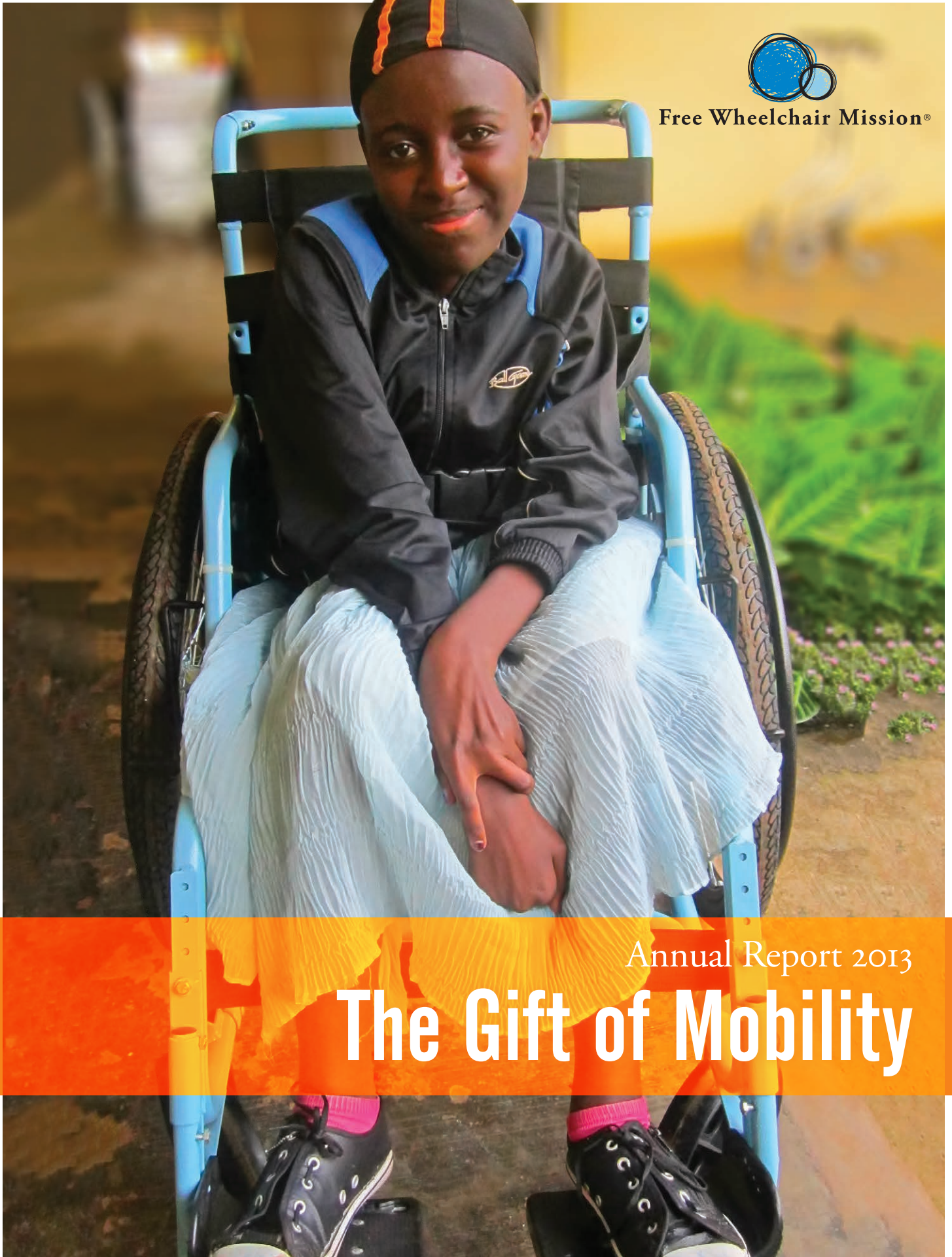




Free Wheelchair Mission®

Annual Report 2013

# The Gift of Mobility



# Education



**Brian** has been paralyzed since birth and like many boys his age, he loves going to school. His mother Lydia has been carrying him to and from school each day to make sure he



receives an education; now that burden has been lifted off of her shoulders. Brian will gain self-confidence as he continues his education among his peers in his new wheelchair!

# Employment

*A wheelchair transforms lives in many ways beyond the gift of mobility.*

**Them's** life has radically changed twice. The first time was with one step on a landmine in 1980 while serving in the Vietnamese Army. It left his left leg paralyzed and his right leg amputated at the knee. After being cared for full-time for a decade, **"I just felt guilty and useless,"** he explained.



The second change in his life was receiving his wheelchair from FWM. With his new wheelchair he was able to obtain work at a mechanical workshop—the same type of work he did before his accident. He now has a regular monthly income that allows him to support himself so he no longer feels like a burden to others.

# Letter from Don

*Greetings Dear Friends of Free Wheelchair Mission,*

Occasionally, reflection is good for the soul, and as I reflect on the past year, my soul is overjoyed by the lives transformed through the gift of mobility!

As a father and a grandfather, there is one story from this ministry that has stayed with me. Two sisters named Nelly and Elsy were born with paraplegia which keeps them from walking or standing alone, and they must be carried everywhere. Their family valued education so much that they carried them to school every day. One sister, Elsy, would sometimes cry when she saw her friends walking by their home. She longed to be able to visit and play with others. The isolation and the hindrance to education and socialization broke my heart. A wheelchair was given to each of them, and joy returned to their home. The girls now live lives transformed by mobility and enjoy access to everything it brings!

Free Wheelchair Mission recipients tell stories like these all over the world as we continue to pursue our goal to distribute **1 million chairs by the end of 2016**. As the Founder, I am thrilled to align myself, my family and my resources with FWM. Over the last year, FWM has continued its focus and commitment on becoming a leading provider of mobility in developing nations.

The demand for our new GEN\_2 wheelchair grows and this past year represented 30% of our production. We improved our GEN\_1 wheelchair by adding wider front castors and a new cushion. Beyond placing recipients in a chair, FWM is bringing transformation that opens doors to education, the local church, employment opportunities, community and recreation for children around the world. As we strive to distribute over 100,000 chairs annually, we want to advance our Leading Partner Program that addresses our wheelchair distribution process. This program will increase our distribution partners' abilities to properly prescribe and fit wheelchairs and train recipients how to better care for themselves.

My friends, it has been a great and exciting year!

*Together, as FWM ambassadors, financial supporters and volunteers, we can continue to show God's love through the transformational gift of mobility.*



Don Schoendorfer,  
Founder



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# Need

The far-reaching affects of poverty, lack of education, limited resources and disease are unrelenting and the need for mobility in the developing world is as great as ever. Some estimates indicate that among the 2 billion people living on less than \$2 per day, there are as many as 100 million people trapped in a life defined by disability. Free Wheelchair Mission will be a catalyst for independence, dignity and hope for 100,000 people in 2014. Mobility allows for increased access to education and employment for those with disabilities living in developing countries. Dreams will come true.

## Our Vision

*Free Wheelchair Mission will be a leading provider of mobility, transforming the lives of 100,000 people with disabilities in 2014.*



# Transformation

*The gift of a wheelchair is the beginning of transformation for that person, not the end.*

In 2014 we intend to strengthen our relationships with our Distribution Partners to ensure that care continues after the immediate, life-changing impact of receiving a wheelchair.

- Our partners will provide maintenance and replacement when needed.
- Our training will include the best practices to ensure the on-going health of the recipient, spiritual growth and integration into society.
- Training will be provided to the family of the recipient (usually the primary caregiver) to lessen the burden in their lives.



# Free Wheelchair Mission Financial Statements

NOTE: There was a change in fiscal year for 2013. The 2013 numbers represent a fifteen month period from April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

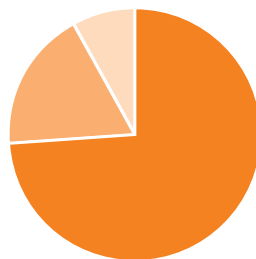
## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

| <b>Assets</b>                           | <b>2013</b>        | <b>2012</b>        |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Current Assets                    | \$1,000,086        | \$1,488,928        |
| Other Assets                            | \$135,937          | \$181,347          |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                     | <b>\$1,136,023</b> | <b>\$1,670,275</b> |
| <b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>       |                    |                    |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>              | <b>2013</b>        | <b>2012</b>        |
| Accounts Payable                        | \$110,268          | \$387,729          |
| Accrued Expenses                        | \$31,001           | \$74,349           |
| Deferred Liability                      | \$65,923           | \$57,254           |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                | <b>\$207,192</b>   | <b>\$519,332</b>   |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                       |                    |                    |
| Unrestricted/Undesignated               | \$591,185          | \$653,509          |
| Temporarily Restricted                  | \$337,646          | \$497,434          |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                 | <b>\$928,831</b>   | <b>\$1,150,943</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b> | <b>\$1,136,023</b> | <b>\$1,670,275</b> |

## Consolidated Statement of Activities

| <b>Support and Revenue</b>       | <b>2013</b>        | <b>2012</b>        |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Contributions                    | \$6,602,273        | \$5,738,732        |
| Gift-in-Kind                     | \$1,117,990        | \$156,669          |
| Other Revenue                    | \$48,981           | \$23,181           |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b> | <b>\$7,769,244</b> | <b>\$5,918,582</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                  |                    |                    |
| Program Services 74%             | \$5,902,427        | \$4,033,867        |
| General and Administrative 8%    | \$634,998          | \$515,386          |
| Fundraising 18%                  | \$1,453,931        | \$1,349,254        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>            | <b>\$7,991,356</b> | <b>\$5,898,507</b> |

### Expense Allocation FYE13



|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Program Services           | 74% |
| General and Administrative | 8%  |
| Fundraising                | 18% |

| <b>Assets</b>                 | <b>2013</b> | <b>2012</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Change in Net Assets          | (\$222,112) | \$20,075    |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year | \$1,150,943 | \$1,130,868 |
| Net Assets, End of Year       | \$928,831   | \$1,150,943 |

# Vision for 2014 and beyond

*FWM will focus on three major initiatives in 2014 to provide the gift of mobility to 100,000 people worldwide:*

## 1 Strengthen our Distribution Partner Network.

Our Distribution Partners rely on us for more than just a steady supply of wheelchairs; they are asking for additional training. In 2014, we will provide further in-depth training to our partners around the world. This five-day course provides a train-the-trainer-model, which more rapidly expands the impact of FWM into difficult, hard to serve areas of the world. Using technology, we will encourage partners to leverage their best practices by collaborating with each other. Our network of more than 50 active partners provides a vast reservoir of knowledge to better serve people with disabilities in developing countries.

## 2 Global Thought Leader

FWM will expand on our experience and provide thought leadership on the specific needs of people with disabilities in the poorest areas of the world. We have made great strides for those with disabilities; however, in the developing world, needs among people with disabilities are significant and varied and require innovative solutions. With over a decade of experience exclusively serving the developing world, FWM will host conferences with organizations dedicated to people with disabilities living in some of the poorest regions in the world.

Our Transformation Investigation, a longitudinal study of 600 wheelchair recipients in three countries, across three continents, will continue in 2014. It will further influence our strategies going forward as we gain more data from the field. We completed two extensive surveys in 2013 and we will complete two more in 2014 to improve our impact among our wheelchair recipients.

Within population groups across three countries able to openly profess transformation, 95% said the gift of a wheelchair changed their attitude positively toward the Christian church.

Out of six hundred recipients, 171 indicated they are employable. Across the three countries, we can conclude that our wheelchair is responsible for enabling 41 clients to have a job in the combined population of 171 employable clients. This translates into an employment rate of 24%.

Disabilities often severely affect a person's social life, especially within the family. Our study noted that difficulties with family relationships decreased by 40% in Uganda, 19% in Peru and 10% in Viet Nam. A new wheelchair made life easier for both the recipient and their caregivers.

## 3 Expand Mobility Aids and Orthopedic Medical Supplies

In 2013, we launched a successful pilot program providing mobility aids and orthopedic medical supplies for recipients when it is evident a wheelchair is not the best solution. We will expand this program in 2014. FWM can expand the gift of mobility to many more families as we partner with selected hospitals to provide much needed operations. These operations frequently eliminate the need for a wheelchair.

In other cases, even though a wheelchair is still necessary, a person's quality of life is greatly improved.

Hiep was born with clubfeet. In October 2013, Da Nang orthopedic hospital received a medical container from FWM. This allowed the hospital to receive some money from the state and provide free surgeries for the poor. Hiep was selected to have a corrective surgery for his left foot (his right foot had been corrected earlier). He now has his two feet in splints to prevent relapses and is recovering nicely.

Hiep's mother wrote, **"On behalf of my family, I am writing a letter to you to especially thank you for your contribution to making a major difference in my son's life. He will need to wear splints for a couple of years, and then he will be able to walk like normal kids."**



**Matias** is one of the perkier 6-year-olds you will ever meet. In his short life, he has already endeared himself to the community so much that the police force awarded him an honorary membership! Matias' paralysis was caused by an overdose of oxygen while being treated for a severe cold at 8-months-old. The brain damage he sustained resulted in a deformation of his spine and underdeveloped motor skills and speech.

When Matias received his gift from Free Wheelchair Mission, the Chief of Police himself accompanied the boy and his family to accept it. He smiled extra big and whispered a secret to his mom when someone told him that the wheelchair was a gift of love from God. She explained, "**We know it must have been arranged in heaven because it is just so right, almost like it was made especially for him. Matias says it was because he prayed and God answered.**"



[www.freewheelchairmission.org](http://www.freewheelchairmission.org)

15279 Alton Pkwy., Ste 300, Irvine, CA 92618 • 949.273.8470