surprise, Osciell focused all of his might on writing his name, to proudly show the team members that he and his classmates were eager to learn.

The educational team also met with 100 orphans in Antigua to give each child a blanket, a personal-hygiene kit, a toy, a piece of candy and an education kit with a chalkboard and chalk. These children, who live in the depths of poverty, were just as excited about the toothbrushes as they were about the toys.

Educational supplies were also handed out to teachers and students through a school that Programa Ayudar los Vecinos del Altiplano (Program to Help the Highland Villagers) recently built in the isolated village of Chuparral. In Panimachivac, Donna Freeman, one of the team members and an eighth-grade teacher, spoke to the students in Spanish about the importance of protecting the Earth.

ANGELS FROM HEAVEN CONTINUED

Within minutes of their arrival, the team set up in a hotel room and began unpacking and re-sorting supplies so that they would be ready for three days of visitations. Pens, pencils, rulers, scissors, crayons, etc. were stuffed into black and orange backpacks that were handmade by a classmate to match Princeton's colors. Other alumni assembled kits containing soap, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, towels and washcloths. These were combined with pre-packaged personal-hygiene kits and USA Track and Field hats, shorts and socks contributed by Craig Masback, and blankets and robes contributed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS).

Before dawn on the first day, the wheelchair team had already started on its five-hour journey to Coban, known as "the end of the paved road." Many of the recipients had crawled and been carried an hour or more from their villages to get to the distribution site.



Sayre Swartztrauber, whose 15-year-old son is confined to a wheelchair with muscular dystrophy, was particularly moved. And since he is fluent in Spanish, he was able to hear the stories of several of the recipients. "Sayre was able to hold their hand, hear their story and truly relate to their experience in a way that none of the rest of us could," David says.

One particularly touching story was that of an elderly man who was clearly weathered by years of immobility. The man proudly wore a cowboy hat that seemed to reflect the dignity he felt in finally being able to move on his own. Fighting back the tears, he said, "You'll never know what this means to me."

Equally moving was the story of an elderly, disabled woman who finally received an answer after 30 years of daily prayer for mobility. "You are sent from heaven," she said. "God is looking out for me."

Team members also distributed wheelchairs at a Presidential Palace ceremony hosted by the First Lady of Guatemala. It was there that team members met Marina, a beautiful 5-year-old girl whose family was hit by a drunk driver. The accident killed her father and three siblings—and left Marina paralyzed from the waist down. Though she looked very grown up in her Sunday best, the moment Marina was seated in her wheelchair her face filled with the wide-eyed wonderment and delight of a child. Almost instantly, she took off across the room, bubbling with excitement that was shared by the team members as they realized that Marina could now go wherever she wants to go.

In all, 100 wheelchairs were distributed at the Presidential Palace, while another 20 wheelchairs were given to elderly residents at Hogar Geriatrica Maria, a retirement home where a number of residents have Alzheimer's. Without crutches, walkers or wheelchairs, many residents had been confined to their beds all day. Now, they are able to get around the facility and enjoy the outdoors as well. In addition to the chairs, the team also supplied them with towels, robes and blankets.

Just before leaving, the medical team requested a wheelchair for Rosa Carlota Flores de Gonzalez, an 81-year-old great-great-grandmother. The medical team determined that it is likely she will one day lose her leg at the hip. Forty years ago, a tumor resulted in a steel bar being placed in her knee. She had to stay in bed for a year, and during that time she started writing and has since published four novels under the pseudonym Flor Marchita Entre Ruines (Dead Flowers in the Ruins). That so accurately describes how many people feel when they are immobile. When the team brought her wheelchair, Rosa was so surprised that she said it had "fallen from the air." Now, Rosa can feel alive again and no longer has to feel like she is lying in the ruins.

All together, the Class of '77 raised \$70,000 for wheelchairs, medicine and scholarships. Within three days, they delivered



David Behring (back left) and classmates change lives in Guatemala.

2,500 backpacks of school supplies, established five scholarships, distributed \$5,000 in medical supplies to three medical facilities, handed out 200 personal-hygiene kits and brought the gift of mobility to 240 people.

"We hope to set this as a benchmark for the reunion community service projects," says David Behring. "This was one project where you really felt like you made an impact."

Ken Behring Receives BYU Honorary Doctorate

It is because Ken Behring owns an airplane that flies the world at 35,000 feet that he came into contact with people who see the world by crawling on their stomachs and elbows.

It is these people, said the founder of the Wheelchair Foundation during Brigham Young University's 2002 summer graduation exercises, who helped him learn something of true poverty and true riches. Mr. Behring offered BYU's commencement address during the Aug. 15 ceremony in Provo, Utah, and received an honorary doctorate for his worldwide charitable efforts, including the donation of thousands of wheelchairs to the disabled in developing nations.

Mr. Behring told the more than 2,860 graduates that he started the Wheelchair Foundation three years ago, after leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints asked if he could deliver canned meat to refugees in Kosovo and wheelchairs to the disabled in Romania. There, he learned that disabled people in Third World countries often are discarded or abandoned. "I had never really thought about wheelchairs before," said Mr. Behring. "But after that trip I could think of little else."

"Most of us think of a wheelchair as a confinement," he adds, "but to millions of people, it is not a confinement. It is freedom. Freedom to move, to go to school, to get a job. You know, a wheelchair is hope. Self-reliance. Independence. And most important, it is dignity."

"In a way," Mr. Behring told the graduates, "a wheelchair is to the body what the education you have received is to the mind."

Advising the graduates to "search for needs," Mr. Behring said that there are between 100 million and 130 million people worldwide who need a wheelchair, but cannot afford one. China needs 20 million wheelchairs. India needs 30 million. His goal is to provide one million wheelchairs by 2005. The LDS Church, he said, is helping with this ministry of mobility.

"The wheelchair mission is the greatest thing that's happened to me in my life," said Mr. Behring. "I used to give money to good causes because I felt obligated to give back. Many people give because they feel obligated—which is good, but they don't feel the giving with their heart. If I have any wisdom worth this honorary doctorate you have so kindly given me, it is this: Giving is not a duty; it is a joy."



planned

giving

HELP SUPPORT THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION
THROUGH A PLANNED GIFT

You can help support the work of the Wheelchair Foundation for years to come through making a planned gift to the Wheelchair Foundation. Planned gifts include gifts through your will, charitable gift annuities, gifts of life insurance and charitable trusts.

Bequests

You may wish to include the Wheelchair Foundation, as a beneficiary in your will. The federal government encourages such gifts of bequest by allowing unlimited estate tax charitable deductions. To make a bequest to the Wheelchair Foundation in your will, the following language may be helpful. It is strongly suggested that you show this language to your attorney. "I give, devise, and bequeath to the Wheelchair Foundation of Danville, California the sum of \$__." (Or otherwise describe the gift and specify by percentage of estate.)

There are three distinct ways you can make a bequest in your will:

- **Specific Bequest.** You can designate a specific dollar amount, specific percentage or specific property to the Wheelchair Foundation.
- **The Residual Bequest.** Your estate will pay all debts, taxes and specific requests, and the remaining amount, the residue, will be transferred to the Wheelchair Foundation.
- **Contingent Bequest.** You can ask that the Wheelchair Foundation receive all or a portion of your estate under certain circumstances. For example, you can name the Wheelchair Foundation as a beneficiary to your estate if there are no surviving family members. Childless couples

sometimes provide the entire estate to the surviving spouse or, if the spouse does not survive to the Wheelchair Foundation.

You want to insure that the designations in your will get to the intended beneficiaries. Please see your attorney or your Certified Public Accountant and discuss your specific request with them.

Life Income Gift

You may transfer assets to the Wheelchair Foundation now and in return you and/or a survivor can receive income for life. This is a financial planning tool that allows you to make a meaningful gift to the Wheelchair Foundation during your lifetime without sacrifice. You can get the current income tax and financial benefits from this gift. It is called Life Income Gift. The way it works is simple: You irrevocably transfer some assets to the Wheelchair Foundation now and in return you and the survivor, if you wish, receive income for life. These assets are used by the Wheelchair Foundation to carry out our mission to provide wheelchairs to people with disabilities throughout the world.

By making a Life Income Gift to the Wheelchair Foundation you receive benefits in addition to the pleasure of knowing the good work your gift will do.

These benefits include the following:

- A charitable deduction in the year you make the gift for the present value of your gift to our right to eventually receive the assets.
- Substantial income tax savings increase your effective yield.



- Your income can be taxed more favorably in some plans.
- Your probate and estate administration costs may be reduced.

The Charitable Gift of Annuity works as follows: The Wheelchair Foundation agrees to pay you and a survivor or other beneficiary a fixed amount for your lifetime. The transfer is part gift and part purchase of an annuity, as the rate of return is attractive and the payments are guaranteed for life.

Gift of Life Insurance

You may no longer need the life insurance you purchased years ago for your children or other family members. If this is your situation, please consider donating the policy to the Wheelchair Foundation. You may claim a charitable deduction for approximately the policy's cash surrender value, and the proceeds are completely removed from your estate. The Wheelchair Foundation will ensure that these funds are used to purchase wheelchairs for use by the disabled in a developing country.

Gift of Retirement Plans

Your IRA assets will be transferred to a Charitable Remainder Trust, and the trust will provide life income to the beneficiary and then an eventual gift to the Wheelchair Foundation.

Today many individuals have large, qualified retirement plans such as an IRA, 401(k) or Keogh plan. These assets have been growing tax-free for years. Once the owner begins to receive from the plan there is a taxable event,

and eventually the plan will be included in the owner's taxable estate. To avoid these tax consequences, a retirement plan may be donated to the Wheelchair Foundation.

Once you make your gift of retirement plan to create a Charitable Remainder Trust through your will, it works like this: Your IRA assets will be transferred to a Charitable Remainder Trust. There is no tax due because the Charitable Remainder Trust is a tax-exempt entity. The trust will provide life income to the beneficiary—for example your child—with an eventual gift to the Wheelchair Foundation. The beneficiary will pay income tax for the distribution from the trust. Your estate will receive an estate tax charitable deduction for the value of the Wheelchair Foundation's right to eventually receive the trust assets.

Charitable Lead Trusts

Individuals with large estates can use a Charitable Lead Trust to benefit the Wheelchair Foundation and pass principal to family members with little or no tax penalties.

Charitable Lead Trusts are complicated financial instruments, and you should seek the advice of your attorney or your CPA.

The Wheelchair Foundation appreciates your interest in making a planned gift to help us with our mission to provide wheelchairs to people in developing countries. For more information about methods of planned giving or to answer any questions, please call Fred Gerhard at the Wheelchair Foundation at (925) 736-8234 or (925) 381-6612.



frequently asked questions

Q: How many people need a wheelchair 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 as high as 6 percent of the population of developing countries. The number in Angola is 20 percent of a population of 12 million. Other “land mine” countries such as Afghanistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bosnia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Mozambique have extremely high disability rates.

Q: Where are the wheelchairs manufactured?

A: We purchase wheelchairs from several manufacturers in China that build a quality product designed to be easily maintainable in developing countries.

Q: How much does a wheelchair cost?

A: We can purchase and deliver a wheelchair to our distribution partners worldwide for \$150. This wheelchair would normally cost \$375 in the United States, but the large quantities that we purchase allow us to deliver one for only \$150, by a 280-wheelchair sea container. This same type of wheelchair sells for up to \$1,700 in developing countries.

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. A donation of \$21,000 will deliver a 280-wheelchair container.

Q: How do you decide who gets a wheelchair?

A: We distribute wheelchairs worldwide through a network of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that have ongoing humanitarian relief missions in the countries of wheelchair destination. These distribution partners handle all aspects of the importation and distribution of the wheelchairs to children who can now go to school, adults who can go to work and seniors who can once again become an active part of family life and society.

Q: Can I designate to which country I want my donation to go?

A: A: We collect donations and then send 280-wheelchair containers to our distribution partners in countries that have been identified as in great need. For a donation of \$21,000, you can pick the country from our list of approved destinations where we enjoy estab-

lished and successful distribution relationships. There are currently 72 countries on the list.

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 your wheelchair recipient, 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, Goodwill Industries, Catholic Charities and other relief organizations are working with us here in the United States to distribute wheelchairs to people who need one but cannot afford one.

Q: Are these wheelchairs designed for rough, Third World conditions?

A: A: Yes. The wheelchairs that we distribute are specifically designed for the rough conditions of developing countries. Extra-heavy wheels, tires, and front casters, sealed bearings and nylon seating make these wheelchairs the best possible for most conditions.

Q: What is the goal of the Wheelchair Foundation?

A: Our goal is to distribute one million wheelchairs in the next five years, and to further the awareness that a wheelchair is no longer an unaffordable item for delivery in developing countries throughout the world.

Q: How can I help?

A: (1) Make a donation. 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! 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 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, and will put a label on the wheelchair identifying the sponsor of an entire 280-wheelchair container. They will be a hero, and so many people will be given a new lease on life.

leaving a legacy

Help support the work of the Wheelchair Foundation for years to come through a planned gift, including gifts through your will, charitable gift annuities, gifts of life insurance and charitable trusts.



Bequests

Include the Wheelchair Foundation as a beneficiary in your will. You can do so in three ways:

- Specific bequest
- Residual bequest
- Contingent bequest

Life Income Gift

Transfer assets to the Wheelchair Foundation now, and in return you and/or a survivor can receive income for life.

Gift of Life Insurance

Donate your life insurance policy. Claim a charitable deduction for approximately the policies cash surrender value and the proceeds are completely removed from your estate.

Gift of Retirement Plans

Transfer your IRA assets to a Charitable Remainder Trust, which will provide life income to the beneficiary and then an eventual gift to the Wheelchair Foundation.

Charitable Lead Trusts

Use a Charitable Lead Trust to benefit the Wheelchair Foundation and pass principal to family members with little or no tax penalties.

We appreciate your interest in making a planned gift to help us with our mission to provide wheelchairs to people in developing countries. For more information about planned giving or to answer any questions, please call Fred Gerhard at the Wheelchair Foundation at (925) 736-8234 or (925) 381-6612.

worldwide toll-free (877) 378-3839

Honor someone special with a gift to the Wheelchair Foundation!

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.

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.

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

- \$25 \$50 \$75 \$150 Other \$
 \$21,000 delivers a 280-wheelchair container to a destination of your choice*

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 credit card _____

Card number _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

* Provided 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

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?

JUST \$75 CAN DELIVER A NEW LIFE

Help us give the gift of Hope, Mobility and Freedom.

The Wheelchair Foundation delivers futures to children, teens and adults who have been disabled by war, disease, natural disaster or advanced age.

For each \$75 donation, you will receive a beautiful presentation folder with a picture of a wheelchair recipient and a certificate with their name, age, country and wheelchair number.



Sample Presentation Folder



CALL US NOW AT (877) 378-3839 OR DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG



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