



Canadian Wheelchair Foundation Update Knights of Columbus Canada

December 2021

How oddly time has flowed for the last year and a half...

Two-dimensional meetings, no handshakes, no car-rides with friends to seminars, no in-person fundraising events towards all the great causes we support, - yet we have managed to stay in touch. We have not forgotten each other. We know how to find each other. We have managed to keep our organizations alive and thriving – even if at a tad slower speed.

Supporting each other had to look different on the outside, yet it is the same in our hearts.



We have survived a year and a half of challenges, isolation, loneliness, and yes, for some with heartbreak and loss. And we have found gifts in unexpected places, - zoom!, -neighbours paying more attention to each other's needs, communities growing stronger, outward shows of appreciation, hearing more 'Thankyou's, more voicing of gratitude.

Our organization has had challenges of its own.

Much of our daily life, much of our success, consists of personal encounters, of travels, of meeting those we are helping in person, of returning home and telling about it. That has been interrupted.

We have been creative; we have made due. The last 'regular' wheelchair delivery took place in March 2020 in the **Dominican Republic**. Local Knights worked side-by-side with their Brothers and families from Saskatchewan.

Dominican Republic, March 2020

Adding to the pandemic, havoc in the shipping world with sky-rocketing sea freight cost added to our challenges. Due to prohibitive cost we had to put some shipments, as to Canada and Poland on hold - for now. During the last months we managed to source wheelchairs and rollators already in Canada and partnered with another organization which ships from the Toronto area directly.



This way we were able to answer a plea from the Embassy of **Paraguay** in Ottawa to ship 20 of our new rugged wheelchairs to a village devastated by floods and are now in the process of shipping 45 wheelchairs, also canes and crutches to

Haiti to provide help after the recent earthquake. Many more are needed.



Shipping with this partner will stay one of our initiatives until we can resume shipping of our regular Canadian red wheelchairs again, hopefully spring next year. Destinations with them are **Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon**, to name a few.

One shipment that is in progress right now, is of 290 wheelchairs on their way to **Panama**, sponsored by the Knights in Ontario. Delivery will likely be in February with much involvement of the Panama Knights.

In the wings is a new shipment to **Ukraine** initiated by the Knights in Saskatchewan, specifically Father Ivan Nahachewsky who raised funds by cycling the North of the province for a month.



And of course, aside from help sent to many places around the globe, creating friendships that last a lifetime, leaving a legacy of hope, we are helping at home, here in Canada.

BC Knights have had continuous requests for rollators, which we have gratefully been able to fill. Mobility! It allows us to be ourselves, to become who we can be, with His help. And ours.



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

We are grateful for all your support during difficult times and look forward to a much more active 2022. We thank the one Knight, the one council, the one priest, whose hearts have been touched by the abilities and needs of those with disabilities, whose enthusiasm inspires all around them and who are often the driving force behind whole jurisdictions' successes!

After a very different year and a half our organization is here, more creative, more determined, more enthusiastic about projects to come. With your help! Thank you!

For more info on any of these initiatives contact:



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