



**This May, get moving for a great cause—anytime, anywhere—with the Move for Mobility!**

Roll, run, walk, hike, swim, bike, or do any activity, anywhere you choose, for any distance, while raising funds to provide wheelchairs for people with disabilities in developing countries.

The Move for Mobility is fully customizable. You can run on a treadmill or at an official 5K or marathon. You can hike a trail or walk around your neighborhood. You can cycle outdoors or do your miles on a stationary bike. It's all up to you! Complete your distance all at once or over a few weeks.

Invite your friends, family, coworkers, church, sports teams, training partners, or other groups to form a team and Move for Mobility together!

**Visit [MoveforMobility.org](http://MoveforMobility.org) for more information or to register for free!**



FREE WHEELCHAIR MISSION

SPRING 2026 UPDATE



PERU



**Give Today to Transform Lives**



[FreeWheelchairMission.org/donate](http://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

**BEAUTY AND BARRIERS IN PERU**

High above the busy streets of Lima, where homes climb dusty hillsides and narrow roads wind through crowded neighborhoods, a simple journey from one place to another can be anything but easy. For many, especially those living with disabilities, even leaving home can feel out of reach.

Last fall, a Free Wheelchair Mission team of dedicated supporters traveled on a vision trip to Peru to see this reality firsthand alongside our longtime distribution partner, Camino de Vida. Led by Director of Development Georgia Kloos, they spent the week assembling, fitting, and delivering wheelchairs, meeting families both in large distribution gatherings and through home visits tucked into the hills surrounding the city.

What they encountered was more than need. They saw resilience in the face of daily challenges, deep care within families, and communities shaped by both beauty and barriers. They also witnessed something powerful: the moment a person receives mobility—and how quickly that moment begins to change what feels possible.

Because in places like these, a single wheelchair can do more than provide movement. It can shift the rhythm of daily life, ease the weight carried by families, and begin to rewrite what the future might hold.

**DONATE NOW**

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

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



**Want to leave a lasting impact? Consider these options:**



Give monthly through Mobilize  
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**FreeWheelchairMission.org**  
Transforming lives through the gift of mobility®

## OVERCOMING MOBILITY CHALLENGES

Peru is a country defined by contrast. Home to more than 34 million people, it stretches across coastal deserts, dense urban centers, and the towering peaks of the Andes Mountains.<sup>1</sup> While the country has experienced economic growth in recent years, economic challenges persist, particularly in rural and mountainous regions, where poverty rates remain significantly higher and resources are limited.<sup>2</sup> Many communities are built along steep hillsides or in remote areas where roads are narrow, uneven, and difficult to navigate. Public transportation is often inaccessible, and essential services such as healthcare may require hours of travel. For people living with disabilities, these challenges are especially acute.

In Peru, roughly one out of every 19 people lives with a disability, most commonly affecting mobility.<sup>3</sup> For individuals who are unable to walk, even the most basic daily activities can become extraordinarily difficult. Leaving home may require assistance from others, and in some cases, it may not be possible at all. Children

## LOVE IN ACTION

(Top row, from left) Allen Hager, Vivian Hager, Rob Kostrzewa, an unidentified social worker, Greg Kreider, Renato, Georgia Kloos, Brian Sutherland, (seated) Dennis



may be unable to attend school consistently. Adults may lose opportunities to work or contribute economically. Participation in community and church life becomes difficult. In many cases, the boundaries of daily life begin to shrink, sometimes to a single room within the home. Family members often carry the full responsibility of caregiving, and over time, limited mobility can lead to deep isolation.

In 2003, a simple phone call sparked a partnership that continues to change lives across Peru. In the early days of Free Wheelchair Mission, our founder, Don Schoendorfer, answered a call from Pastor Robert Barriger of Camino de Vida (CDV) Church, who asked a heartfelt question: could we help bring wheelchairs to Peru? Our answer was yes—and soon, a full container of 550 wheelchairs was on its way.

More than two decades later, that yes has grown into 84,754 wheelchairs delivered through CDV's sprawling network of churches and volunteers. Together, we have reached families in bustling cities and in remote villages tucked high in the Andes Mountains. It was there, in one of those remote communities, that we celebrated the distribution of our one millionth wheelchair in 2017—a powerful reminder of what's possible when compassion and partnership come together.

Supporter Brian Sutherland joined the 2025 vision trip and said, "Being in Peru changed how I understand the work of Free Wheelchair Mission. It wasn't just about delivering wheelchairs—it was about seeing people regain freedom, watching families exhale, and witnessing the care and commitment of local partners."

One of the individuals they visited was Dennis, who lives with his father, Renato. Dennis, 44, has cerebral palsy and communicates in ways beyond words. His bright eyes, warm smile, and joyful laughter offer a clear window into his understanding and spirit. Renato, now 78, has devoted his life to caring for his son. After the passing of his wife, he made a promise to continue that care, and he has faithfully upheld it. He left his factory job to become Dennis' full-time caregiver, taking on the responsibilities of lifting, feeding, and meeting his son's daily needs.

<sup>1</sup> Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI), Peruvian Population Projections, 2024 <https://www.gob.pe/en/institucion/inei/noticias/987317-al-2024-la-poblacion-peruana-proyectada-alcanza-los-34-millones-de-habitantes>

<sup>2</sup> World Bank, Poverty & Inequality Platform: Peru Country Profile <https://pip.worldbank.org/country-profiles/PER>

<sup>3</sup> Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática, Primera Encuesta Nacional Especializada sobre DISCAPACIDAD 2012, p. 9.



## BEYOND ROADS

Our network in Peru brings the gift of mobility to communities beyond the reach of many services.

The physical demands of caregiving have grown more challenging over time, especially as Renato has aged. Years ago, Dennis had some ability to move independently by crawling, but after a serious fall and subsequent surgery, he lost that mobility. Since then, everyday life has become more difficult for both of them.

When Dennis received his new wheelchair, "his face broke into the widest smile," recalled team member Allen Hager. For Renato, the moment brought relief: it meant greater ease in caregiving and increased independence for his son. The team spent time with them before leaving, offering encouragement and prayer. "We came away tired but renewed in spirit and soul," said Allen, reflecting on the trip, "and so happy we could play a small part in this truly consequential and beautiful thing."

Brian added, "I'm grateful to have been part of something so deeply human and hopeful."

## MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER

Peru holds a special place in Free Wheelchair Mission's history. It is where we sent one of our first full containers of wheelchairs, where we gave away our one millionth wheelchair, and where we continue to serve people with the gift of mobility.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Free Wheelchair Mission this month, our work in Peru is moving forward thanks to partnerships with Camino de Vida—and with you. With your support, we can keep bringing mobility to remote areas in Peru and beyond.

Worldwide, an estimated 80 million individuals need wheelchairs, and the majority are still waiting for one. While we have come a long way over the past 25 years, our work is far from over, and we remain committed to working toward a world in which everyone who needs a wheelchair will have one.

Thank you for being part of this mission and for helping bring the gift of mobility to those who need it most.

With gratitude,



**Nuka Hart**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Free Wheelchair Mission