



# CANADIAN FOUNDATION **WHEELCHAIR**

## FONDATION CHAISE ROULANTE CANADA

*Transforming Lives Through Mobility*

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Summer 2010

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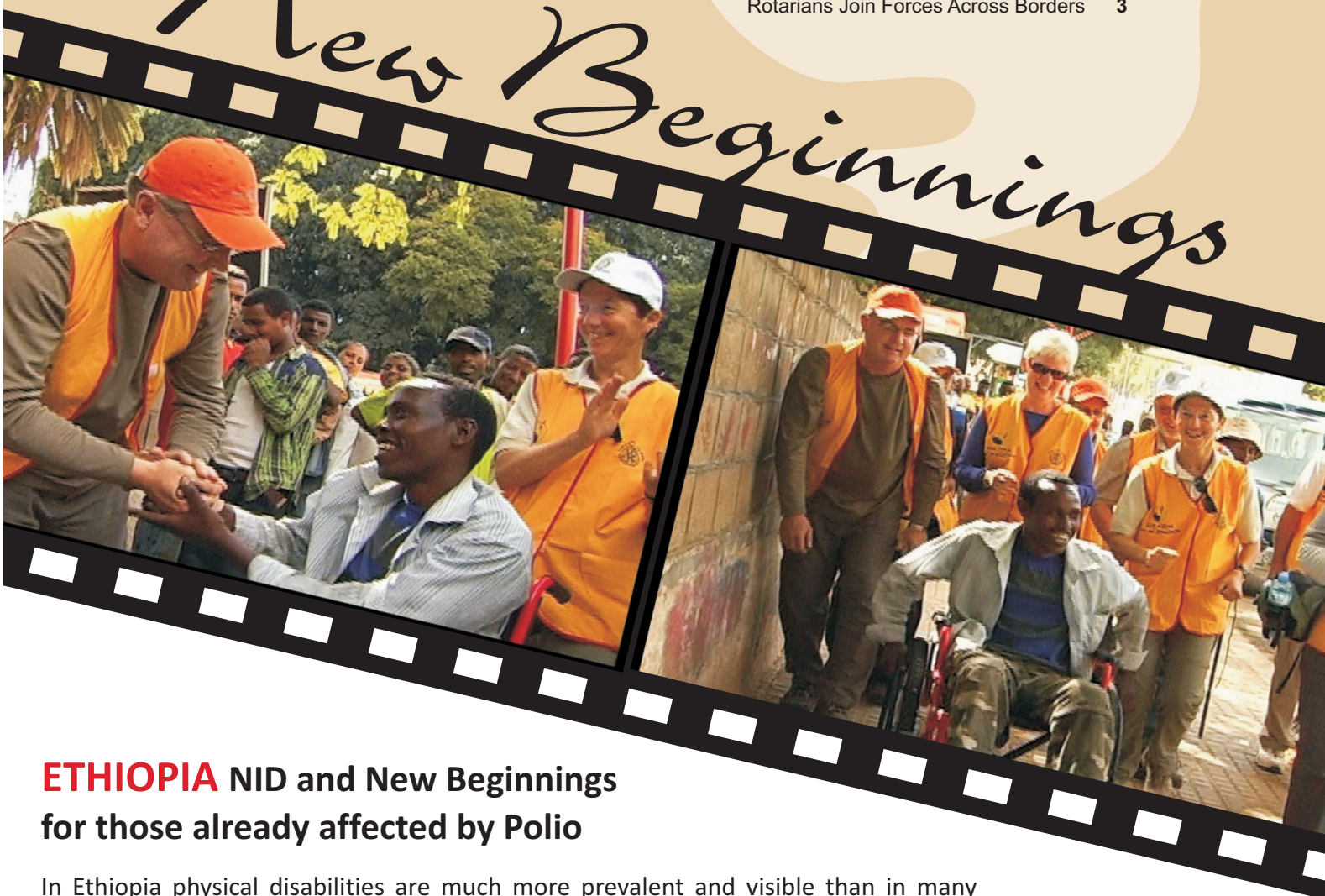
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# New Beginnings



## **ETHIOPIA** NID and New Beginnings for those already affected by Polio

In Ethiopia physical disabilities are much more prevalent and visible than in many developing countries. An estimated 6 million people suffer from different forms of disabilities and around 30% of them are victims of a completely preventable disease: polio.

Last October Rotarians from North America arrived in Menagesha, just outside of Addis Ababa, at the Cheshire Services Children's Rehabilitation Centre. The overwhelming presence of polio had a profound impact on the visitors the instant they entered the grounds. The Centre is home to over one hundred children of all ages in crutches, casts, and wheelchairs. These children had not received their two drops of polio vaccine.

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## 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.**

**ETHIOPIA** My recent visit to this country of a thousand smiles was one of my personal dreams come true. After helping so many victims of polio into wheelchairs over the last 7 ½ years, I could not wait to finally help prevent this awful and completely avoidable disease and was surprised how much giving these precious two drops touched me, knowing that each new child will now be safe and have a very different future.

We are proud of the support of the staff of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to have contributed to this first of many more projects like this, linking the Global Polio Eradication Initiative campaign with wheelchair deliveries as added incentives to increase cooperation, again in Ethiopia this spring and soon also in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

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..*

## ETHIOPIA NID and New Beginnings for those already affected by Polio

*article continued from Page 1*

The staff at Cheshire Centre provide care and a home for all the resident children as they undergo their reconstructive surgery and the often very painful rehabilitation processes. Despite the pain these children endure on a daily basis, they are still spirited and curious, with bright eyes and big smiles.



Giving out some of the 260 sturdy wheel-chairs, which had been sponsored by staff members of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and by Rotarians of the Pacific Northwest, united the visitors from Canada and the USA with their hosts from Addis Ababa as they gave opportunity and hope to victims of polio through new wheelchairs. One polio victim, Hussein Hassan Ali, was so happy that he could now "finally be clean." Another young man was seen the next day smiling proudly and selling candles for church, when merely days before he had sat by the side of the road in the dust as a beggar.



Linda Venczel, Senior Program Officer, Vaccine Delivery, of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: "Populations are generally more willing to cooperate when we add incentives such as bed nets, Vitamin A or wheelchairs to the NID campaign."

Although it was difficult to accept that all the suffering of these polio victims was truly avoidable with a simple vaccine, the experience in Menagesha left all with appreciation to have been able to better the lives of some of the many polio victims and left them even more determined to fulfill the next task for their journey: to immunize children against this awful disease.

Being part of a sea of Rotarians wearing the well-known yellow vests with the slogan "Kick Polio Out Of Ethiopia" they traveled East on dusty roads, close to the Somali border, to work hand in hand with local health workers, fanning out in small groups, walking on narrow paths from house to house, making sure no child would be left behind. The wheelchairs loaded on the bus roof drew an attention of their own, and everyone was comforted to not only be out helping save children from polio, but also helping those already affected, bringing the polio eradication initiative full circle.



## HAITI Knights of Columbus' Help Reintegrate Earthquake Victims



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.



*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.*

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 Violetta smile. She had been buried under rubble for four days, losing one foot and undergoing treatment to save the other one.*



## ALBERTA – TEXAS – PANAMA Rotarians from Three Countries:

**Bridging Continents during Hands-On Service**



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



*Rotarian Sally Schilds 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
Central America	280
Chile	280
China	387
Colombia	560
Costa Rica	110
Cuba	560
Dominican Republic	110
Ecuador	560
El Salvador	1,400
Ethiopia	540
Fiji	140
Iraq	280
Jamaica	280
Kazakhstan	280
Kenya	280
Lithuania	560
Mexico	9,890
Panama	1,960
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 25,807**



## *Merci and Thank You*

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

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.



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