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**Answering Prayers
with the Gift of Mobility**

Luis Ornelas, 4



WHEELCHAIR SUNDAY PARISH DRIVES FUND THE DELIVERY OF WHEELCHAIRS, GROW MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, AND TEACH CHARITY AS A WAY OF LIFE!

Wheelchair Sunday

The most successful fund raising event for the delivery of wheelchairs is a “**Wheelchair Sunday**” parish drive. Please visit the Knights of Columbus page of our website at www.amwheelchair.org to download the “Wheelchair Sunday” booklet for the complete instructions on how to conduct a “**Wheelchair Sunday**” parish drive.



These parish drives are also the most successful membership tool you will ever experience. After seeing our video during Mass and hearing our presentation, parishioners will have a new understanding of the charitable work being done around the world by the Knights of Columbus. We then invite the gentlemen to join us, and the rest is done by personal contact outside at the information tables.

You will change lives with the delivery of wheelchairs, and you will increase membership in your council.

It is easier than a pancake breakfast!

Since 2007, Knights across the U.S. have been having “**Wheelchair Sunday**” parish drives to raise funds for the delivery of wheelchairs. These drives have sponsored tens of thousands of wheelchairs to the Bahamas, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, the Holy Land, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Philippines, Vietnam, and to Veterans across the United States, while adding hundreds of new Knights to the councils involved.

Please visit our website to watch videos of Knights delivering wheelchairs around the world, read articles or donate.

For more information or to mail donations:

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Our Mission

The American Wheelchair Mission is a non-profit organization with a goal to deliver brand new, free wheelchairs and mobility aids to physically disabled children, teens and adults throughout the world who are without mobility or the means to acquire a wheelchair. The American Wheelchair Mission will continue to change the lives of entire families with the gifts of hope, dignity, freedom and independence.

The Need

We estimate more than 100 million people worldwide are in need of a wheelchair but cannot afford one. Our gift immediately changes the lives of entire families by answering prayers and making dreams come true.



Our Program

The American Wheelchair Mission is a non-profit organization that delivers free wheelchairs to children, teens and adults without mobility or the means to acquire a wheelchair.

Since 2003, Knights of Columbus and Catholic parishioners have sponsored the delivery of tens of thousands of wheelchairs around the world to people in dire need of mobility.

We deliver brand new, high quality wheelchairs by entire sea containers.

The high-quality wheelchairs we deliver in 6 sizes (14, 16, 18, 20, 22 & 24-inch seat widths) would sell for over \$500 in a medical supply store, but because we purchase them in bulk and ship them by ocean freight containers of 110 or 280 wheelchairs each from the factories to the country of destination, we can do it at an average price of \$150 per wheelchair.

For entities interested in delivering an entire container of wheelchairs to a specific country or local destination, a donation of \$16,500 will deliver a container of 110 wheelchairs to a destination in the lower 48 United States. A gift of \$42,000 will deliver a container of 280 wheelchairs to a chosen country, provided AWM has a distribution relationship in that country. A logo or short text of the donor's choice will be stitched onto the seatback of each wheelchair. **At retail, these containers of wheelchairs are valued at \$55,000 and \$140,000.** (For special sizes or delivery destinations, costs may vary)

The Wheelchairs we deliver allow children to go to school for the first time, adults to go to work to provide for their families and the elderly to get out of a bed they may have been confined to for years at a time. We are answering the prayers of entire families.

Over 100 million people worldwide need a wheelchair but cannot afford one!

Our gift delivers Hope, Dignity, Freedom and Independence.

We estimate that each wheelchair delivered changes and improves an average of 10 lives!

Since 2007, Knights across the U.S. have been having "Wheelchair Sunday" parish drives to raise funds for the delivery of wheelchairs. These drives have sponsored tens of thousands of wheelchairs around the world, while adding hundreds of new Knights to the councils involved.

For more information, to watch videos and download the "Wheelchair Sunday" handbook, please visit the Knights of Columbus page of our website at: www.amwheelchair.org.

\$150 Sponsors the delivery of a brand new wheelchair

The wheelchair delivered by the American Wheelchair Mission would sell for more than \$500 in a medical supply store. Yet because we purchase wheelchairs directly from the manufacturer, and ship them 100 to 280 wheelchairs at a time by ocean freight containers directly to the country of destination, we can deliver this \$500 wheelchair with each \$150 donation we receive.

VISIT OUR SITE

Amwheelchair.org

On our website you will see videos of wheelchair distributions around the world, photos of people and their families who had their lives changed by the gift of a wheelchair, and stories of our mission that touches lives in a very tangible and immediate way.

Join Us!

Join us on a wheelchair distribution trip – Please email Dan Moberg at: dmoberg@amwheelchair.org for details.

Blessing Children in Mexico

It is so easy to touch the lives of children, and give them a brighter future!

The Teleton Rehabilitation Centers for Children throughout Mexico are saving the lives of children who have been disabled by diseases from birth or injury. Through their televised “Teleton” each year since 1996, they have raised the funds to build 22 of the most advanced and beautiful rehabilitation centers anywhere in the world. They also created a children’s cancer hospital and an autism center.

The combination of medical and holistic therapies are allowing children to live happier and more productive lives. Parents are directly involved in the therapies at the “CRIT” centers, and continue the process at home. This approach is allowing children with afflictions such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and other conditions to live better lives, and makes it easier for parents to care for them.

A wheelchair is one of the most common needs of the patient families, but they just cannot afford it. Since 2005, CRIT centers have received thousands of wheelchairs donated by Knights of Columbus, allowing children to go to school, and relieving the parents of the need to carry their growing children everywhere they go.

Knights of Columbus councils in Texas, California, Idaho and Nevada have been especially active delivering wheelchairs throughout Mexico, and many prayers of entire families are being answered.

Donating a wheelchair to a child in Mexico is a blessing for both the recipient and the donor.



Changing children’s lives



Bishop Kevin Vann and Alexi



Fr. Tom Cloherty in Merida



Gift of an angel



Bishop Kevin Vann, Pachuca



George Mesina living the Gospel



Joselyn Segura, 19, Tampico



Terry Simonton and a new friend



Bill Weber touching lives



Maria Moberg feels the gratitude

Embracing the Holy Land

On a humanitarian level, everyone gets along beautifully in the Holy Land.

Within the walls of the old city of Jerusalem we visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Western Wall, and some of the most memorable sites in the history of our world. Traveling north we stay in Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee and visit sites such as the Mount of Beatitudes, the site of the Miracle of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes in Tabgha, St. Peter's home in Capharnaum and Mount Tabor.

From Tiberius we are a short drive from Cana and Nazareth where we deliver wheelchairs to individual homes with priests and nuns of the Franciscan Wedding Church in Cana. There is a considerable population of Israeli citizens who are of Palestinian Christian descent, and many are in the position of needing a wheelchair.

Rabbi Menachem Kutner of the "Chabad Terror Victims Project" is a valuable partner in our efforts to import wheelchairs into Israel, and then distribute them throughout the Chabad network. We also send wheelchairs to Caritas Jerusalem, Catholic Relief Services and organizations such as the Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children, the Caritas centers in Bethlehem and numerous locations in the West Bank serving Palestinian Christians, who are in the most dire need of assistance.

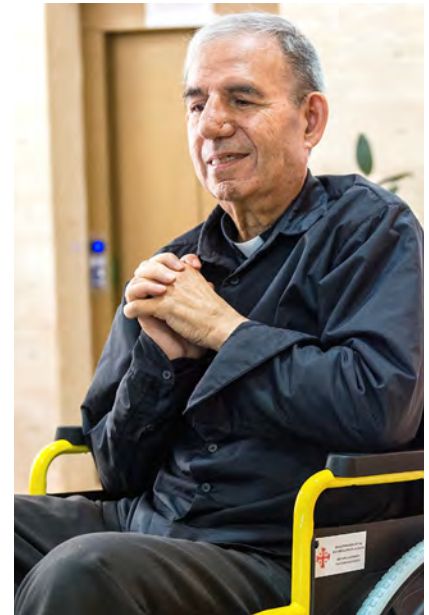
We have always experienced great relationships with people working together to help those in need of mobility. From our purely humanitarian perspective, the rhetoric spewed out by the political machines inside their own borders does not originate in the hearts of the great majority of the people in the Holy Land.

There is reason to be optimistic about working to help the physically disabled residents of the Holy Land. Through the Caritas, Catholic Relief Services and affiliates network, wheelchairs have been delivered in numerous countries, including Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

You can help us cross borders and change lives with the gift of mobility.



Barra, 12, Princess Basma Center



Fr. John Sansour, Bethlehem



First wheelchair he's owned



Jerusalem



Happy to have a wheelchair



Fr. John Neneman, Bethlehem



Aya, 3, Nazareth



Fr. Francis Maria, Cana



Fadi, 10 in Jerusalem

Sincere Gratitude in Vietnam

Vietnam is populated by some of the nicest and most sincere people in the world!

People in need of mobility in all 26 Catholic dioceses of the country have been helped by our partner, Caritas Vietnam. Tens of thousands of wheelchairs have been delivered into the lives of children, teens and adults who have a new life.

Fr. Vincent Vu Ngoc Dong is the Secretary General of Caritas Vietnam. He and his staff coordinate with Caritas offices and parish volunteers throughout Vietnam to provide wheelchairs and humanitarian aid to the poorest of the poor.

The American Wheelchair Mission distributes wheelchairs and mobility aids throughout the country, and we visit the homes of many people receiving the wheelchairs. Even the most minimal worldly goods do nothing to dampen the warmth and generous gratitude we receive from these gentle people.

Some 9 million Catholics live in Vietnam, and the parishes are vibrant, growing, and energetic to educate and inspire the next generations.

Past California State Chaplain, Fr. John Neneman said, "The experience of delivering wheelchairs in Vietnam is life changing. All notions of what it would be like, or how we would be treated, were thrown out the window. These are among the most warm, gracious, prayerful, and grateful people I have met in any part of the world."

It is a life changing experience to visit Vietnam and touch lives in a meaningful way!



New Mobility in Saigon



Very thankful Nguyen Thi Can



First mobility



Fr. Lane Akiona in Vinh



Happy angel



Tricycle push/pull wheelchair



Celebration



Fr. Dominic Pham in Hanoi



Fr. Eric Lofgren in Hai Phong



Troy Chesnut touching lives

Compassion Needed in the Philippines

So much for some, and so little for others.

The Philippines is a very unique place for many reasons. It is a beautiful bounty of thousands of islands, populated by the largest Catholic community in Asia, and the biggest gap between the haves and have nots.

Poverty surrounds the gleaming towers of hotels and condos that make up the “cities” in the center of Manila, and the Compassionate Franciscan Sisters of the Poor feed 450 children per day who live in the now closed city dumpsite in Malabon just two miles away.

The need for mobility is dire among the poor throughout the Philippines, and we are blessed to work with the Franciscan sisters and numerous other organizations to deliver life changing wheelchairs throughout the country.

In many cases, a wheelchair allows children to go to school for the first time. The joy on the face of a 15 year old girl who can now go to school, is as memorable as any from any country. The tears of joy from a woman who can return to church for the first time in years is heartwarming.

Archbishop Rolando Tirona of the diocese of Caceres said, “To be able to bless these people’s lives with the gift of a wheelchair is something I will never forget.”

Working with the Ateneo schools and universities, and parishes throughout the country, our gift of mobility is answering prayers of entire families, and Knights of Columbus have taken the lead in bringing this blessing to them.

Sharing what we have with those who have nothing, is truly a blessing for everyone.



Eric Watson in Davao City



Gratitude in Cebu City



Fr. Lane Akiona in Naga City



Fr. Pascual Abaya in Tacloban



Fr. Lane Akiona answering prayers



Sisters of compassion in Paranaque



Fr. Vic Panaligan in Naga City



Carmelite nuns in Naga City



Fr. John Neneman in Davao City



Tears of joy and relief



Salve, 7, is so happy

Serving Our Communities



Someone very close to you may need a wheelchair!

Since 2007, Knights of Columbus councils across the country have delivered thousands of wheelchairs to veterans and needy members of our local communities.

Each year, thousands of wheelchairs are delivered by Knights of Columbus across America and most are now in the hands of veterans, their family members, VA affiliated centers and people in our own communities.

Hundreds of wheelchairs each year are given to the Honor Flight hubs nationwide “to transport America’s Veterans to Washington, DC to visit the memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of themselves and their friends.”

In our local parishes, there are always elderly members in need of wheelchairs to help them through their daily lives, and ease the burden of having to rent a wheelchair for \$50 per month while on a fixed income.

Children’s hospitals, Ronald McDonald Houses and Fisher Houses give wheelchairs to patients coming from other states and countries for medical procedures, and often they cannot afford a wheelchair.

During a wheelchair distribution in San Antonio, Texas Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller said, “Jesus

is among us, and the Knights of Columbus are the living Gospel and answering prayers with the gift of these wheelchairs.”

One WWII vet in Washington, DC commented, “I may be past my prime, but give me a good set of wheels and I’m on the road to happiness!”

We can all stand tall knowing we help our brothers and sisters in need.



Matthew, 7, in Minneapolis



Shorty Aaron, 63, Mosses, AL



Veterans at the Washington, DC VA



Grateful Vet



Honor Flight at WWII Memorial



Wheelchair distribution in San Antonio



Archbishop Gustavo Garcia in San Antonio



Richard Moken in Selma, AL



Wheelchairs benefit our nation's heroes



Our wheelchairs go to Honor Flight recipients

Photo Gallery



Honduras



American Samoa



Guatemala



Jamaica



Sierra Leone



Bahamas



Kenya



Ethiopia



Chile



Haiti

Knights of Columbus and Wheelchairs

Since 2003, Knights of Columbus have sponsored the delivery of tens of thousands of wheelchairs around the world, and right here at home to veterans and their families in need of mobility.

Since 2007, Knights across the U.S. have been having “Wheelchair Sunday” parish drives to raise funds for the delivery of wheelchairs. Beginning with Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Pasadena, California, where Fr. Gerard O’Brien coined the phrase “Wheelchair Sunday,” this program has spread across the country and sponsored thousands of wheelchairs.

The first 5 parish drives in Southern California raised enough money to sponsor the delivery of 1,000 brand new wheelchairs and added more than 150 new Knights to the local membership.

Please visit the Knights of Columbus page of our website to learn how you can host a “Wheelchair Sunday.”



Fr. Fabian Marquez with a new friend in Chihuahua, Mexico

Please visit our website to watch videos of Knights delivering wheelchairs around the world, read articles or donate.

For more information, please contact:

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