

The Journey of a Wheelchair

Step One | Stateside

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Wheelchairs begin their journey stateside, in the planning and development of Free Wheelchair Mission's extensive fundraising efforts.

In addition to direct donor support, individual fundraising efforts, foundation assistance, government grants and FWM events are vital to funding on-going program expenses.

Step Two | Factory – Shanghai, China

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Two factories in Shanghai, China, manufacture the wheelchairs to the exact FWM specifications.

The chairs are stacked and the accompanying parts are boxed for transportation.

Step Three | Loading – Shanghai, China

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At the factories, shipping containers are loaded. Each container holds a total of 550 wheelchair kits,

along with cushions, hand pumps, patch kits and assorted hardware.

Step Four | Transporting – Port of Shanghai

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The containers are then trucked from the factory to the port of Shanghai where they are loaded on freighter ships and transported to their country of destination.

Step Seven | Distribution Ceremony

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Wheelchairs are distributed at ceremonies, large or small, or are distributed individually as needed.

The partner organization records and photographs the distribution process and sends reports back to FWM headquarters.

Step Six | Unload and Assemble

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Local workers and volunteers unload the container and assemble the wheelchairs. Working with local government,

charitable, church and medical authorities, the distribution partner establishes guidelines for recipients, working to verify need and locate appropriate beneficiaries.

Step Five | Port Destination – Customs

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Upon reaching the port destination, the qualified, in-country distribution partner working with FWM meets

the container at the dock. The partner organization works with local authorities to clear customs, then arranges for the container to be transported to the site for distribution.