

# Free Wheelchair Mission Partners with Churches



In 1977, Dr. Don Schoendorfer (top photo, right) and his wife were on vacation in Morocco when they witnessed the plight of a woman who couldn't walk, trying to drag herself across a dusty, bustling road while others stepped around her. The scene seared itself onto his heart, and he sensed God calling him to use his time, talents, and treasures to do something about it.

Using his skills as an MIT-trained biomedical engineer, Don set out to design a low-cost, durable wheelchair for use by people with disabilities in developing countries. He built 100 prototypes in his garage and began to give them away during a mission trip to India in 2001.

## That's when Free Wheelchair Mission was born.

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.

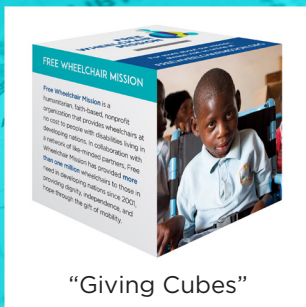
In collaboration with a worldwide network of like-minded partners, Free Wheelchair Mission has distributed more than 1.4 million wheelchairs in 95 countries around the world since 2001, providing renewed dignity, independence, and hope through the gift of mobility, all at no cost to the recipient.

Free Wheelchair Mission is dedicated to supporting your church family as you join our mission to provide the gift of mobility to people living with disabilities in developing countries. Partnering with the faith community, we educate and engage with churches, small groups, children's and student ministries, and VBS to encourage a tangible expression of compassionate outreach. We connect your congregation with God's family around the world, creating opportunities to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through the life-changing gift of a wheelchair, all for less than \$100.

With your contributions, your church will change the lives of individuals with the gift of a wheelchair, offering them renewed hope, independence, and dignity. The World Health Organization estimates that 80 million people worldwide need a wheelchair and cannot afford one. Your church can help us change this.

[FreeWheelchairMission.org/churches](https://FreeWheelchairMission.org/churches)

# Resources for Your Church or VBS



Free Wheelchair Mission is here to support you as you inspire and empower your church, VBS, or school to join our mission in providing the gift of mobility to people living with disabilities in developing countries.

With your contributions, your church or school will provide individuals with the gift of a wheelchair, offering renewed hope, independence, and dignity.

## Church and VBS resources provided at no cost:\*

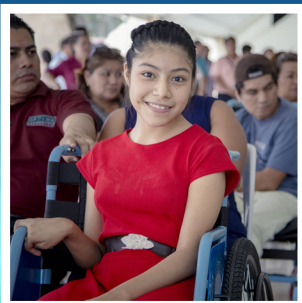
- Vimeo channel to download media to get your church or VBS excited about how they can help change lives
- Wristbands for adults and kids
- Printable Resource Guide with curriculum for your Outreach/Missions rotation that easily fits into Orange, Lifeway, Group, in-house written, and other purchased VBS packages. Our curriculum is also ideal for student ministry and weekend children's ministry programs.
- Editable scripts for each lesson to easily equip volunteers
- "Giving Cube" coin boxes that help kids explain the mission to others
- Story cards with inspiring stories of wheelchair recipients that help kids connect with the need and how lives are changed by the gift of mobility
- 12" x 18" self-standing posters with impact statements from recipients (Ex: "Now I can go to church!")
- Bookmarks featuring stories of lives transformed by the gift of a wheelchair
- VBS tips and tricks for the best experience for your church, including ideas for retaining new families
- Printable activity sheets that match each day's story of a child who received a wheelchair
- Editable, printable poster to promote kids' lemonade stands or other creative ideas
- Downloadable images within scripts to help kids better understand and connect with the mission
- Personalized online fundraising pages, easily shared on social media and your church website
- Prewritten daily email prompts with links to videos to engage families with what kids learn each day
- A wheelchair to display on your stage (shipping not included)
- If your church is in the Southern California area, you may request our founder, Don Schoendorfer, or another Free Wheelchair Mission representative to speak at your weekend service, VBS, men's group, or your celebration weekend service.
- 40-day downloadable Easter devotional, "Wanderings"

\*Supplies of some items may be limited.

[FreeWheelchairMission.org/churches](http://FreeWheelchairMission.org/churches)







## Why should churches partner with Free Wheelchair Mission?

- Our free resources make partnering with Free Wheelchair Mission simple and easy.
- Churches help raise awareness about the staggering number of people who need a wheelchair and can't afford one. Your church can make a difference in the lives of these individuals, sharing God's love through the gift of mobility, and giving the recipient the opportunity to get a job, go to school, or attend church. Mobility changes everything!
- The Bible tells us in Matthew 22:36-40 that when Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was, "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" When we offer help to people, we love like Jesus told us to.

## Other ways churches can get involved:

- Bring your church into the mission by showing one of our Free Wheelchair Mission short videos during your weekend services and take a special offering.
- Consider Free Wheelchair Mission as a recipient for World Communion Day.
- Use our curriculum in your children's and student weekend programs.
- Participate in our annual October x2 Gift Challenge, where your church's gifts are doubled.
- Include Free Wheelchair Mission in your Alternative Christmas Fair and/or offer Free Wheelchair Mission Christmas cards, which feature a holiday message and a gift card with a unique code that can be used to designate a wheelchair for delivery in Africa, Asia, or Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Attend our annual Miracle of Mobility in person, online, or hold a church watch party.
- Join our Move for Mobility and raise funds by walking, running, biking, or doing any activity of choice.
- Have a spotlight table or patio presence with a wheelchair display and Free Wheelchair Mission materials.
- Encourage your church members to join our recurring giving program.
- Feature Free Wheelchair Mission on your church website.

We're proud to be held financially accountable by these independent third-party organizations:



[FreeWheelchairMission.org/churches](https://FreeWheelchairMission.org/churches)