

X2 GIFT CHALLENGE

Double your impact with our x2 Gift Challenge this March!

When you give during our x2 Gift Challenge, you will be helping twice as many people to receive the gift of mobility! From March 1-31, your gifts of any size will be doubled, thanks to the gracious support of a group of generous donors.

That means that your gift of \$216 will now provide four individuals with the gift of mobility rather than just two, and your gift of \$432 will now provide eight individuals with the gift of mobility rather than four.

And if you sign up for Mobilize, our monthly giving option, your first gift will be multiplied!

Our goal during this x2 Gift Challenge is to transform the lives of 23,500 individuals with the gift of a wheelchair. This is an ambitious goal that we can only achieve with your prayers and support.

For more information or to donate, visit: FreeWheelchairMission.org/x2



Give Today to Transform Lives



FreeWheelchairMission.org/donate

Access 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

INTO THE HEART OF THE AMAZON

From above, the Amazon River is a breathtaking sight: pristine waters winding endlessly through a vast expanse of emerald rainforest.

I hadn't planned on seeing it by air—I was supposed to join our local distribution partner on a riverboat expedition delivering wheelchairs to Indigenous communities deep in the forest. But travel delays meant the boat had already departed, leaving the only option to catch up on a Brazilian government helicopter.

Timing was everything. It was August, the narrow window when the river still carried enough water for boats to pass. In just a few months, falling water levels would cut off access entirely, leaving these remote communities even more isolated and waiting longer for the mobility they urgently needed.

As our helicopter descended into a small clearing carved into the thick forest canopy, I was reminded that this moment had been years in the making, shaped by local partnership and grounded in the lives of families we had come to serve.

DONATE NOW

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

FreeWheelchairMission.org/donate



Want to leave a lasting impact? Consider these options:



Give monthly through Mobilize
FreeWheelchairMission.org/mobilize

Leave a Legacy Gift
FreeWheelchairMission.org/legacy



FreeWheelchairMission.org
Transforming lives through the gift of mobility®

REACHING DEEPER INTO COMMUNITIES

Brazil is a vast and vibrant nation—larger than most realize—home to more than 212 million people,¹ spread across landscapes that range from dense cities to some of the most remote terrain on earth. Among them are more than 821,000 Indigenous Brazilians, representing 278 distinct ethnic groups and hundreds of languages, many living far from urban centers and basic services. In regions like the Amazon, where rivers serve as roads and seasons determine access, healthcare and mobility are often out of reach.

Across Brazil, 14.4 million people live with a disability, including more than 5.2 million people who have difficulty walking or climbing steps.² For those in remote Indigenous communities, limited infrastructure and transportation can mean that a mobility disability isolates not just the individual, but the entire family.

RESTORED TOGETHER

In a place where danger looms, mobility brings greater safety and renewed peace to Mericia (below, seated) and her family.



Part of our mission is to partner with organizations rooted in these communities and help extend mobility to those who need it most. Since 2016, that partner in Brazil has been the Rotary Club Maringá-Parque do Ingá, working through its nonprofit arm, Mobilidade Para Todos. Together, we have delivered more than 14,000 wheelchairs across Brazil, building trusted relationships with health services, training local distribution teams, and ensuring each wheelchair is assembled and delivered with care.

That commitment has reached from south central Brazil to coastal cities—and now deep into the Amazon basin. Through their expeditions, the team has delivered more than 1,100 wheelchairs to 25 of Brazil's 34 Indigenous health districts, navigating forests, rivers, and seasonal barriers to reach communities that are otherwise inaccessible.

I joined them for one of these expeditions, and for days our team lived entirely on a boat—wheelchairs assembled below deck, meals shared at one table, hammocks to sleep on strung side by side beneath mosquito nets. Despite the heat, insects, and the effort it took to deliver wheelchairs along the Amazon, an unexpected peace settled in as life slowed to the river's pace. But this serenity masks real danger: venomous creatures, wild animals, and accidents far from help, where medical care can be hours or even days away.

It was in this setting that I met Mericia (photo to the left), a 30-year-old woman from the Sateré-Mawé Indigenous tribe. When she was a child, she fell into an open fire—a daily necessity in places without electricity or modern stoves—burning her legs and part of her back. She hasn't been able to walk since. She lives with her husband and three young sons in the remote village of São João, accessible only by boat. Conditions like this drive us to continually innovate—creating more durable, transportable wheelchairs so we can fulfill our God-given calling to serve people with disabilities in hard-to-reach places.

Mericia's husband has a mobility disability, too, having lost a leg to a snakebite—a common occurrence in the Amazon. We offered him a wheelchair, but he declined, stating that he preferred crutches. Instead, he asked us to make sure Mericia received a new wheelchair.

¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>

² IBGE, Agência IBGE Notícias. <https://agenciadenoticias.ibge.gov.br/en/agencia-news/2184-news-agency/news/43477-2022-census-brazil-has-14-4-million-persons-with-disabilities>



LIMITED ACCESS ALONG THE AMAZON

Some communities are only accessible by boat for a few months every year.

The three boys watched, eyes wide with wonder, as their mother was gently lifted into the seat. A smile spread across her face as she tested the hand rims and felt her freedom returning. For the first time, she could move toward her children unassisted—and even carry her youngest in her lap. Her dream is for her sons to be educated, become teachers or nurses, and someday have families of their own.

When mobility reaches a family like Mericia's, it does more than change one life—it strengthens the heart of the home and ripples out into the community. "We have seen a big impact at Indigenous tribes," said Renata Krambeck of the Rotary Club Maringá-Parque do Ingá. "Those wheelchairs helped to change people's views about disability inclusion in many situations. Without a wheelchair, kids and adults were excluded from their community. After they received the gift of mobility, they were included again in their group." Mobility restores belonging.

LOOKING AHEAD: STRATEGIC GROWTH

The Amazon journey revealed both the extraordinary dedication of our partners and the complex realities of reaching people in some of the world's most remote places. Local teams bring deep expertise and a commitment to careful, high-quality training—even as they shoulder the physical and emotional demands of traveling long distances to isolated villages.

What we witnessed in Brazil points to a much larger opportunity: around the world, there are trusted local organizations with deep roots in their communities and the ability to reach those too often overlooked. By identifying and equipping partners like these, we can thoughtfully expand our distribution network and extend mobility to even more families living in underserved areas. Our partnerships are evolving with purpose, strengthening the foundation for long-term, sustainable impact.

This journey was a powerful reminder that every wheelchair delivered represents far more than mobility. It brings new hope to those who may have felt unseen or forgotten. And with partners like Rotary Club Maringá-Parque do Ingá—and you—we are poised to bring that hope farther and deeper, from the Amazon's waterways to more communities around the world.

With gratitude,



Nuka Hart
Chief Executive Officer
Free Wheelchair Mission