



CANADIAN FOUNDATION **WHEELCHAIR**
FONDATION CHAISE ROULANTE CANADA

A Global Wheelchair Program Partner

*Transforming Lives
Through Mobility*

Newsletter 6 Fall 2011



Siberia, Russia, June 2011

FROM THE DIRECTOR... Notes from the Office



Rotary Clubs of
Campbell River
Vancouver Island, BC

CAMPBELL RIVER
British Columbia



On my way to the airport in Havana after an emotional and busy week delivering wheelchairs I passed by the famous old 'Cemetario Cristobál Colón' and its main gate. On it my eyes caught a beautiful statue of, as the driver explained, the three Graces: Faith, Hope and Charity. How very fitting.

During the year, working with so many sponsors across Canada, the United States and in the receiving countries, such as Cuba, we certainly experience these graces all the time! Sometimes as expected, by representatives of our local partner organizations such as Caritas, who go enormously out of their way to help all those with physical and other disabilities and sometimes unexpected, as the touching moment a local Rotarian sees the need to change an elderly gentleman's diaper and... just does it... so that he can be placed comfortably in his brand-new wheelchair.

It is a privilege working with all of our partners, being charitable, working together to better peoples' lives with dedication, with faith in the lasting impact of every single wheelchair, giving hope for a better future to others, and in the process reaffirming **Faith, Hope and Charity** in ourselves.

Many lives have been touched and transformed during another very successful year.

With thanks and much appreciation,
Christiana Flessner
Executive Director

...hope



Every spring, the whole community comes together in this scenic oceanfront city on the eastern shore of Vancouver Island for a special event. Rotarians, led by Chef Hansi Zihlmann and his team, are joining forces and their talents with North Island College Culinary Arts students and instructors to host a 'Night under the Stars' which offers dancing and an amazing banquet of tapas.

Helping those with physical disabilities in developing countries and knowing how easy it is to better their lives with every wheelchair for every donation of \$150 has captured everyone's heart. Over the last five years the Raclette Dinner fundraiser of the Rotary Club of Campbell River Daybreak has grown from a club to a major community event, drawing from the surrounding communities, - everyone enjoying themselves thoroughly, giving freely and many travelling every year to help deliver the wheelchairs for which the funds have been raised.



Thank you to the Rotarians of the Campbell River area for transforming hundreds of lives in Peru, Venezuela, Argentina, Philippines and Colombia. Thank you to the shining star Hansi whose spark and dedication inspires a whole community!



ON THE COVER: On a beautiful, hot summer day in Irkutsk, Siberia, the smile of Sasha lit up the room the very instant he slowly lowered himself into his very own new wheelchair. He had suffered a spinal chord injury during a construction accident close to two years ago and been confined to his apartment since then.

Rotarians from across this largest district in the Rotary world, comprised of eleven time zones from Eastern Russia to Whitehorse, gathered beginning of June for one of their two yearly District Conferences, one in Russia, one in Alaska, celebrating another successful Rotary year and the planning of a district-wide project to deliver wheelchairs to Russia. Russian Rotarians are excited to share in the fundraising and manage the allocation of recipients in the Vladivostok and Novosibirsk areas.

Thank you to Rotary District 5010 for their ongoing partnership since 2004!



VIETNAM Joining Hands and Hearts

Though at the other end of the world, Vietnam has strong bonds to North America. In the immediate time following the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 Canada has become home to well over 100,000 of its refugees. They have grown roots, raised their families and joined their new communities. Most of them stay in touch with family members left behind and give freely to help whichever way they can.

Recently in February 2011, Knights of Columbus from Canada and the US joined Michael Yeo, State Deputy of BC/Yukon who had initiated this shipment of wheelchairs, and his parish priest Father Tien Tran on his yearly visit back to Vietnam during which he helps organize medical missions in rural areas. (Please, see note below)

Having a common purpose and spirit of the heart made it easy for the two teams to join, everyone helping out where they could, such as holding the flashlight for the dentist or counting and labelling medication in the portable pharmacy. Every village, every new day brought long lines of waiting patients with happy hopeful faces. Adding the delivery of wheelchairs was a very welcome new component, a new way of helping those who otherwise could not be helped, - jointly lifting people up off the floor, leaving behind beaming new wheelchair owners, looking into their future with new hope.



Note: *Medical Aid for Vietnam* was founded by Dr. David Neima, Dr. Hugh Parsons and Rev. Tien Tran in 1994 in Vancouver, Canada. Its purpose is to work with local doctors, clinics and hospitals to help the poor, the sick and the disabled children of Vietnam.



**Wheelchairs Delivered
and Committed To Date**

CONTAINER TO	WHEELCHAIRS
Afghanistan	1,700
American Samoa	240
Antigua	280
Argentina	280
Bolivia	80
Canada	560
Chile	940
China	387
Colombia	560
Costa Rica	130
Cuba	898
Dominican Republic	950
Ecuador	560
El Salvador	1,400
Ethiopia	540
Fiji	140
Haiti	100
Iraq	280
Jamaica	280
Kenya	560
Lithuania	560
Mexico	10,500
Nepal	540
Panama	2,240
Peru	340
Philippines	950
Puerto Rico	110
Russia	283
Rwanda	280
Sierra Leone	670
South Africa	560
Sri Lanka	280
Tajikistan	240
USA	110
Venezuela	280
Vietnam	950
Zambia	560

TOTAL TO DATE: 30,318



Merçi and Thank You

To the **Rotary Club of Campbell River Daybreak, British Columbia**
for their 3rd Annual Dancing & Tapas Night, raising funds for a container of wheelchairs to Colombia (Contact: Hansi Zihlmann)

To **Holmes Realty Ltd., Sidney, British Columbia**
for their ongoing donor program since 2007 (Contact: Michelle Holmes)

To **Knights of Columbus McLennan – High Prairie, Alberta**
for their 2nd Annual Children's Fishing Derby for wheelchairs at Winagami Lake Provincial Park (Contact: Real Garant, Grand Knight)

To **Lake Lenore School, Saskatchewan**
for their 2nd Annual School Christmas Wheelchair Campaign – *(in lieu of gift giving)*
(Contact: Ralph Viczko)

To **Coastal Community Credit Union, Courtenay, British Columbia**
for their Team Wheelchair Fundraising Campaign (Contact: Robert G. Buckley, Br. Mgr.)

To **Rotary Club of Abbotsford-Matsqui, Abbotsford, British Columbia**
for their Christmas 2010 Club Fundraising Campaign for wheelchairs for Zapopan, Mexico (Contact: Aird Flavelle)



CANADIAN FOUNDATION WHEELCHAIR
FONDATION CHAISE ROULANTE CANADA

Post Office Box 75038, White Rock,
BC, CANADA V4B 5L3

Tel (604) 536-2022 • Toll Free (866) 666-2411 • Fax (604) 536-9831
e-mail: info@cdnwheelchair.ca

www.cdnwheelchair.ca

..dignity ..freedom ..hope..