

Changing THE WORLD



SUMMER 2016

A MESSAGE FROM KEN BEHRING



A happy summer to everyone who gets this message. 2016 has proven an exciting and busy year! We could not have asked for a better reception from the public for *The Spirit of the Old West* exhibit at Blackhawk Museums. Every time I visit the exhibit it is full of children and adults in awe of the incredible story of the building of the America West and our fascinating artifacts.

In June, I celebrated my birthday in my favorite way, with the winners of the 2016 *National History Day* finals in Maryland, and we had a party at the Smithsonian for all the finalists from around the country and abroad. My wife, Pat, and I have always been passionate about education and educators, and this is our chance to honor both at the same time.

Wheelchair Foundation continues to distribute thousands of wheelchairs worldwide every month. Our wheelchairs go to tiny islands out in the ocean, and to the biggest cities on the planet. They always seem to find their way to where they are needed most.

I want to finish this message with a note of thanks to our donors, volunteers and partners. Wheelchair Foundation's mission continues to touch the lives of people all over the world. Your actions speak volumes about your passion for this cause.

Kenneth E. Behring
Founder and Chairman

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 these people, the Wheelchair Foundation delivers Hope, Mobility and Freedom.

Our Goal

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

Mobility

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

Changing the World
is published by:

Wheelchair Foundation,
3820 Blackhawk Road,
Danville, CA 94506
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A Division of Behring Global Educational Foundation
Tax ID # 94-3353881

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Summer 2016 Issue

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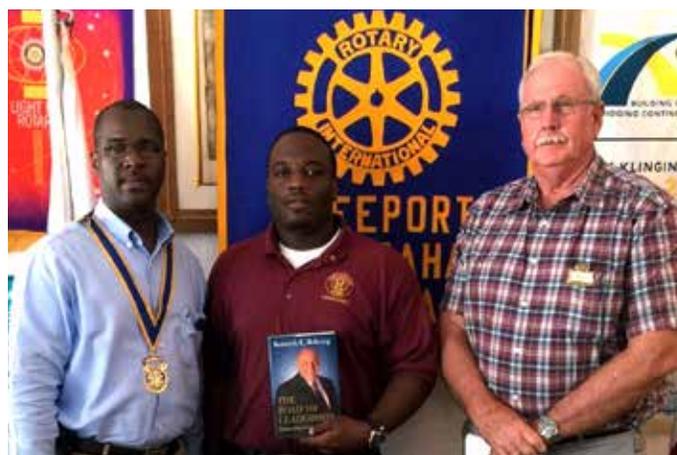
WHEELCHAIRS COMMITTED OR DELIVERED

Afghanistan.....	7,150	Liberia.....	780
Albania.....	550	Lithuania.....	1,090
Algeria.....	1,480	Macedonia.....	760
Angola.....	6,790	Madagascar.....	1,270
Antigua and Barbuda.....	280	Malawi.....	3,530
Argentina.....	11,009	Malaysia.....	4,040
Armenia.....	3,244	Mali.....	1,060
Australia.....	292	Malta.....	240
Azerbaijan.....	280	Marshall Islands.....	140
Bahamas.....	2510	Mauritania.....	100
Bangladesh.....	350	Mexico.....	166,569
Barbados.....	1,120	Micronesia.....	1,265
Belarus.....	990	Moldova.....	1,720
Belgium.....	280	Mongolia.....	1,320
Belize.....	3,095	Montenegro.....	120
Benin.....	280	Morocco.....	5,470
Bolivia.....	5,574	Mozambique.....	1,660
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	2,040	Myanmar (Burma).....	500
Botswana.....	1,688	Namibia.....	466
Brazil.....	2,305	Nepal.....	3,275
Bulgaria.....	530	Nicaragua.....	8,330
Burundi.....	520	Niger.....	240
Cambodia.....	3,630	Nigeria.....	1,420
Canada.....	560	Northern Mariana Islands.....	410
Cape Verde.....	780	Oman.....	280
Central African Republic.....	240	Pakistan.....	3,175
Chile.....	11,388	Palestinian Territories.....	1,906
China.....	410,382	Panama.....	12,980
Colombia.....	12,847	Papua New Guinea.....	2,080
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the.....	205	Paraguay.....	2,614
Costa Rica.....	8,735	Peru.....	12,867
Croatia.....	1,300	Philippines.....	10,835
Cuba.....	1,800	Poland.....	2,700
Cyprus.....	280	Portugal.....	990
Czech Republic.....	597	Puerto Rico.....	490
Dominica.....	280	Romania.....	3,571
Dominican Republic.....	8,958	Russia.....	2,230
East Timor.....	110	Rwanda.....	2,200
Ecuador.....	9,889	Saint Lucia.....	830
Egypt.....	1,168	Saint Petersburg.....	120
El Salvador.....	9,820	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	665
Eritrea.....	250	Samoa.....	1,360
Estonia.....	500	Saudi Arabia.....	20
Ethiopia.....	3,468	Senegal.....	630
Fiji.....	1,840	Serbia.....	2,370
France.....	560	Sierra Leone.....	2,610
French Polynesia.....	280	Slovenia.....	110
Georgia.....	1,030	Solomon Islands.....	110
Ghana.....	2,610	Somalia.....	88
Greece.....	520	South Africa.....	22,800
Grenada.....	280	Spain.....	500
Guam.....	250	Sri Lanka.....	3,170
Guatemala.....	9,508	Sudan.....	280
Guyana.....	250	Suriname.....	520
Haiti.....	5,320	Swaziland.....	1,970
Honduras.....	7,434	Syria.....	641
Hong Kong.....	970	Taiwan.....	756
Hungary.....	120	Tajikistan.....	480
India.....	2,716	Tanzania.....	3,528
Indonesia.....	3,340	Thailand.....	8,410
Iran.....	3,880	Tibet.....	331
Iraq.....	4,300	To Be Determined.....	1,045
Israel.....	8,110	Tonga.....	500
Italy.....	580	Trinidad & Tobago.....	5,720
Jamaica.....	3,970	Turkey.....	5,550
Japan.....	1,750	Turkmenistan.....	520
Jordan.....	5,022	Uganda.....	9,664
Kazakhstan.....	1,510	Ukraine.....	5,350
Kenya.....	2,930	United States.....	35,834
Kiribati.....	375	Uruguay.....	1,862
Korea, North.....	752	Uzbekistan.....	1,240
Korea, South.....	5,700	Vanuatu.....	250
Kosovo.....	1,300	Venezuela.....	3,030
Kyrgystan.....	1,240	Vietnam.....	14,476
Laos.....	780	Virgin Islands (UK).....	284
Latvia.....	740	Virgin Islands (US).....	280
Lebanon.....	2,430	Western Sahara.....	153
Lesotho.....	1,060	Zambia.....	2,646
		Zimbabwe.....	2,840

TOTAL COUNTRIES AND REGIONS..... 150+
TOTAL WHEELCHAIRS..... 1,034,187

For current totals visit wheelchairfoundation.org

**WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION FLORIDA
 PROVIDING WHEELCHAIRS FOR BAHAMAS**



ABOVE : <<< (left to right) Rotarians from partnering clubs with Stephen Gunn, Chairman of *Wheelchairs for the Handicapped Programme* for Rotary District 6690. <<<

Wheelchair Foundation Florida and the Hofmann Family Foundation partnered with the Rotary Clubs of Grand Bahama (Freeport, Sunrise and Sunset), to provide 110 brand new wheelchairs to the disabled and less fortunate throughout Grand Bahama, Grand Cay and Abaco Islands.

District 6690 Rotarian Stephen Gunn, who chairs the club's *Wheelchairs for the Handicapped Programme*, revealed that, "Since 2002, over 970 wheelchairs have been distributed around the community in partnership with the Bahama Council for the Disabled, with Rotary members delivering wheelchairs directly to recipients' homes as part of their service."

Drive Fore Mobility
 Golf Tournament
 August 15, 2016

SAVE THE DATE
 Monday, August 15, 2016

• Concessions • Skill Challenges • Horse Race
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Wheelchair Foundation Florida
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BUILDING ON A DECADE LONG PARTNERSHIP WITH MONTERREY, MEXICO, ROTARIANS

BY JOSH BURROUGHS



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: <<< Rotarians and volunteers pose with a 14-year-old wheelchair recipient. <<< Families supporting loved ones with mobility disabilities express their gratitude for the gift of a wheelchair. <<< Wheelchairs unpacked and staged for distribution throughout Monterrey and the surrounding area. <<< Providing young adult wheelchair riders with an easily foldable wheelchair can make a difference in their ability to get around metro areas, and open new opportunities for suburban transit. <<< FACING PAGE - TOP LEFT: Rotarians help with seating and adjustment of a new wheelchair. <<< Josh Burroughs and fellow Rotarians attend to young "Alfredo" and his mother, learning more about recipients, their lives and challenges faced on a daily basis. <<<

*The best way to find yourself
is to lose yourself
in the service of others.*

-Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi said it best, and I can't think of a better way to describe the feelings felt on our immersive wheelchair distribution in Monterrey, Mexico, a joint venture between the Rotary District 5170 (Bay Area) and the Silicon Valley Chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation.

I had the honor of serving on this mission trip delivering 560 wheelchairs and participating in hands on service projects with our local Rotarian partners. This life changing experience (now my 8th wheelchair distribution to date) continues to affect me as a constant reminder of the many blessings we have here in the states, and our obligation to reach outside comfort zones to share our gifts of time, talent and treasure with others.

What was equally inspiring was the sheer generosity of our donors towards this project. In less than 8 months, starting with a modest challenge grant from the Silicon Valley Chapter and Rotary 5170 District Governor Susan Valenta, the campaign caught on like wildfire throughout the Bay Area Rotary clubs – a huge outpouring of support from individuals, businesses, and foundations.



THE DAY AFTER EVERYONE DEPARTS, MONTERREY, MEXICO, ROTARIANS RECEIVE A CALL FOR HELP FOR A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN A REMOTE VILLAGE.

ROTARIAN ROLANDO CHAVEZ RECOUNTS PUTTING THE ROTARY NETWORK IN TO ACTION:

“The first thing I did was check with Victor Quintanilla, who works for Carlos Sandoval, who is a member of the Rotary Club of San Nicolas de los Garza in District 6971, to see if they had a size 14 wheel chair, and they did. I called my son, who works for Fed-X, and he said he could deliver the wheelchair to Queretaro, Mexico, as a courtesy.

“I just needed to figure out who would deliver it to the little girl at the village? I looked up Rotary Clubs in Queretaro, Mexico, at 9:00 PM that same night and found one that had a phone number, Club Rotario de Queretaro. I called and the person that answered told me they were having their weekly meeting and I asked if I could speak to the club President? I didn’t have an idea who he was? He took my call and identified himself as Jose Manuel Alvarez, President of the club. I explained the situation to him and he offered to help.

“On Tuesday the 12th of April, Jose Manuel personally delivered the wheelchair to Julieta, the seven-year-old recipient who did not know she was going to get it. It was a surprise. Months earlier she had been told that her aunt who lives in Redding, California, and works for a Rotarian, was trying to get one for her. We made a beautiful little girl and her family very happy!”

This tangible gift of mobility and its life changing impacts were sourced locally, and distributed globally, but the effects on the lives of the recipients can only be briefly documented through my experience delivering the chairs. The true impact will be lifelong, and one in which entire family-units are transformed.



Check back soon for a follow-up article on our 2nd mission trip, to Panama in October 2016, where we will be delivering 560 wheelchairs in another great Central American outpost.



Saint Lucia

The Land

The People

The Light



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: <<< Jane Behring, wife of *Wine for Wheels* founder Jeff Behring and photographer, poses for a photo with members of the Saint Lucia Rotary club of Gros Isles and young man who has been waiting for a new wheelchair. <<< Jeff Behring, Founder of *Wine for Wheels*, unboxes and assembles a few wheelchairs at the dock in Soufriere, in view of one of Saint Lucia's most famous geological wonders, the Pitons. Saint Lucia is also one of the few islands in the world that boasts a drive-in volcano. <<<

It was a glorious day as 30 of us loaded wheelchairs aboard the vessel MV Free Willie, and cast off from the city of Castries, for the picturesque town of Soufriere, the former capital of Saint Lucia and the birthplace of Empress Josephine, the wife of Napoleon Bonaparte. Our group consisted of visiting Rotarians from the Rotary club of Pleasanton, California, and members of Wine for Wheels, as well as Rotarians from the Rotary club of Gros Islet.

We docked, unpacked and assembled wheelchairs. Soon we were joined by the Parliamentary Representative for the area who would act as our guide as we delivered wheelchairs to home bound citizens. We met so many beautiful and welcoming families and loved ones. Following a day of home visits, we delivered the remainder of the wheelchairs we had brought along with us to the staff of the Soufriere Hospital, who would continue the community distribution.





The following day we held a distribution at *Saint James's Club* at Morgan Bay. Jeff Behring, the Founder of *Wine for Wheels*, explained that he is building on his father's legacy. His dad started Wheelchair Foundation after a visit to the Far East. He was privileged to donate a wheelchair to someone who, upon regaining their independence as a result of receiving this simple gift, expressed that their despair had been replaced by a will to live.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: <<< Our hosts from the Rotary clubs of District 7030 along with Rotarians from Pleasanton, California, and *Wine for Wheels* supporters celebrate the gift of wheelchairs at *Saint James's Club* at Morgan Bay. <<< Working closely with our Parliamentary Representatives while personally delivering wheelchairs to those unable to make it to a centralized distribution location. <<< Houses built on stilts make getting in and out very difficult for those with mobility challenges. Space is limited inside Saint Lucia's small homes, and a wheelchair can have a huge impact on those who are homebound and living alone. <<< *Wine for Wheels* supporters husband and wife Rick Harding and Patty Kleiber with a woman benefitting from their efforts. The couple, who hosted a *Wine for Wheels* event on Skidaway Island, Savannah, Georgia, in October of 2015, wanted to travel to Saint Lucia, to personally deliver their gift of mobility so they can share their first-hand experience with others. <<<



One of the highlights of the week was donating wheelchairs to the Child Development and Guidance Centre. It was touching to see the positive impact the wheelchairs made in the children's lives, and to observe the passion that Dr. Kim Gardner and her team has for each child.

For the remainder of the week teams of Rotarians and the Ministry of Health delivered more than 150 wheelchairs to individuals in need of mobility.





Wheelchair FOUNDATION

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MOBILITY FOR AMERICA

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Wheelchair Foundation's *Mobility for America* program has provided more than 10,000 wheelchairs to Americans in need of mobility, but without access to a wheelchair, right here in the good old U.S.A!

Your \$150 donation can provide a much needed wheelchair to someone nearby. We help Veterans and the elderly, schools and hospitals, the homeless and the forgotten who have fallen through the cracks, and maybe even someone you might know?

