



THE GIFT OF SERVICE



Traveling to other countries to serve those in need is the dream of many Rotarians. Transforming lives through the gift of mobility provides some with an opportunity to realize this goal. What we often don't anticipate is how, through these acts of service, in the end we transform ourselves.

Such was the case for a group of BC Rotarians who traveled to Guatemala early in 2015 with the intention to deliver 280 new wheelchairs. The project was one that spanned 4 years of planning, bringing together multiple Rotary clubs, districts and other partners. With invaluable help from the Rotary Clubs of Guatemala City and Antigua, the team experienced the joy of placing people in a wheelchair, in some cases for the first time in their lives.

Andre, a handsome 15 year old who is deaf and has limited vision, will never grow beyond his 3 foot height. The mayor of the zone where he lives, one of 25 surrounding Guatemala City, brought Andre, his aunt and mother to a school on the day of the distribution. He was fortunate to be 1 of only 2 people selected in his zone to receive a much needed wheelchair. For the first time in his 15 years, Andre was able to move independently on his own brand new wheels!

In nearby Antigua, a town of about 40,000 people less than an hour drive from the city, Ignacio waited patiently for the Canadians to arrive. In fact, he had waited 9 years to receive a wheelchair after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Traveling a great distance, Ignacio was brought to Casa Maria, a senior's care home, on a warm spring morning. There the team met Ignacio and as the tears flowed they learned his story. Gently, yet proudly, they placed him in the wheelchair he had been waiting so long to receive.

Hundreds of lives in Guatemala were touched in the same way as Andre's, Ignacio's, their families and communities. Those who were able to participate witnessed the profound impact of the gift of mobility and in turn shared their feelings of being "life-changed."



Thank you to the dedicated Rotarians for all they have done and continue to do to deliver mobility into the lives of others

**WHEELCHAIRS
DELIVERED
and Committed to Date**

Afghanistan	1750
American Samoa	240
Antigua	280
Argentina	280
Belize	220
Bolivia	360
Canada	900
Chile	940
China	387
Colombia	840
Costa Rica	262
Cuba	950
Dominican Republic	1574
Ecuador	560
El Salvador	1400
Ethiopia	540
Fiji	140
Guatemala	280
Haiti	210
Indonesia	706
Iraq	280
Jamaica	280
Kenya	560
Lithuania	560
Mexico	12150
Nepal	540
Panama	2358
Peru	340
Philippines	950
Puerto Rico	110
Russia	283
Rwanda	290
Sierra Leone	670
South Africa	950
Sri Lanka	280
Tajikistan	240
Ukraine	560
USA	110
Venezuela	280
Vietnam	1060
Zambia	560
TOTAL TO DATE:	36230



*Transforming
lives through
Mobility*



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