

Fall Quarterly 2008



Wheeling Delivers!

A two week adventure of blessing

ABOVE | A young girl from Vietnam receives a much needed wheelchair.

This September, sixteen members of the Vineyard Church from Wheeling, West Virginia, travelled to Vietnam with their second delivery of wheelchairs! After seeing founder Don Schoendorfer promoting his cross country bike trip on the CBS Morning Show last November, congregant Chris Figaretti was inspired to reach out and make a connection.

“I remember thinking to myself...what a great way to spend your life!” Chris added, “That afternoon, I emailed to see if I could meet up with them on the road.”

Meet up they did, and the Vineyard Church jumped into action. After conducting multiple fundraising efforts, this dynamic congregation has now raised over \$180,000 to support the Free Wheelchair Mission. To learn more about the Wheeling distribution trips, see Chris’s blog at www.chrisinvietnam.com. ■

*The need in Vietnam is great!
Our largest partner in the region,
Giving it Back to Kids, has on-going
demand for four containers a month
– That’s 2200 wheelchairs!*

IN THIS ISSUE

Networking in Atlanta

Have Fun with the Run!

Christmas Joy

Magic in India

Letter from Don

Ambassador for Mobility

345,000 wheelchairs shipped **70** countries



Free Wheelchair Mission®
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE GIFT OF MOBILITY



DON SCHOENDORFER ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

The Power of Networking with Network 21!

A transformational evening of opportunity

One of the most powerful gifts our donors have shared over the years is the opportunity to network – providing us the chance to share the mission and communicate the vision with their group of friends and business companions. We were gifted with such an occasion this September when long-time supporters and distribution partners Jim and Nancy Dornan invited our founder, Don Schoendorfer, and FWM Development Manager, Alyson Roth, to the Network 21 National Leadership Convention in Atlanta.



BACK ROW: DON, JIM DORNAN, OLEKSII MAUTANOV. FRONT: ALYSON ROTH

Network 21 is a leadership organization founded by the Dornans for the thousands of independent Quickstar business owners worldwide. Central to the core values of the organization is their philanthropic arm, the “Network of Caring” – and it was under the network’s warm welcome that Free Wheelchair Mission was received.

We were invited to share our story with 3,000 highly motivated people from all over the USA, Canada, and Europe. Several hours after the presentation and still talking late into the night, Don and Alyson shared the word about Free Wheelchair Mission and enjoyed some inspirational camaraderie. They made connections with possible distribution partners and received pledges for containers to be sent around the world. So far, over \$17,000 has been raised from this very generous crowd. It was a ground-breaking evening, and one from which meaningful friendships have already sprung.

From a tiny acorn grows the mighty oak tree, and perhaps the greatest blessing is this precious seed of opportunity – the chance to share the stories and get the word out about the transforming gift of mobility. If you would like to introduce Free Wheelchair Mission to your network of friends, please contact us at (949) 273-8470. ■



INSIDE THE CONVENTION

Magic in India



INDIA FAMILY

This story comes from our own database manager, Robert Woller, who just returned from India:

The heat inside was stifling, but it could do nothing to dampen the excitement and the happy occasion about to unfold. A good hour before the ceremony would start, a large crowd of soon to be recipients and their families had already gathered. Their faces spoke volumes, having endured lifetimes of hardship. I could see a look of hope and relief in their eyes as they stared at the row of wheelchairs in front of them.

One of the recipients, a man in his late 40's, had sustained a head injury that left him disabled. Unable to walk or speak, he relied completely upon his wife and son and it took both of them just to feed and dress him. The ceremony commenced and they placed him in his chair. The man's son appeared to be about my age, and as I put my arm around him for a photo, his eyes welled with tears. We did not have to speak the same language for me to understand. The life of his family changed forever because of this chair, and he was so very thankful for the miracle gift.

That connection meant everything to me. After two years of working with the database, I knew a lot about the nuts and bolts of our organization. But in that single moment, everything came full circle. Now I truly understand our mission. Those tear filled eyes told me how much a wheelchair would change this family's life forever, changing my life forever as well. ■

Robert



ROBERT WOLLER, FWM DATABASE MANAGER

Deliver *the* Meaning of Christmas

The holidays are just around the corner, and the goal this year is to raise funds to distribute 39,000 wheelchairs! Look at how some of our donors are celebrating the season and changing lives!

Want a unique alternative to traditional holiday gifting? Pick from a selection of beautiful cards or choose a commemorative ornament as your offering to family or friends. In exchange for your donation of \$51.29, a wheelchair will be sent around the world. What a perfect way to honor a loved one! View selection at www.freewheelchairmission.org/christmas2008.html or call (949) 273-8470.

- Throw a holiday party and share the word!
- Set up a wheelchair in your office and decorate it with Christmas lights and a donation jar!
- Having a bunko party? Grab the dice and invite your friends to throw some money in the pot for a wheelchair!
- Need a Secret Santa gift? Surprise them with something truly meaningful – a wheelchair given in their honor.
- Forget the pajamas and slippers this year – in lieu of gifts, put in a good word for Santa to send along donations to send wheelchairs around the world.
- Invite your church community to share their treasures with the global community! FWM has designed a holiday campaign for your place of worship – we welcome the opportunity to send a fundraising package along to your pastor or outreach coordinator. ■

R · U · N
FOR MOBILITY 2009



Go Team Peyton!

The inspiration of one 12-year-old

Team Peyton raising funds for FWM

Team Peyton is up and running! This dynamic fundraising group is on its way to meeting its goal to raise \$2,000 for wheelchairs, but it's the story behind the team that makes it so very special.

Team Peyton is the inspiration of 12-year-old Jamie Driver of Lake Forest, California. For her upcoming June Bat Mitzvah, Jamie is fundraising for FWM in honor of 7-year-old Peyton Vaughn – the daughter of close friends, Peyton uses a wheelchair for transportation as a result of a stroke she suffered while an infant. Jamie's team includes the Driver and Vaughn families and is expected to grow as more friends sign on with Team Peyton.

Peyton Vaughn has a long history with FWM – at the age of four, she participated in our first Run for Mobility. Our founder and president Don Schoendorfer along with

special guest Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah of Ghana walked with Peyton during the event and pushed her wheelchair along the race course. Peyton even raised \$800 for wheelchairs!

In addition to participating in the Surf City USA Marathon, Team Peyton is planning a book sale and a frozen yogurt fundraiser. Check out the Team Peyton fundraising page at www.runformobility.org! Free Wheelchair Mission thanks Jamie Driver and Team Peyton for their inspiration and support and appreciates their work to send wheelchairs around the world! ■



PEYTON VAUGHN WITH DON – RUN FOR MOBILITY 2006

Our Goal

- Raise \$600,000 to donate 11,600 chairs!
- 5K, half and full marathon
- Raise \$500 and run or walk for FREE!

Sign up today at www.runformobility.org February 1, 2009

FROM DON SCHOENDORFER, President and Founder

Greetings,

It is amazing – how God so blesses us with creative talents. I remember my first mission trip, how resourceful people in developing countries were at being able to get by with so little. It takes me a complete kitchen to cook a meal, but I saw ladies preparing complicated Indian cuisine on the ground with a few pots, rocks and an open fire.

Creativity thrives here at home, too, and we see it in how people raise funds for wheelchairs. A couple in Idaho raffled off a chance to go trout fishing at a secret pond. Inmates in the Polunsky Prison Partnership Ministry (3PM) in Texas send us postage stamps. Nicolai climbs a mountain with one leg. One lady makes and sells potholders with her favorite images of happy wheelchair recipients. A nursing home in Santa Barbara sold home-baked cookies (thousands of them!) People have walked, run, rode bicycles and even crawled. All to raise money for wheelchairs! High school students have washed cars and sold their clothes. One supporter grows and sells pumpkins. Rotary clubs have raced wheelchairs. A newlywed couple in West Virginia sold their home. Artists have sold their paintings and musicians have performed their songs. Cooks have prepared delicious dinners. There have been garage sales, bake sales, attic sales, basement sales and car sales. People have cut hair, painted nails, told fortunes, and given plane, boat, car, and horse rides...all for wheelchairs. I could go on and on.

Our ingenuity, resourcefulness and faith will see us through, even while navigating the current challenging economy. We are getting creative, and we hope you will join us, utilizing your own unique gifts to help us continue to meet the needs of the communities we serve. These troubled economic times will pass, but our disabled brothers and sisters around the world continue to wait for the gift of mobility, and they look to us for mercy. ■

God Bless,



Don



DON SCHOENDORFER



MARIE GEORGE, PALM HARBOR, FL

Pushing Forward

Ambassador for Mobility Helps Share the Message!

Marie George of Palm Harbor, Florida is a woman with a passion for mobility! After hearing of FWM on television, she started a fundraising page and has raised over \$3,000. Marie knows well how much it means to have mobility – she has been using a wheelchair for 10 years due to multiple sclerosis. Now Marie's mission is to spread the word to help people in developing countries get wheelchairs. "Wherever I go," Marie said, "I tell

people about Free Wheelchair Mission, and I remind them of Matthew 26:40 – I tell you, whatever you do for the least important of these followers of mine, you do it for me!" Join Marie and become an Ambassador for Mobility at www.fwm.kintera.org. Create your own fundraising page and download fundraising tools! *Thanks, Marie, for pushing forward as you share the mission!* ■



GO ELECTRONIC

Our quarterly newsletter, *...mobility* is now available electronically!

If you'd like to receive our next issue by email, sign up online at

www.freewheelchairmission.org or fill out the enclosed mail preference card.

OUR MISSION & VISION

The Free Wheelchair Mission is a faith-based, nonprofit organization based in Irvine, California. Its mission is to "Transform lives through the gift of mobility to the physically disabled poor in developing countries as motivated by Jesus Christ." Its vision is to "Creatively partner with like-minded international humanitarian and indigenous organizations to place 20 million wheelchairs."



Free Wheelchair Mission®

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE GIFT OF MOBILITY

Correspondence Only

9341 Irvine Blvd.
Irvine, CA 92618

Donations

PO Box 513538
Los Angeles, CA 90051-3538

Contact Us

Toll Free 800.733.0858
Phone 949.273.8470
Fax 949.273.8471
Donations 866.496.4545