



CANADIAN FOUNDATION **WHEELCHAIR**

FONDATION CHAISE ROULANTE CANADA

A Global Wheelchair Mission Partner

Spring 2025

Legacy of Caring

PANAMA Sometimes there are moments in our lives which stay with us, which leave us wondering...Did I make the right decision? Did it turn out ok?

Sometimes we are lucky to look into vibrant smiling eyes even years later, and we know it did.



A few years ago, in a small town in Panama, with one last large wheelchair on the truck, we met up with Alberto Salcedo who had lost both his legs after stepping on a live wire. This wheelchair was too large for him. We made phone calls; we made arrangements with our wonderful partners in Panama City, Club Activo 20-30, to bring him a better fitting one from this shipment later. The look in his eyes when we took the chair with us again was heart-breaking, doubt overshadowing hope and trust.

Last month the same eyes caught mine during the try-outs for the Paralympic Games in wheelchair basketball. Beaming with recognition – and pride! Alberto had received his perfectly fitting wheelchair later and now leads an active life as the respected technical advisor to his team.

No more doubt in his eyes, just trust, confidence and knowledge of a better future, being part of life around him!

Christiana Flessner, Exec. Dir.



Knights of Columbus®



Canadian Wheelchair Foundation
Wheelchairs Delivered and Committed

Afghanistan	1750	
American Samoa	240	
Antigua	280	
Argentina	280	
Belize	346	
Bolivia	360	
Canada	1576	*
Chile	940	
China	387	
Colombia	965	
Costa Rica	1098	*
Côte D'Ivoire	120	
Cuba	1070	
Dominican Republic	2464	*
Ecuador	840	
El Salvador	1400	
Ethiopia	540	
Fiji	140	
Guatemala	740	
Haiti	250	
Honduras	260	
Indonesia	856	*
Iraq	365	
Jamaica	410	
Kenya	840	
Lithuania	560	
Mexico	12995	*
Nepal	540	
Nigeria	280	
Panama	3038	*
Paraguay	20	
Peru	620	
Philippines	1520	
Poland	405	
Puerto Rico	625	
Russia	283	
Rwanda	290	
Sierra Leone	670	
South Africa	950	
Sri Lanka	280	
Swaziland	292	
Tajikistan	240	
Ukraine	2165	*
USA	110	
Venezuela	280	
Vietnam	1544	*
Zambia	560	
TOTAL TO DATE:	46,784	

*In addition to our standard wheelchairs as noted, other mobility aids have also been delivered and distributed. These may include Kangas (highly specialized pediatric wheelchairs), Bariatric Wheelchairs, Walkers, Rollators, Canes, and Crutches.

LEGACY AROUND THE WORLD Alberto was so pleased to meet those who made his new life happen in person. Tracy proudly showed us her graduation papers when we visited her again in Costa Rica. With her new wheelchair she was able to attend school. Ana Menendez now goes to work as a translator and to Sunday concerts in the park. We hear that Isabel in Papua New Guinea now attends law school. Thousands of wheelchairs all around the world sponsored by Canadian Knights and their parishes are leaving a legacy which goes beyond the initial gift of mobility. Is not the other precious gift showing that we truly care!



Richard Rajotte Feb.12, 1932 – Oct. 9, 2024
St. Peter Council 7070, Edmonton AB.



For 13 years we enjoyed Richard's regular, almost weekly phone calls. Richard was a true advocate of our program, especially after personally witnessing the impact of receiving mobility in Mexico. He dedicated his life to service of others. Richard always was a voice for those in need, and above all a wonderful supporter and friend we will dearly miss. Richard left a legacy in the strong supportive role the Canadian Knights of Columbus has on the wheelchair program today.

NEWS

Update: To date Canadian Knights, their families and parishes have raised over \$3,300,000 towards our joint mission. This represents gifts of almost 20,000 wheelchairs which have transformed over 200,000 lives in countries around the world and at home in Canada. What a Legacy!

New Projects Underway: Philippines, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Ukraine (ongoing), Canada (ongoing)

Thank you! : Just as Richard's name, others have become part of our family over the years: Mike Breunig, AB, Thomas Handkamer, MB, Kelvin Law, ON, and so many more! They have embraced our program and ignited their parishes to dedicate their caring to helping those often forgotten, just because they can not move.

...dignity ... freedom ...hope ...opportunity

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