

MOBILITY

changes everything



FREE WHEELCHAIR MISSION



THE STORY

In 1977, while on vacation in Morocco, a young engineer and inventor named Don Schoendorfer witnessed the agonizing plight of a woman struggling to drag herself across a busy thoroughfare.

Unable to forget the scene, Don would eventually leave a successful career in the biomedical field and design a durable, comfortable, and cost-effective wheelchair. His unique design became the cornerstone of Free Wheelchair Mission, the nonprofit organization he founded in 2001.

Free Wheelchair Mission is a humanitarian, faith-based nonprofit that designs and manufactures cost-efficient, durable wheelchairs for individuals living with disabilities in developing countries.

In collaboration with a network of like-minded partners, Free Wheelchair Mission has distributed more than 1.3 million wheelchairs to individuals in need in 94 countries around the world, providing renewed dignity, independence, and hope through the gift of mobility, at no cost to the recipient.



Don Schoendorfer (left), the founder and president of Free Wheelchair Mission, celebrating the gift of mobility with Flor (right), who received our one-millionth wheelchair.

THE NEED & SOLUTION

THE NEED IS GREAT

The World Health Organization estimates that 75 million people in the world are in need of a wheelchair.

Without mobility, people living with disabilities are often left confined to their beds or homes, hindering their ability to pursue an education, make a living, or participate in community on their own.



THE SOLUTION IS SIMPLE

We believe in a world where everyone who needs a wheelchair has one.

Our wheelchairs are simple, cost-effective, and highly functional. They are designed to be resilient enough to withstand regular use in rugged terrain commonly found in developing countries.

Because of our unique wheelchair designs and our distribution network, we are able to maximize our impact and provide wheelchairs to individuals living in some of the most remote regions on the planet.

YOUR IMPACT

When you give someone a wheelchair, you give someone the chance to breathe fresh air, visit friends and neighbors—or even go to school or get a job. The transforming gift of mobility changes everything. Mobility means independence, the ability to participate in society and earn a living. It means renewed dignity, leaving behind the days of living on the ground.

Since 2001, more than 1.3 million lives across 94 countries have been transformed by the gift of mobility from Free Wheelchair Mission. Will you get involved today and help transform a life forever?

How much does it cost to transform a life?

For under \$100, a wheelchair can be manufactured and shipped to a person in need. That is less than the cost of a latte a day for a month, a tank of gas for your SUV, a new pair of name-brand shoes, or dinner and a movie for two.

Small sacrifices we can make are life-transforming for those living with disabilities in the developing world.



DUNG'S STORY

Mrs. Hoang and her late husband adopted Dung from an orphanage when he was four months old. When he was two, they noticed that he still couldn't walk or crawl, so they took him to a hospital where Dung was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. His adoptive parents, who were farmers in rural Vietnam, knew that it would be a challenge for them to raise him on their limited resources, but they loved him and refused to give up.

When her husband passed away, Mrs. Hoang was left to care for Dung on her own. Even with help from relatives, they could not afford to buy a wheelchair for the bright little boy, who taught himself how to read after learning the alphabet when he was five. He was a fast and eager learner, but without mobility, he could not attend school.

Dung received a wheelchair from Free Wheelchair Mission when he was six years old. He has thrived as a student and dreams of one day becoming a doctor who can help others who live with disabilities.

DID YOU KNOW?

A wheelchair can also provide education and employment opportunities.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

—Matthew 25:40



FreeWheelchairMission.org