



“In December 2012, I was looking for meaningful Christmas gifts and came upon gift cards from Free Wheelchair Mission. Everyone loved them. I did some research and decided to get more involved.

“What I love about FWM is the incredible tangibility of it. The donations aren’t going to a service in a faraway place that you’ll never see. With \$80, you can change a life with a wheelchair that you can see, touch, and feel.

“The power of the gift is magnified. It doesn’t just change one person’s life—it impacts their friends and family as well. They’re incredibly grateful for the free gift of mobility...and humbled to be the recipient of such a life-changing gift.

“Giving to FWM has demonstrated to me that every-one can absolutely make a difference. You make an immediate impact in someone’s life. You not only enable a life, you give this person the ability to give to others in return someday. There’s that magnifying factor.”



MAGNIFYING FACTOR

David Hummelberg assembling a GEN_2 wheelchair in Peru.

Lifting Lives in Uganda

Over 13%

of Ugandans live with a disability, according to a 2016 report by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics.



God Transformed Lives Because You Gave



freewheelchairmission.org/provide

Go online 24 hours a day for easy one-time or monthly giving.



Please send checks to:

Attn: Dept 921
Free Wheelchair Mission
PO Box 52001
Phoenix, AZ 85072-9615



949.273.8470

Call Monday to Friday
8:00am to 5:00pm PST

We Want to Hear From You! Connect with us online and hear more stories from the field.



@FreeWheelchairMission



@FWMission



FreeWheelchairMission.org/blog



freewheelchairmission.org

Transforming lives through the gift of mobility™

Greetings,

When we gave away the first four wheelchairs in India in 2001, we never imagined that we would eventually distribute over one million wheelchairs in 93 countries around the world.

As doors opened into these countries, one by one, we learned that each of them faces unique challenges surrounding matters of mobility.

A wheelchair might be used to traverse rocky terrain in the mountains or navigate a dense urban landscape. It might have to endure high heat and UV rays most days of the year, or it might have to withstand daily tropical downpours.

Different factors also contribute to disabilities among the populace. For example, in countries ravaged by war, limbs are often lost to land mines and other unexploded ordnance, while congenital disorders often occur in lands where adequate nutrition and health care services are beyond the reach of many.

Uganda, in east Africa, has seen a range of these challenges.

Disability in Uganda

Polio left thousands of Ugandans without mobility in the 1970s and 1980s. Countless others lost limbs to gunfire, land mines, and other weapons during an armed conflict in northern Uganda from 1987 to 2007. In recent years, malaria has been a major cause of disability.



Superstition holds that disabilities are contagious, caused by evil spirits, curses, or bad luck. People with disabilities have often been shunned as a result, sometimes hidden by their own families out of fear or shame.

People with disabilities can be denied opportunities to go to school, socialize, get a job, or start a family. With few marketable skills, many end up homeless, begging for money, at the mercy of life on the streets.

But thankfully, things are changing for the better.

Where people with disabilities were once overlooked by the government, they now have a strong voice in the Ugandan Parliament. By constitutional law, 5 Parliamentary seats are specially dedicated to members representing the disability community.

Yet, insufficient resources mean that the needs of people with disabilities are still often neglected.

BUDDING ENTREPRENEUR

Anisha's new wheelchair allows her to expand her seamstress business.



The Gift of Mobility

To date, Free Wheelchair Mission supporters have sent 17,600 wheelchairs to Uganda, and these wheelchairs have been fitted to recipients by distribution partners such as Father's Heart Mobility Ministry. The organization's founder, Francis Mugwanya, began giving away wheelchairs in 2001 by saving his own money to buy wheelchairs for other people.

Francis himself uses a wheelchair, having contracted polio as a child.

As a young boy, Francis had to crawl on the ground and "hated being dirty." Thankfully, he was blessed with a loving family: his parents bought him a bicycle, which his older brother would use to take Francis to school.

When Francis was 11 years old, an organization gave him a wheelchair—a gift that offered him freedom. He was able to go to school on his own, go out with his friends, and attend church on Sundays. "This gift began to change my identity," said Francis.

No longer did Francis feel unwanted by his community. Instead, he began to grow as a leader.

Knowing firsthand the opportunities made possible by the gift of a wheelchair, Francis has dedicated his life to giving the gift of mobility to others. Father's Heart Mobility Ministry has distributed over 7,000 wheelchairs to people with disabilities in Uganda.

One of them is a woman named Anisha, who lost the use of her limbs to malaria when she was two. Tragically, her father abandoned the family, unable to accept the stigma of disability.

Anisha's incredibly resilient mother set out to work by digging holes for other people, determined to earn enough money to pay for surgery for Anisha. Unfortunately, the operation was unsuccessful, as malaria had caused too much damage to her spine.

Anisha inherited her mother's tenacity. She rents a sewing machine and has earned enough money as a seamstress to build two modest homes: one for her and her infant daughter, and another for her mother. However, Anisha's lack of mobility has limited the range of her business, and she has



How does a wheelchair transform someone's life in Uganda?

Watch Moses' story:

http://bit.ly/moses_story

A NEW IDENTITY

Francis Mugwanya of Father's Heart Mobility Ministry, FWM's distribution partner in Uganda, dedicates his life to giving others the gift of mobility.

sometimes struggled to make payments on the sewing machine.

Father's Heart Mobility Ministry connected with Anisha and gave her a new GEN_2 wheelchair.

Mobility means that Anisha can now travel further to find and serve new customers. She now has greater opportunities to improve the quality of life for herself and her family.

Stories like Anisha's—and Francis'—are being written every day, not just in Uganda, but all over the world, thanks to friends like you. The gift of a wheelchair offers more than just mobility; it can bring hope and transformation to individuals, families, communities, and ultimately, entire societies.

Thank you for being part of this.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Schoendorfer".

Don Schoendorfer
Founder and President



MOTHERLY LOVE

The gift of a wheelchair offers freedom to more than just the individual recipient.