



CANADIAN FOUNDATION WHEELCHAIR

FONDATION CHAISE ROULANTE CANADA

A Global Wheelchair Mission Partner

Transforming Lives Through Mobility

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Summer 2010

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Supreme Knight Carl Anderson reassures a happy Justine who is able to leave the hospital tent after surgery with the help of her own new wheelchair.

New Beginnings



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

FROM THE DIRECTOR... Notes from the Office



We hope that you enjoy our new own look, - a new beginning of our own! The new logo evolved and somehow naturally fell into place right here in our office. You will find many circles as you look at the logo closely. The outside ring is blue, for the sky under which we all live, all being children in the same global village. Some see the spokes of our

wheelchairs; some see the forward movement in the way they are angled, movement towards a new future, seen in the dove using its wings to take flight. The different circles represent all different groups coming together with a common purpose: connecting our communities, helping others, - **transforming lives through mobility.**

Please, visit our new web-site for ongoing announcements about the new products we are beginning to add to our program: reclining pediatric wheelchairs, wheelchairs for more active users, seat-belts and seat cushions, canes and crutches. Some time this year we shall have our first project in which the wheelchairs will be shipped in parts and assembled in the receiving country. New beginnings for us as well!

Many thanks to all of you!

We appreciate all of your ongoing trust and support in helping us create **new beginnings!**

Christiana Flessner
Executive Director

*..dignity
freedom
hope..*



Brand-new Knight Dale Aalbers, Alberta, is so pleased to meet the Supreme Knight and to share a common passion of helping others



HAITI Knights of Columbus Help Reintegrate Earthquake Victims



Smiles and waves from everywhere!

On January 12, 2010 a massive earthquake struck Haiti. It was estimated that between 2,000 and 4,000 instant amputees were created from serious physical injuries sustained during the initial destruction. In the days following the earthquake, hospitals were still performing another 30 - 100 amputations per day each, and even now amputations are still routinely performed due to secondary infections from injuries. These staggering

numbers are in addition to the 800,000 people estimated by Haiti International to have already been living with disabilities in the country prior to the earthquake.



Volunteers and staff at the Field Hospital in Port-Au-Prince are just as happy as their patients, here Jeremy, knowing that they will be able to help themselves with their new wheelchairs

Within days of the earthquake, the Knights of Columbus committed to sponsoring 1,000 wheelchairs and on April 27th, 2010, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, along with Knights from Saskatchewan and several other States and representatives of the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation travelled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to deliver these gifts of hope and independence. In surveying the situation at the field hospital and around the city, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson remarked that "though time has dimmed the memory of the tragic earthquake in Haiti for many who live elsewhere, the physical suffering of those injured in the earthquake and here in Port-au-Prince continues in a very real way. We are grateful for the opportunity to give the gift of mobility to those who need it most".



Knowing she can now leave the hospital, makes 27 year old Violette St. Germain smile. She had been buried under rubble for four days, losing one foot and undergoing treatment to save the other one.



CUBA Hope for Citizens of Cuba and Knights alike



A wheelchair given to a child changes her future in a very positive way.

In March 2010, members of the Manitoba Knights of Columbus Manitoba travelled to Cuba with the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation to deliver mobility in Havana and Camagüey.

The visit was a journey of the heart for PSD Larry Kustra and his wife Margaret, an opportunity to personally witness the delivery of the wheelchairs sponsored by councils across Manitoba, but also to finally meet members of the only council in Cuba who were able to attend last year's Supreme Convention in Quebec City with the help of the Manitoba State Council.

Everyone was so touched and impressed by the immense dedication of all representatives of Caritas, the CWF's partner in Cuba, who operate an amazing array of programs to help families and those with developmental and physical challenges in delicate political and difficult financial circumstances. Many of their current volunteers are still Squires from before the revolution, hoping and praying to be Knights soon.

Delivering half the wheelchairs in cooperation with a government operated community centre in Old Havana enabled Caritas and the visitors to personally visit homes of those in need. Bringing one wheelchair at a time up narrow steps or ancient elevators, into tiny apartments in previously rambling villas, now occupied by many families, and seeing the warmth, gratitude and happiness in every home, in every family, gave a small indication of how desperately this help was needed.



Family and friends, just after two days in Camagüey!

The last day brought PSD Larry a touching surprise: almost all Cuban Knights and their families gathered after mass in honour of him and his Manitoba brothers, thanking them for their generous donation. It was clear that the Canadian Knights had also delivered hope for a better future - for the citizens of Cuba and for the future of its Knights.



PS: Thank you to the Manitoba State Council for committing your next container of wheelchairs to Cuba!



ALBERTA – TEXAS – PANAMA Rotarians from Three Countries: Bridging Continents during Hands-On Service



Alberta Rotarians Peter Denooy and Sally and Tim Childs and Texas Rotarians Joi Burton and Paul Geisel deliver wheelchairs to the last two residents of Panama City's leper colony.



Rotarian Sally Childs and PDG Paul Geisel share this lady's excitement of her dream really coming true: to be able to move herself and join her family in regular everyday activities.



Panama Rotarian and Past President of Fundación Pro Integración Tom Ford treasures the joy of helping others.



Alberta Rotarian Peter Denooy takes a lady for a ride into her garden and into the sun after being confined to her chair on the porch of her house for a long time.



Our wonderful partners in the receiving countries, as Fundación Pro Integración in Panama City, work an average of 40-50 hours per wheelchair to make sure they get to those who need them the most and are serviced when needed.

**Wheelchairs Delivered
and Committed To Date**

CONTAINER TO	WHEELCHAIRS
Afghanistan	1,640
American Samoa	240
Antigua	280
Argentina	280
Bolivia	80
USA	110
Canada	560
Chile	660
China	387
Colombia	560
Costa Rica	110
Cuba	560
Dominican Republic	280
Ecuador	560
El Salvador	1,400
Ethiopia	540
Fiji	140
Haiti	200
Iraq	280
Jamaica	280
Kazakhstan	280
Kenya	280
Lithuania	560
Mexico	9,890
Panama	2,240
Peru	280
Philippines	560
Rwanda	280
Sierra Leone	560
South Africa	560
Sri Lanka	280
Tajikistan	240
Venezuela	280
Vietnam	560
Zambia	560

TOTAL TO DATE: 26,557



Merci and Thank You

To **Louis St. Laurent Catholic School in Edmonton** for their dedication to helping earthquake victims in Haiti and Chile, raising funds for over 200 wheelchairs during their Dance, Dance Revolution event.

To **7 year old Quinn** who is raising funds for five wheelchairs for those who have lost limbs during the earthquake in Haiti.

To **Freedom Advisory on Vancouver Island** who is sponsoring a wheelchair for every client referral.

To **Sirota's Martial Arts Studio** who is teaching its students kindness towards others by raising funds for wheelchairs for Vietnam



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