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Legacy and Planned Giving allows you to support our work with gifts that will not impact your cash flow, lifestyle, or family security. Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime, and you can modify your gift at any time to address changing circumstances.

“After establishing our charitable fund, we added it to our trust, in our estate plan, to ensure that the organizations we wanted to support in perpetuity would continue,” said Bob and Val Mohle (left), who are longtime supporters. “Adding Free Wheelchair Mission into our legacy plan, we felt confident that people will be lifted off the ground and into mobility for many decades to come.”

Options for Legacy and Planned Giving include wills and trusts, securities, gifts of real estate or collectibles, life insurance policy proceeds, retirement plan proceeds, charitable remainder trusts, and IRA rollovers.

For more information, visit FreeWheelchairMission.org/legacy or contact development@freewheelchairmission.org.

Legacy & Planned Giving

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Give Today to Transform Lives



FreeWheelchairMission.org/donate

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



Please send checks to:

Free Wheelchair Mission
15279 Alton Parkway
Suite 300
Irvine, California 92618



800.733.0858

Call Monday to Friday
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM PT

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®



REACHING REMOTE VILLAGES

How has Free Wheelchair Mission managed to distribute more than 1.3 million wheelchairs in 94 countries with a staff of just over 30 people, all for less than \$100 per wheelchair?

The answer lies in the strength of our worldwide network of distribution partners.

Instead of stocking inventory and distributing wheelchairs ourselves, we ship containers of approximately 510 wheelchairs directly from our two factories to their destination countries, where our distribution partners import and store them.

Our distribution partners, which are organizations that have been approved and trained by Free Wheelchair Mission, know their communities well and have established connections in the field. This allows them to effectively distribute individual wheelchairs to those most in need.

Through this network, we can reach some of the world’s most isolated people living with disabilities. Our partners routinely brave rough roads, inclement weather, and other hazardous conditions to deliver our wheelchairs by truck, boat, motorcycle, and even donkey.

A few months ago, I traveled to Brazil to join our local distribution partner, Rotary Club Maringá—Parque do Ingá, on an expedition to deliver wheelchairs to indigenous tribes living in remote corners of the country.

DONATE NOW

Provide the life-transforming gift of mobility and give someone renewed hope, freedom, and independence.

FreeWheelchairMission.org/donate



BRINGING MOBILITY IN BRAZIL

Brazil is the largest country in South America, home to nearly 219 million people. According to a 2010 census, 4.4 million Brazilians have “significant” disabilities that affect their mobility.¹ As it is in many developing countries, disability in Brazil is closely linked with poverty: persons with disabilities are more likely than those without disabilities to live in rural areas or in slums and are also 24% less likely to complete a grade-school education; however, if they are part of a minority or indigenous group, that rate jumps to 30%.²

Free Wheelchair Mission has distributed more than 10,000 wheelchairs in Brazil since 2005 through distribution partners including the Rotary Club Maringá—Parque do Ingá. This organization’s unique relationship with local leaders offers unprecedented access to isolated indigenous tribes that require special permission to visit. This has allowed our distribution network to embark on expeditions to deliver new wheelchairs to historically under-served communities in remote parts of Brazil.

On one expedition that I joined, our distribution partner was venturing into new territory where they had never gone before to deliver wheelchairs. The team consisted of government officials and 23 Rotarians that included medical professionals, most of whom have been trained in wheelchair provision.

EXTENDING OUR REACH

Our distribution network allows us to deliver wheelchairs to remote, indigenous tribes.



From the Rotary Club headquarters in Maringá, a caravan of five trucks set off on an arduous, 270-mile drive, braving torrential rains and unpaved roads to deliver 30 new wheelchairs. At one point, one of the trucks got stuck in the mud and had to be towed out by other vehicles. Yet, despite the challenges and setbacks, no one on the team complained. Even in the rain, in a tough situation, it was rewarding to see them in action and learn just how well-prepared they were. With so much advanced planning, there were no surprises other than the heavy rain.

After many long hours on the road, the caravan finally entered Dourados, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul. This region depends heavily on agriculture, but most of its farmable land is underutilized. This is due, in part, to deteriorating road conditions that hinder the transportation of people and goods in and out of the region, exacerbating economic hardship.³ “There are visible cases of malnutrition,” reported Vânia Almeida, president of the State Council for Food and Nutrition Security in Mato Grosso do Sul. “There are low birthweight babies and many debilitated elderly people.” Malnutrition, insufficient prenatal care, and aging are all contributing factors or possible causes of mobility disabilities in the region.

DELIVERING RENEWED HOPE

Virgilia, 57, is a member of the Kaiowá indigenous tribe in Dourados. She was born with a disability but did not lose movement in her arms and legs until 2011, when she was struck in the head and left with severe brain injuries that required surgery. After spending 36 days in a coma, Virgilia awoke to find herself unable to move on her own. She would stay home while her daughter and caregiver, Tatiana, would go out to earn a living. In 2018, Virgilia was home alone when the house caught fire while she was still inside. No one was around to help because the homes in this area are spread apart and separated by corn fields. Tatiana returned from work late that night to find her home engulfed in flames, with her mother burned over 88% of her body.

¹ Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), 2010.

² Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development, The World Bank, 2021.

³ “Improving Access to Major Agricultural Areas in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil,” World Bank, 2017.



HOPE AFTER TRAGEDY

After enduring countless trials, Virgilia (above; seated) could not hide her emotions upon receiving a new wheelchair.

Tatiana had to quit her job to stay home and take care of her mother while also raising two children of her own, along with a niece who lives with them. The strain took its toll on the whole family: with no income, every day was a struggle for Tatiana to feed five mouths.

Our expedition found the family living in a simple structure of corrugated metal, scraps of wood, and strips of burlap constructed in the middle of a field. As we unloaded a new wheelchair from the back of a truck, Virgilia realized that it was for her, and she burst into tears. She could not hold in her emotions as our team lifted her into the wheelchair and made adjustments for a proper fit. Her daughter Tatiana was also overcome with a sense of joyful relief. Tatiana’s hope was that the new wheelchair would enable her to go out and find a way to provide for the family while taking her mother along with her.

After making a few last adjustments to the wheelchair, members of the expedition shared the gospel with Virgilia and her family. The presentation of the message was organized, one of the best I’ve ever seen.

Three generations of Virgilia’s family were blessed by the gift of a wheelchair—and this was just one of 30 wheelchairs given out during the expedition.

“Those wheelchairs changed many lives and helped to change people’s views about disability inclusion in many situations,” said Renata Krambeck, leader of the wheelchair program at the Rotary Club Maringá—Parque do Ingá. “We saw it clearly with indigenous tribes, where kids and adults were excluded from their community

for not being able to walk. After they received the wheelchairs, they were back in community again.”

Other Rotary clubs in Brazil are clamoring to participate in this wheelchair program. Sometimes, they fund parts of the program or sponsor wheelchairs because they are eager to do this work with indigenous communities, which are receiving more attention throughout the country. Free Wheelchair Mission looks forward to our continued partnership with the Rotary Club Maringá—Parque do Ingá.

Our distribution partners might do the final delivery of our wheelchairs, but the process all begins with you. It is your generosity that funds these wheelchairs and ships them to places like Brazil and beyond.

Because of friends like you, people like Virgilia, who might have felt unseen in remote corners of the globe, now know that someone sees them and cares about them.

Your support is transforming lives like Virgilia’s—and Tatiana’s, and the grandchildren’s—all over the world. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Free Wheelchair Mission.

With gratitude,



Nuka Solomon
Chief Executive Officer
Free Wheelchair Mission