



Wheelchair Program

Bringing Mobility to Life

Distribution Tops 3,500

Problem of Mobility

It is hard to understand what it is like to have a child that cannot walk, and must be carried everywhere. It is even harder when the child reaches their teen-years or older, and must still be transported on the back of aging parents.

It is difficult to comprehend a man whose business is on the other side of a busy roadway, and he is unable to cross the road to conduct business. He simply is too poor to have a means of mobility, and must crawl everywhere he tries to go.

It is impossible to imagine a mother who must leave her child sitting on the floor in the corner of the house, alone, while she helps cultivate the field for planting. If she fails to help in this process the family will starve in coming months.

It is not easy to explain why a new mother must get up and walk to the ward moments after giving birth because the hospital has no wheelchair.

Imagine not being able to navigate the steps of an office building where an official is waiting for a meeting with you.



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Solution:

These stories are real struggles about real people. The Malawi Project has joined hands with a number of groups to deliver over 3,500 wheelchairs to Malawi. The joint effort with the Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) in Irvine, California alone have delivered over 3,000 wheelchairs since 2005. These chairs are especially adapted for rural, difficult terrain, and are easily repaired in the host environment.

In order to encourage self-reliance, self-respect, and personal responsibility, the Malawi Project has sought the help of local Malawi hospitals, community based organizations, government agencies, prisons, churches, and other agencies to take responsibility to distribute, oversee, and assist the handicapped with their mobility needs. These organizations present the needs to Malawi organizers, and each need is fulfilled after research as to its authenticity, need, and availability of wheelchairs. Follow up visits and subsequent assistance is given as the need is evaluated, and resources become available. When the Malawians themselves carry out these programs, there is a far greater degree of responsibility, success and personal ownership than when outside agencies handle the program for them. The Malawi Project is proud of its partnership with Malawi groups who are successfully executing the wheelchair program in their country.



You Can Participate

Financial assistance is needed in order to increase the number of wheelchairs being made available. To date FWM and the Malawi Project has sent a total of 3,500 wheelchairs valued at well over a quarter of a million U.S. dollars.

FWM and their supporters pay the initial cost of the wheelchairs and shipping them to the African coast. The Malawi Project is responsible for costs from the Africa coast to distribution sites in Malawi. Malawians take the responsibility to get the wheelchairs into the hands of those who need them.

The requests are intense, and needs are great. More wheelchairs are ready to be sent. For most rural Malawians the cost of a wheelchair is far beyond their ability to purchase. Their only hope is someone who cares enough to donate one to them. Your help will make that possible. Please send your contributions to the address at the bottom of this page, or contribute online at www.malawiproject.org

Learn more about the Malawi Project's mobility programs by visiting: www.malawiproject.org or writing to info@malawiproject.org

The Malawi Project

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