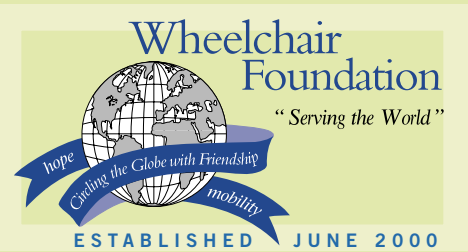


Changing THE WORLD



AFGHAN GIRL IN HER NEW WHEELCHAIR.

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gesture of peace

After months of planning, our flight was making its final approach into Kabul's airport. From the air we could see piles of rubble that littered the airfield below. As we got closer it became clear to all of us that these mangled heaps were actually the charred remains of aircraft that had crashed years earlier. This was our first glimpse of Afghanistan, a country devastated by 23 years of civil war.

Our delegation of eight, led by Wheelchair Foundation founder Ken Behring, was part of a public/private partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of State. We were finally getting the opportunity to see firsthand the difference wheelchairs could make in such an impoverished country. It was not easy to get clearance for a private group like ours to travel to an unstable area like Kabul. For months we had been working closely with the Humanitarian Assistance office of the Defense Department and the Public Affairs office of the State Department to plan a mission sending 5,000 wheelchairs to Afghanistan. The wheelchairs were co-sponsored by the Wheelchair Foundation, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Knights of Columbus. Our agreed objective was to provide hope, mobility, freedom and self-reliance to disabled Afghan citizens.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



In June of 2000 when we launched the Wheelchair Foundation, I never imagined that a very important part of our mission would be creating global friendships.

Over the course of the past three and a half years, local, state and national leaders have welcomed us with open arms throughout the world. We are delivering life-changing wheelchairs to the poorest of the physically disabled in over 100 countries at a rate of more than 10,000 wheelchairs per month.

The people that receive these wheelchairs are usually not seen by the general public because they live in the back room of a house or stay in a bed their entire lives. If they are seen in developing countries, it is usually crawling on the ground or begging on the side of a road. No dignity and no place in society.

But when a disabled child receives a wheelchair and can now go to school, the world immediately becomes a brighter place. An adult that can go to work and provide for a family has hope for the future. When an older person can once again attend worship services or just go outside for the first time in years, a wheelchair often makes the difference between them wanting to live and wanting to die.

To personally witness the change of expression on the faces of wheelchair recipients is to realize the gift that has just been received. It is hard to explain, but when it happens, the overwhelming expressions of joy capture the attention of even the most hardened cynic. This is why we have been thanked so many times for delivering one of the most sincere gestures of friendship that any disabled citizens have ever received. We have no agenda or motive for providing these wheelchairs except to help people with physical disabilities. Our goal is to create awareness about their needs and abilities, as well as to promote friendship and the joy of giving.

In giving others hope and dignity, we create the kind of feelings that can only lead to a more peaceful world, and a brighter future for us all.

Thank you for your support and friendship.

Kenneth E. Behring
Founder & Chairman of the Board

mission and goals

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 people with physical disabilities, the Wheelchair Foundation delivers Hope, Mobility and Freedom.

Our Goal

Over the next five years, the Wheelchair Foundation aims to deliver 1 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

In the first three and a half years of delivering wheelchairs, the Wheelchair Foundation has witnessed thousands of examples of how mobility creates new possibilities for recipients and entire 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. 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.



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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.
- One of the most horrific causes of disability worldwide can be attributed to landmines. Every year, more than 29,000 people are injured by landmines around the world. This number does not include those that are killed by the landmines.
- 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 difficulty in accounting for “forgotten” citizens who spend their lives in back rooms.
- It is estimated that the number of people who need wheelchairs will increase by 22 percent over the next 10 years, with the greatest need existing in developing countries.
- In developing countries, only a small percentage of those who need wheelchairs have them, forcing dependence upon family and friends to get around. For others, the only way to get around is to crawl, or lie in a bed or corner of a room for years at a time.
- Despite tremendous efforts by many relief organizations, they are still not sufficient to meet the overwhelming need. Traditionally there have been three wheelchair delivery options—sadly, none of which is adequate for a country’s poorest disabled citizens:
 - >> Wheelchairs available in the West: The most basic durable wheelchair with similar features to the type we deliver costs from \$375 to \$500, not including shipping charges. This sum is out of reach for most disabled people in developing countries. In Vietnam, for example, a disabled person may earn about \$30 a month—if she or he is able to work.
 - >> Refurbished wheelchairs: There are several organizations that refurbish and distribute wheelchairs very professionally and responsibly. Unfortunately, their efforts cannot hope to meet the overwhelming need.
 - >> Wheelchairs manufactured in country: Some developing countries have domestic wheelchair manufacturing operations. But the wheelchairs still must be sold to disabled citizens and are almost always too expensive for the destitute.
- *The wheelchairs provided by the Wheelchair Foundation are purchased in bulk from Chinese manufacturers, and designed to be the best possible solution in developing countries. They cost \$150 each, delivered by a 280-wheelchair container, and are offered free to those most in need. Each donation of \$75 will be matched by the Wheelchair Foundation to deliver a wheelchair. \$21,000 will deliver an entire 280-wheelchair container.*

Kenneth E. Behring

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

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

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

Ken Behring founded the Blackhawk Museum and the Behring-Hofmann Educational Institute in Blackhawk, California, to benefit the San Francisco East Bay region. In 1997, he pledged \$20 million to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, and in 2000 he pledged an

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

additional \$80 million to rebuild the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. For only the fourth time in the Smithsonian’s 170-year history, the prestigious James Smithson Award was bestowed on Behring in recognition of his generosity and vision. The Blackhawk Museum is now an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

In 1999 Ken donated shipments of wheelchairs to relief organizations in Eastern Europe and Africa. His personal contact with the recipients gave him a greater understanding of how much hope and happiness can be given to a person who receives a wheelchair. In the following months, he traveled the world delivering wheelchairs to numerous countries. On June 13, 2000 (his birthday), the Wheelchair Foundation was established at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Since June of 2000, Ken 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 and abilities of the disabled, and are a great force in propelling the mission of the Wheelchair Foundation. In 2002, Ken was awarded an honorary doctorate by Brigham Young University for his worldwide charitable efforts.

Ken and Patricia, his wife of 54 years, reside in Blackhawk, California. They have five sons and ten grandchildren.



international board of advisors

MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ADVISORS OF THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION ARE INDIVIDUALS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING WHEELCHAIRS TO CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS AROUND THE WORLD WHO CANNOT AFFORD ONE FOR THEMSELVES. THE ADVISORS BRING THEIR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE TO BEAR IN PROVIDING VALUABLE COUNSEL ON THE DIRECTION OF THE FOUNDATION AND SUPPORT IN ACCOMPLISHING ITS GOALS AND FULFILLING ITS MISSION.

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WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED SINCE JUNE 2000

Afghanistan	5,890	Laos	500
Albania	550	Latvia	240
Algeria	140	Lebanon	1,749
Angola	3,240	Macedonia	500
Argentina	1,971	Madagascar.....	500
Armenia	1,844	Malawi	1,920
Bahamas	640	Malaysia	1,700
Bangladesh	240	Malta	240
Belarus	240	Mexico	26,803
Belgium	280	Micronesia	250
Belize	520	Moldova	480
Bolivia	2,294	Mongolia	540
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1,010	Montenegro	120
Botswana	350	Morocco	240
Brazil	1,815	Mozambique	600
Burundi	240	Nepal	1,226
Cambodia	500	Nicaragua	2,135
Cape Verde	226	Niger	240
Central African Republic	240	Nigeria	780
Chile	1,940	Pakistan	655
China/Tibet	35,043	Palestinians/Israel ..	1,965
Colombia	890	Panama	2,840
Costa Rica	3,888	Papua New Guinea ..	740
Croatia	490	Paraguay	784
Cuba	1,000	Peru	3,589
Czech Republic	600	Philippines	730
Dominican Republic	5,272	Poland	11
Ecuador	2,809	Puerto Rico	250
Egypt	808	Romania	1,090
El Salvador	3,336	Russia	460
Eritrea	250	Rwanda	5
Estonia	250	Saint Lucia (UK) ..	280
Ethiopia	1,888	Samoa	1,171
Georgia	250	Senegal	240
Ghana	1,220	Serbia	250
Greece	240	Sierra Leone	1,000
Guam	250	Somalia	88
Guatemala	3,196	South Africa	2,460
Haiti	811	Spain	775
Holy See (Vatican City)	1,000	Sri Lanka	240
Honduras	2,784	Sudan	200
Hungary	120	Suriname	240
India	2,686	Swaziland	240
Indonesia	520	Syria	88
Iran	2,160	Taiwan	756
Iraq	280	Tajikistan	240
Israel	4,010	Tanzania	568
Italy	1,018	Thailand	2,770
Jamaica	1,220	Trinidad & Tobago ..	1,320
Japan	750	Turkey	1,520
Jordan	1,200	Turkmenistan	240
Kazakhstan	730	Uganda	1,284
Kenya	1,760	Ukraine	2,297
Korea, North	240	United States	15,449
Korea, South	780	Uzbekistan	990
Kosovo	1,080	Venezuela	605
Kyrgyzstan	490	Vietnam	2,779
		Virgin Islands (US) ..	280
		Western Sahara	153
		Zambia	120
		Zimbabwe	990

TOTAL COUNTRIES 118

TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS 203,116

For current totals visit wheelchairfoundation.org.



LEFT: ROTARIANS DELIVERING WHEELCHAIRS IN KOREA. RIGHT: HAPPINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA.



STORIES OF HOPE, MOBILITY AND FREEDOM

A Birthday Miracle On a Sunday afternoon in the capital of Brazil, we stopped at a local church and asked the *padre* if he knew of any disabled person in the area who needed a wheelchair. He said yes, got into a car and led us into the countryside down red sandy roads.

We arrived at a small cinderblock and tin shack at the end of the road. Here we were introduced to a family of eight. Their “farm” had chickens and ducks in the yard, a single old swayback horse and a small garden. They had an open well with a bucket and rope for bringing up water. There wasn’t much else there. We were led to their house, a single room with one bed and some mats on the floor. In one corner was a large chair covered with rags.

In it was a girl with arms and legs like fragile twigs. She had beautiful brown eyes and a very charming smile, but she was unable to speak. Her mother told us she was 18 years old and had been like this since birth. She lived in the chair and was unable to take care of herself. We set her in the wheelchair, and adjusted the leg rests to accommodate her withered limbs. Soon her sisters began wheeling her around the yard. The girls laughed and smiled. Her sisters told me that they like the wheelchair because it meant that they didn’t have to carry her everywhere. They were also excited that they could take her to more places with them.

Her father, who had been talking with the *padre*, knelt down with him and they prayed. When they finished their prayer, the father came and thanked us. He said “Today is my birthday. This very morning I got up and asked God for one

gift for my birthday, for someone to help my daughter. This Sunday, God sent you to me for my birthday. I thanked the Lord and I thank you.”

It was a very touching experience to be considered an answer to a prayer, delivering a wheelchair to a girl and a miracle to her father.

Kindergarten at the Age of Eight In the Philippines we were introduced to a father and daughter. He told us that she was 8 years old and had never been able to go to school because she didn’t have a wheelchair. Now that she was getting a wheelchair she would be starting school.

She didn’t seem able to make the new wheelchair move, and was quite distracted by all the attention she was getting as we took pictures and spoke about her wheelchair. As things began to wind down and conversations turned away from her, she began to pay more attention to her new wheelchair. We watched her from the other side of the room as she slowly, reluctantly, placed one hand and then the other on the wheels. Her face was determined as she managed to make herself move about a foot. I watched her do this for about 10 minutes, slowly inching her way across the floor, being careful not to be seen by anyone. Soon everyone noticed that she was on the opposite side of the room.

The girl stopped and acted like nothing happened, then she looked at us with the biggest smile we had ever seen. Later her father said, “I have carried her since birth. She has never seen a wheelchair until today. She is a smart girl, and that is why this wheelchair is so important, so she can go to school.”

born again in china



From August 13 to 18, 2003, Ken Behring and the China Disabled Person's Federation delivered 1,140 wheelchairs in the cities of Beijing, Qingdao, Dongying, Chongqing, Wenzhou, and Shanghai. In addition to these wheelchairs, Mr. Behring indicated that another 8,500 wheelchairs would be sent to these cities in 2004. At a distribution in Chongqing on August 15, 2003, an emotional young lady by the name of Ms. Jiang Xinglan (pictured left) caught the eye of Mr. Behring. Below is the account of the translator who was witness to what transpired in Chongqing that afternoon at the wheelchair distribution.

ABOVE LEFT: OVER 500 STORIES OF HOPE AND NEW LIVES. ABOVE RIGHT: A WARM WELCOME FOR KEN BEHRING IN CHINA. BELOW: WARM GESTURES OF FRIENDSHIP ARE ABUNDAANT.

August 15, 2003 - Chongqing, China

At the distribution ceremony, a woman wept very hard and caught Mr. Behring's attention. Mr. Behring said, "I want to talk to her." When Ms. Jiang Xinglan saw Mr. Behring walking to her, she cried even harder. Mr. Behring held her hand and said to her, "We are here not only to give you the wheelchair, but also to give you friendship and love." While she was crying, Ms. Jiang explained that she hadn't been able to go outside for 10 years. She kept on saying, "Thank you so much!" to Mr. Behring. Ms. Jiang lost her mobility in a gasoline factory explosion. One of her legs was lost, and the other was severely wounded and cannot move at all. She is raising two children. Her 75 year-old father is living with her and her husband in the rural area of Chongqing. The family has never made enough money to afford a wheelchair.

After Ms. Jiang was disabled, the only way for her to move herself was to use two wooden blocks. She sits on one of the blocks, puts the other block next to her body, and then moves onto the other block. She can only move herself block by block. Now, with her new wheelchair Ms. Jiang said she is able to move herself very easily in her house.

Today is a very important day for Ms. Jiang. It is her first time to visit Chongqing city since she lost her legs in the gasoline factory explosion. She said before she lost her legs, she went to the city very often. However, after she was disabled, without a wheelchair it was impossible for her to go out. She said, "I am so happy to have a wheelchair now. I am going to go to the park with my husband this afternoon, which I dreamed of for 10 years. I feel as though I have been born again."



You can help us get wheelchairs to the disabled in China!

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT UP TO 35 MILLION CHINESE CITIZENS ARE WITHOUT MOBILITY OR THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO PURCHASE A BASIC MOBILITY WHEELCHAIR. IT IS THE GOAL OF THE WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION TO EDUCATE AMERICAN COMPANIES OPERATING IN CHINA ON THE NEED FOR WHEELCHAIRS, AND OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS VALUE OF SPONSORING MANY THOUSANDS OF WHEELCHAIRS THAT HAVE THEIR COMPANY LOGO STITCHED ON THE BACK OF EACH ONE. \$21,000 SPONSORS A 280-WHEELCHAIR CONTAINER ANYWHERE IN CHINA.

PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

mobility for the most remote

Iquitos, on the banks of the headwaters of the Amazon River, is the most important city in the Peruvian Amazon jungle. Iquitos and the neighboring floating city of Belen are located 4 degrees south of the equator and are populated by a combination of indigenous tribes and the descendents of the European and Chinese immigrants that began to populate the area in the mid-1800s, just prior to the rubber boom. With a population nearing 400,000 residents and a remote location that prevents physically disabled people from receiving what Western cultures consider basic health care, the Rotarian's mission to bring wheelchairs to this region of the world was very special and challenging.



In 2002, Joe Mitchell and the Rotary Club of North Colorado Springs asked the Wheelchair Foundation if a container of 280 wheelchairs, sponsored by District 5470, could be delivered to Iquitos at the headwaters of the Amazon River. Since there is no economical way to airlift a container of wheelchairs, and the Andes Mountains stood between Iquitos and the rest of the world, the only possible answer was to send the wheelchairs 2,500 miles up the Amazon River.

A shipping company known to Hope Alliance (one of the mission partners) is located in Fort Everglades, Florida and sends shipments up the Amazon every two months during high water times. The wheelchairs were consigned to the Lion's Club of Iquitos, who would act as our importation and distribution partner.

Nearly ten months after the wheelchairs left the manufacturer in China, 29 Rotarians from the Colorado Springs and Salt Lake City areas traveled to Iquitos to help distribute the wheelchairs. Wheelchair Foundation representative Tom Behring also traveled to be with the team. The wheelchairs went to people with polio, birth defects, the results of accidents and advanced age to name a few. The Rotarians also brought vitamins, crayons, pencils, writing tablets and many other items for the kids of the area.

Jack Thomas commented after the trip that he was involved in two what he calls "Rotary Moments"—those very intense moments when you sense the real difference between being a "Rotarian" and just being a member of a Rotary Club.

The first took place during the visit to Belen. As I walked by, a young boy screamed in pain after being kicked while playing soccer. He had broken both his tibia and fibula in one leg. Apparently such injuries are common because of the terrible nutritional situation among children in Belen. The boy was not just crying from the pain. He said that since he had broken his leg, he knew that he was going to be disabled for life! Medical care is just not available to the



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: HOMES IN BELEN ARE BUILT TO WITHSTAND THE FLOODS OF THE AMAZON; LOCALS AND VISITORS CELEBRATE MOBILITY; CHILDREN OF BELEN, PERU; THE AMAZON IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE AND TRANSPORTATION.

poor in Belen. Joe Mitchell took over and got the boy into a car and to the hospital. A Hope Alliance associated physician was contacted, and he set the boy's leg, arranged for continuing care and got him started on nutritional supplements to strengthen his bones. One Rotarian

remarked that if the child had been injured five minutes later, none of the visiting Rotarians would have seen him or been able to help.

The second event occurred during the distribution of wheelchairs. I learned that a few of the designated recipients were in such fragile health and of such limited means that they could not come to the Lion's Hall to get their wheelchairs. Accordingly, some of the Rotarians had the opportunity to take some the wheelchairs into the recipients' homes. One of the wheelchairs was destined for an older gentleman of very modest means who was severely disabled from a stroke about a year ago. A friend of his took us in her car to the gentleman's home. A local Rotarian hired a taxi to take the wheelchair and joined us. I don't know the words that will adequately describe the feeling we had when we brought a new life to this man in the form of a wheelchair. It is a wonderful thing when you can witness an immediate change in a person's hope for the future and receive a gift of gratitude that brought tears to our eyes.

Many new friendships were made during our mission to Iquitos, and many people have new lives because of their new wheelchairs. In a place where the rare pink Amazon dolphins are a common sight, now 280 bright red wheelchairs are changing the lives of children, adults and entire families thanks to Rotarians who care.

season highlights

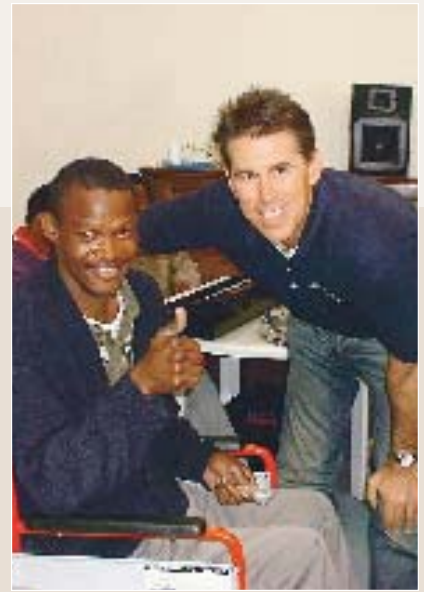


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: >>> His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians, with Ken Behring in the city known as Constantinople. >>> Helping the elderly in Japan. >>> Montreal Expos All-Star José Vidro and Iván Rodríguez of the World Series champion Florida Marlins give children mobility in Puerto Rico.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: >>> Firefighter Mike Mentink and his wife, Dana, with daughters Emily and Holly, who collected \$75 to help a disabled child. >>> New friends and mobility on the same day in Mazatlan. >>> Dr. Robert A. Schuller making dreams come true in Africa. >>> Joy and happiness in Merzifon, Turkey, thanks to the Friends of Merzifon and the Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill, Calif. >>> LDS Charities delivers wheelchairs and mountains of humanitarian assistance in Nicaragua. >>> Steve Largent (second from left) and KP Corporation's CEO Rich Barbie (third from left) among the golfers at the Second Annual Wheelchair Foundation Golf Tournament. >>> Ken and Patricia Behring deliver wheelchairs with LDS Charities in South Africa.



gesture of peace



**KEN BEHRING
DELIVERING
HAPPINESS
IN KABUL.**

Afghanistan is a country in the process of starting over. Decades of civil war and oppressive occupation have left the Afghan people with little dignity and even less hope. Reconstruction efforts are slow. Landmine and unexploded ordnance accidents are still everyday occurrences with 200 to 300 people being injured per month. It is estimated that there are 700,000 to 800,000 physically disabled people in the country. Of those that are in need of wheelchairs, half are disabled due to landmines or unexploded ordnance, the other half from polio and other causes.

Traveling along the streets of Kabul was quite an experience. Large trucks decorated with colorful shiny beads and bangles lined the dusty, potholed roads. On both sides of the street were hundreds of open-air shops that offered fruits, vegetables and hanging meat, as well as tires and machinery parts. Goats grazed along the road on what little vegetation grew out of the dry, sandy soil.

Our armored convoy turned off the main road and headed toward Camp Watan, a high-security U.S. military training facility that we would call home for the next few days.

We made our way through concrete bunkers as if we were going through a maze. Thick concrete and stone walls topped with barbed wire surrounded us. Many Afghan nationals were being trained here to help in the process of rebuilding the country. Security was the biggest focus, but even the cooks worked hard to create delicious “all American” meals for us.

Part of our two days were spent meeting with the many government officials who worked at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. It was through their efforts that we were able to set up the wheelchair distribution.

Finally, the day we had all been waiting for had arrived; by 8 a.m. trucks laden with wheelchairs began to appear. A large yellow awning was hoisted up over the central courtyard area of the camp. American and Afghan soldiers worked together hurriedly lining up wheelchairs and preparing tables and chairs. Several of the army units brought pencils, papers and colorful canvas backpacks to give away as gifts to all

the recipients. Hundreds of Afghani and American flags were brought along to give to everyone as a sign of friendship.

By 9:30 a.m. the first buses began to arrive. The State Department and U.S. AID officials had already fit most of the recipients for their new wheelchairs a few days earlier, so they were especially excited to receive a wheelchair of their very own.

Family members and U.S. soldiers assisted the disabled as they made their way off the buses. Many were carried, some crawled, and some used simple handmade crutches. Everyone took a seat under the awning and each recipient patiently waited his or her turn to receive a brand new, shiny red wheelchair.

One of the first recipients was a young man of 18 who excitedly wanted to share his agility skills with the other new wheelchair owners. Another very handsome young man crawled over to his wheelchair, but was unable to get into it by himself since his body was missing from the waist down as a result of a landmine explosion. A group of U.S. soldiers rushed to his side and were more than happy to help give him a lift into his wheelchair.

As soon as everyone was seated in their new wheelchairs we photographed each recipient as they held a placard giving his or her name and age. With a few exceptions, everyone seemed much older than their actual age. It's no wonder, since the average life expectancy in Afghanistan is only 47 years old.



LEFT: >>> Carrying his brother to get a wheelchair. RIGHT: >>> Before today, mobility was very difficult. BELOW LEFT: >>> A symbol of peace and friendship on the back of each wheelchair. BELOW RIGHT: >>> Landmines claim 200 to 300 victims per month.



As the distribution came to a close, we noticed a man pulling himself along the ground with his hands. A landmine had blown his entire lower body away. His only protection from the rocks and dirt was a piece of cardboard he had tied around the bottom of his torso. He told us he had missed the bus, but hoped there was an extra wheelchair for him. He had a wife and six children and he wanted the wheelchair

so he could go back to work and provide for his family. Several soldiers quickly brought a wheelchair, and as they picked him up and placed him in it, he placed his right hand over his heart and smiled. This was his way of thanking them not only for his new wheelchair, but also for his new way of life.

Throughout the event I saw many of the U.S. soldiers moved to tears. They thanked Mr. Behring, the representatives from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Knights of Columbus for their generosity and compassion for the disabled of Afghanistan. The soldiers were grateful for the opportunity to participate in an event that made such a difference to the Afghan people, and spread the joy of unselfish giving.

When the distribution ended everyone was treated to a traditional Afghani meal. As some of our delegation walked around to make sure that our new friends were well served, we were met with warm smiles and gestures of gratitude. No words were needed.

After a long, very good day, State Department representative Heidi Fincken was being driven back to the U.S. Embassy. She passed by two of the wheelchair recipients making their way down the dusty road. On the back of each wheelchair an embroidered image was easily visible from her car. It was two hands clasped together, above which flew an American and an Afghani flag.

Gestures of peace and friendship brought many people together that day, and created a new awareness in the minds and hearts of several cultures. No matter what language was spoken or which rank was held, the common thread of people helping their neighbors in need rang a chord in the hearts of all who attended the life-changing events at Camp Watan that day. It is our hope that these first few steps will lead to more help and a brighter future for the physically disabled of Afghanistan.





the gift of giving

By Jacalyn Leavitt, First Lady of Utah



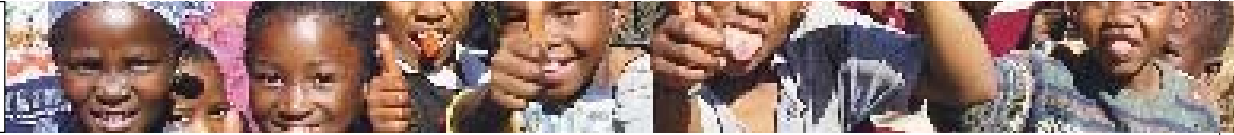
Left: >>> Jackie Leavitt touching hearts in South Africa. Above: >>> The last trip on someone's back for this child in Cape Town.

In July of 2003, Ken Behring and a delegation made up of representatives from LDS Charities, The Greek Orthodox Church and Crystal Cathedral Ministries embarked on an 18-day mission that would include wheelchair distributions in Turkey, Egypt, Russia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The following are selected excerpts from Jackie's Column, written by Jacalyn Leavitt, First Lady of Utah, chronicling that mission, and can be read in its entirety on our Web site at www.wheelchairfoundation.org.

Ken Behring's keen business mind and ambition have brought him worldwide acclaim and the ability to rub shoulders with royalty and leaders of countries. These same entrepreneurial skills

have made it possible for the Wheelchair Foundation, which he founded three-and-a-half years ago, to distribute over 200,000 wheelchairs throughout the world. His partner in this endeavor and in 54 years of marriage is his wife, Patricia. She is the perfect complement to his intensity, for she provides not only support, but also the balance to their "on-the-go" lives. The Wheelchair Foundation is the capstone to Ken's business ventures and philanthropic projects. It would be presumptuous for anyone to think it possible to provide the 100 to 130 million wheelchairs needed to eradicate immobility on this planet, but surrounded by capable staff who are united in their passion to give hope and dignity to those who cannot move on their own, Ken Behring has taken on this challenge.

My first connection with the Foundation came when Libby Pataki, First Lady of New York, helped arrange a wheelchair distribution in Puerto Rico last March and invited me to travel with her. Placing a person in a wheelchair for the first time penetrates one's soul.



Along with the Behrings and Foundation leaders on this 18-day mission, our group included Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Schuller, representatives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and volunteers hoping on and off at various points along the way who assisted with the wheelchair distributions. Every member of our traveling group was deeply touched by the personal stories of those they met. Some were sad tales of years of deformed limbs, or accidents where legs were lost. Others were more common tales of bodies weakened with age and unable to support any weight. Each country held sobering memories.

was at a SPAR grocery store, a strong local partner of the Wheelchair Foundation. One health official there explained, "For many people, a wheelchair would cost a year's salary."

A group of about 30 had come from a care center for the mentally challenged located near a SPAR store to support two of their members receiving wheelchairs. Theo and Zettie have not been able to go with their friends to the store because they are not able to walk. Not participating with their group would make them feel very sad. Each Wednesday afternoon the group visited the SPAR store for an outing. There are some seats located in the store where they sit and enjoy drinks and cookies the store offers to them. Theo and Zettie were brought on this special day to receive wheelchairs. The most sincere response came when their friends clapped as they received the wheelchairs, and the loving hugs that followed. The group was so delighted that their two friends had wheelchairs and could now join them on outings.



LEFT TO RIGHT: >>> Ken and Patricia Behring with Theo in Pretoria. >>> LDS Charities Director Gary Winters and a happy young man in Cape Town, who came back to thank LDS for the wheelchair he received the year before. >>> His Beatitude Petros VII with Ida in Alexandria.

Alexandria, Egypt

The wheelchair distribution was held at the Monastery of St. George. His Beatitude Petros VII, Greek Orthodox Patriarch and Pope of Alexandria and All Africa, presided over the event. The church is associated with a nursing home and a hospital, and the wheelchairs were given to seniors who were in need of help.

In the Beatitude's remarks he said, "Mr. Behring knows the value of money is not in the material goods you can buy, but in the good one can do. He is helping his brothers and sisters. We have this same belief to help mankind."

The elderly had struggled as they entered. Francis wore the very traditional man's white tunic called a *galedea*. Mary, who spoke some English, called us "angels." Ida, who only spoke Arabic, buried her head in the Beatitude's robe, reveling in the attention being shown to her. Patty expressed the deep feelings of the aged, saying, "You bring us joy. You are a gift to those living without hope."

Pretoria, South Africa

Our first distribution in South Africa was at Pretoria, the capital city. It

As the first township distribution began, the people gave us a cheer. They yelled out three times, "Viva Wheelchair Foundation! Viva!" In his remarks, Ken Behring responded, "We have traveled across the ocean to bring love and hope to the people of South Africa." Several times, during the introductory comments, the community broke out in spontaneous singing. It was beautiful and harmonious. They sing together from the time they are very young; when a group is gathered, they sing. As we left, an elderly lady who received a wheelchair said, "God give you more power to help. May God protect you."

A new perspective comes to the people being lifted into a wheelchair. They are now able to look into other people's faces instead of only looking at their feet. The Behrings agree their lives have been changed as they travel the globe changing the lives of others. And those of us who have been privileged to work with the Wheelchair Foundation are grateful for being allowed to join in their efforts. This organization has given to us the tools to show our humanity.



frequently asked questions

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

A: It is estimated that at least 100 million children and adults worldwide need a wheelchair but cannot afford one. Some international organizations believe that the number could be as high as 6% of the population of developing countries. The number in Angola is 20% of population of 12 million people. 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 type of wheelchair would normally cost \$375 - \$500 in the US, 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 with comparable features sells for up to \$1,700 USD in some 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, until these combinable gifted funds have been exhausted. 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 (NGO's), First Lady's organizations, and local health agencies 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 that can now go to school, adults that can go to work and seniors that can once again become an active part of family life and society.

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

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 established and successful distribution relationships. There are currently 61 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 photo of a 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 organizations are working with us here in the US to distribute wheelchairs to people that need one but cannot afford one.

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

A: Yes. The wheelchairs that we distribute are specifically designed for the rough conditions of developing countries. Extra heavy wheels, tires, and front casters, sealed bearings, nylon seating, painted steel tubing and standard nuts and bolts make these wheelchairs easily maintainable and deliver the best possible performance for most conditions.

Q: What is the goal of the Wheelchair Foundation?

A: Our goal is to create awareness of the needs and abilities of the physically disabled, promote the joy of giving to the less fortunate, create global friendships, and to distribute 1 million wheelchairs in the next 5 years. Through our worldwide efforts, we are also creating the awareness that wheelchairs are no longer an unaffordable relief item for delivery to needy countries.

Q: How can I help?

A: 1. Your tax-deductible donation will make the difference between people wanting to live or die. 2. Get the word out! Tell people that you are now a part of the most ambitious relief mission of its kind in the history of our civilization! 3. Help us create awareness! Host a dinner or cocktail party in your home to tell people about how you are 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 sticker on the wheelchair identifying the sponsor of an entire 280-wheelchair container. They will be the hero, and many people will be given a new lease on life.

Q: How can I attend a Wheelchair Foundation event or distribution?

A: Please visit the “Events” page of our Web site at www.wheelchairfoundation.org.

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 policy's 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. **Wheelchair Foundation Tax ID# 94-3353881.**

Please visit our Web site for more detailed information about planned giving.

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, 3820 Blackhawk Road, Danville, CA 94506-4617 USA

TO WATCH OUR VIDEOS OF WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTIONS AROUND THE WORLD OR TO DONATE ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT WWW.WHEELCHAIRFOUNDATION.ORG.



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RECIPIENT AND A CERTIFICATE DEDICATED FROM YOU, TO A
SPECIAL PERSON IN YOUR LIFE. THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO
TELL SOMEONE HOW DEEPLY YOU CARE THAN TO CHANGE A
LIFE IN HIS OR HER NAME.**



Sample Presentation Folder

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