

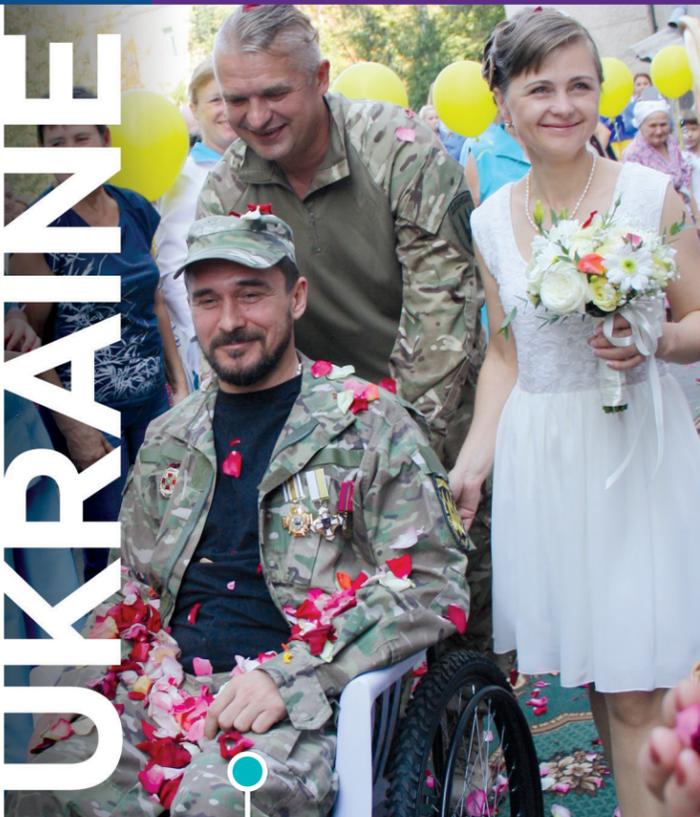
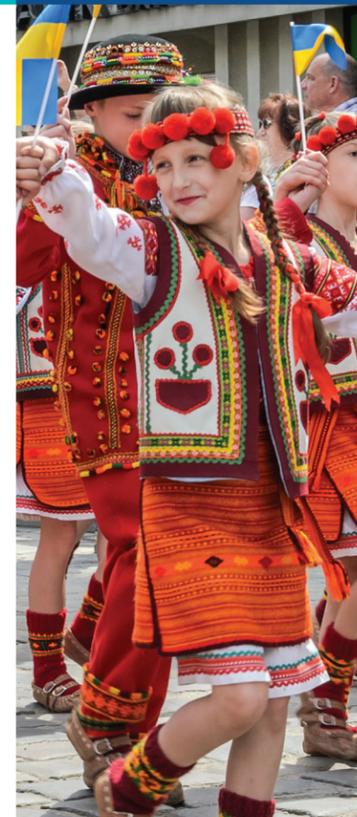


One day, while visiting a relative who had taken up a new hobby after retirement, Kathy Block asked herself, "What do I want to be doing?" Inspired by the generous heart of her late husband, Kathy decided to serve others and give. She had heard about the global need for mobility and contacted FWM through a mutual friend.

In 2017, Kathy was invited to join a wheelchair distribution in Peru; that same day, she learned that she had stage 1 cancer. She underwent treatment, determined to get well enough to go, and while lying on the radiation table one day, she asked herself, "What is my intention with this trip? Does it matter if I go or not? Would I still support FWM, even if I can't go?" She recognized that none of this was about her at all, but about those in need of wheelchairs. This epiphany gave her a sense of freedom and peace.

Kathy began giving Free Wheelchair Mission gift cards to everyone around her: doctors, drivers, other people at the hospital. Thankfully, the cancer was successfully removed, and Kathy was able to go to Peru to distribute wheelchairs. "It was a miracle every time," recalls Kathy. "I saw how wheelchair recipients found light, freedom, and joy, to know that as human beings, they matter and are loved."

By God's grace, Kathy is in good health and continues to humbly give and serve for causes including mobility.



UKRAINE

FROM PROSPERITY TO CRISIS

A new FWM wheelchair allowed Evgeniy, a young soldier who was injured in combat, to celebrate his own wedding.

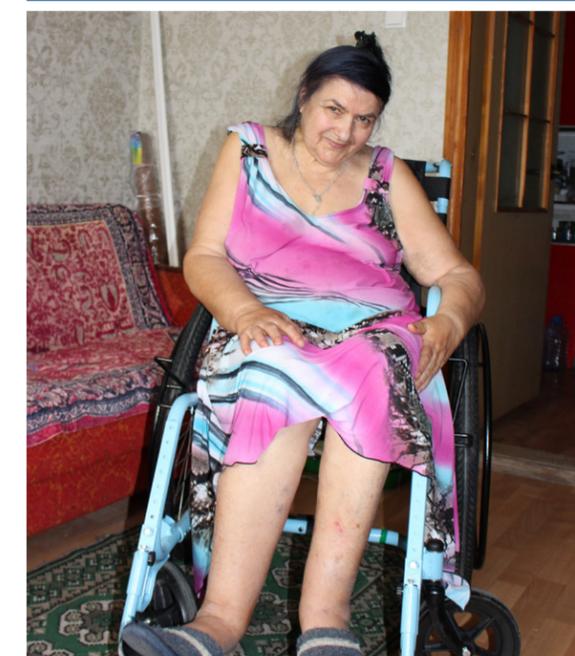
Did you know that Free Wheelchair Mission has distributed wheelchairs in developing countries on five continents, including Europe?

Ukraine, in eastern Europe, was once the breadbasket of the Soviet Union, boasting its second-largest economy. However, a series of developments over the past two decades have weakened the nation's economy, and Ukraine now sees the lowest wages, and the second-lowest GDP per capita, in all of Europe.

Protests in late 2013 and early 2014 led to armed conflict with separatist forces in eastern Ukraine. As a result, more than three million people have fled their homes, taking nothing with them, struggling to survive in unfamiliar places. More than 1.8 million people, including children, have been displaced. Hundreds of thousands of people have been stranded in the war zone with little or no access to food, water, electricity, heat, or medical supplies.

Altogether, there are more than four million people in Ukraine who desperately need humanitarian assistance. One of the great needs is for wheelchairs, which many of those who are in need of them are unable to acquire on their own.

This is where Free Wheelchair Mission's partnership with Mission Eurasia comes in.



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



800.733.0858

Call Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm PST

We Want to Hear From You! Connect With Us Online and Hear More Stories From the Field.



freewheelchairmission.org

Transforming lives through the gift of mobility™



Founded in 1991, Mission Eurasia (ME) addresses the urgent physical and spiritual needs of refugees displaced by the war in eastern Ukraine.

Most displaced Ukrainians cannot afford to buy wheelchairs, which the government is unable to provide. This has left many people, including the elderly and those living with a disability, confined to their homes with very little outside contact.

ME began to partner with Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) in 2014. Thousands of wheelchairs have since been distributed to people trapped in the war zone, as well as to displaced people living in new, unfamiliar cities throughout the country.

BRINGING HOPE HOME

Once a rather successful businesswoman, 67-year-old Valentina now lives an austere existence in the small village of Lyubimova, situated in the Zaporozhye region of southeastern Ukraine. Most of the villagers survive on whatever they can grow in their gardens, but Valentina does not have a garden.

FREE TO EXPLORE

FWM wheelchairs allow individuals like Valentina to leave the confines of their homes and visit friends.



NEW HOPE FOR NADIA

“Now I will be able to go outside. I’m so happy!”

Not long after her husband passed away, her left leg was amputated due to injuries sustained in an accident. Their only son is addicted to alcohol and has been more of a burden than a help to his mother.

A team from ME began to visit Valentina, bringing her meals and getting to know her. When they assessed that a wheelchair from FWM would be suitable for her, they took measurements and custom-fitted her with a GEN_2 wheelchair.

Valentina broke into a radiant smile when she was lifted into her new wheelchair, beaming with joy as she expressed deep gratitude for the newfound sense of hope she received.

“It is truly a life-changing gift,” stated a team member from ME. “The beneficiaries are experiencing much greater freedom thanks to the wheelchairs.”

Nadia, 63, recently experienced this freedom. When their first child was born years ago, Nadia and her husband never expected that the difficult labor would result in debilitating health issues, starting with excruciating pain in her legs. Nadia now contends with polyarthritis, diabetes, and heart conditions.

In 2018, Nadia suffered a heart attack that left her without mobility. Her husband, who serves as her full-time caregiver, wanted her to have a wheelchair; being unable to afford one, he improvised by attaching wheels to a regular chair. Although this was certainly not ideal—an improper wheelchair could cause further



DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY

With many of those who need wheelchairs being unable to leave their homes, Mission Eurasia distributes FWM wheelchairs individually as well as at group events.

health complications—this makeshift mobility aid did allow him to take Nadia to her medical appointments.

Nadia received a new GEN_2 wheelchair from a local organization that partners with ME and FWM to provide wheelchairs. “Now I will be able to go outside,” she shared with a smile. “And it’s so comfortable. I’m so happy!”

POSITIVE IMPACT

In addition to home delivery, FWM wheelchairs are also distributed at hospitals, churches, and Red Cross locations all across Ukraine. “Many of the medical facilities we partner with are able to use the wheelchairs to transport their patients, which is very helpful and has resulted in a positive view of our ministry,” shared ME. In 2018, we expanded our work in Ukraine by launching the *Mobility Beyond Wheelchairs* program, which provides select hospitals and clinics with mobility solutions that include crutches, walkers, surgical tools, and other much-needed supplies that can prevent or reduce the severity of a disability through surgery or rehabilitation.

“Thanks to our partnership with FWM, we have formed new partnerships with several other charitable organizations, and our joint

humanitarian outreach efforts have resulted in greater credibility with the government,” continued ME. “And because our (partners) are highly respected for their wheelchair distribution efforts, their reputation for providing excellent service is providing them with even more opportunities to positively impact their communities.”

Partnerships such as this enable us to carry out our vision—to provide the life-transforming gift of mobility to people with disabilities in developing nations, as motivated by Jesus Christ—and offer hope to those who face challenging circumstances in places like Ukraine.

Thank you for being an integral part of this mission. Your prayers and support are making a positive impact all across the world.



Blessings,

Don Schoendorfer

Don Schoendorfer
Founder and President
Free Wheelchair Mission