

ANNUAL REPORT | 2023

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE GIFT OF MOBILITY®



**FREE
WHEELCHAIR
MISSION**



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“My prayer is that more people would know that wheelchairs are not luxuries. They are necessities as much as food, water, clothes, and shelter. In fact, they often are needed to access those other things.

“And I pray that more would know that we don’t need a fancy degree or a cutting-edge invention to make a difference. To create a legacy, all we need to do is use our gifts and follow our calling in showing love for others in need.”

Don Schoendorfer
President & Founder
Free Wheelchair Mission



A Letter from Our President & Founder and Our CEO

Dear friends,

In 2023, your unwavering prayers and support empowered us to navigate global uncertainties and economic challenges, allowing us to extend our impact.

Throughout the year, your generosity sent 61,732 new wheelchairs to people living with disabilities in 33 developing countries; since our founding in 2001, you have helped distribute a total of 1,365,696 wheelchairs in 95 countries.* These gifts have transcended individual lives, reaching caregivers, families, neighbors, and friends, fostering positive change within entire communities.

June marked a significant milestone as the first shipment of wheelchairs from our second manufacturer, Krypton Industries, reached Costa Rica. The strategic decision to produce our wheelchairs at two factories ensures a constant supply of new wheelchairs for years to come.

Teams from Free Wheelchair Mission continued to strengthen our global network through visits to overseas distribution partners. These visits included comprehensive training sessions, manufacturing assessments, and vision trips, all aimed at fortifying our network and expanding our reach.

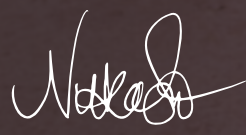
Increased media coverage, spanning television news segments, magazine articles, social media posts, and digital advertising, has significantly heightened our visibility both nationally and internationally. This enhanced exposure helped us to reach all new groups of supporters.

Together with you, we have achieved so much, but the need for mobility remains urgent: the World Health Organization estimates that 80 million people worldwide need wheelchairs. With your enduring partnership, we can remain committed to addressing this need and mobilizing others with the life-transforming gift of mobility. Thank you for blessing our mission and for being part of this journey with us.

With gratitude,



Don Schoendorfer
President & Founder



Nuka Solomon
Chief Executive Officer

*Statistics reflect data from Fiscal Year 2023: July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023.



Who We Are

Free Wheelchair Mission is the world's largest nonprofit manufacturer of cost-efficient, durable wheelchairs designed for the developing world.

Since 2001, we have distributed 1.4 million wheelchairs to individuals living with disabilities in 95 countries, providing renewed dignity, independence, and hope through the gift of mobility.

What We Do

We design and manufacture wheelchairs that are shipped by ocean container to our worldwide network of distribution partners, whom we also train in wheelchair provision, assembly, maintenance, and use.

By collaborating with like-minded partners across the globe, we provide mobility to people living with disabilities in under-resourced countries—all at no cost to the recipient.

Whenever possible, our partners help us let wheelchair recipients know that they are loved by God and are receiving their new wheelchair because of Him.



The Need

The World Health Organization estimates that 80 million people in the world need a wheelchair. Without mobility, people living with disabilities in developing countries are often left confined to their beds or homes, hindering opportunities to pursue an education, make a living, or participate in community. A new wheelchair would offer them countless new possibilities.

Our Mission

To provide the transforming gift of mobility to people with disabilities living in developing nations, as motivated by Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

We believe in a world where everyone who needs a wheelchair has one.



Board of Directors

Dan Hanson*
Executive Director Distributed Retail, loanDepot

Mark Hedstrom**
Treasurer
Retired, CFO and COO, Colony Capital, Inc.

Debbie Hendry**
Retired, Operations Executive

David Hummelberg**
Chair
Retired, COO and CFO, North American Distribution, Capital Group

Sefakor Komabu-Pomeyie, Ph.D.**
International Disability Rights Advocate and Policy Analyst

Felix Lin, CFA**
Senior Advisor, Institutional Consulting Services, Beacon Pointe Advisors

Dave Link**
Retired, CEO, Precision Pet Products

Stuart Rattray**
Chair Emeritus
Retired, Senior Vice President Area South East, Hapag-Lloyd AG

Connie Salios**
Board Advisor & Organizational Consultant

Don Schoendorfer, Ph.D.**
President and Founder

Susan Shore, P.T., Ph.D.**
Secretary
Professor and Chair, Department of Physical Therapy, Azusa Pacific University

* Served in Fiscal Year 2023.
+ Serving in Fiscal Year 2024.



Evert's Story

Evert is a young husband and father in Managua, Nicaragua. He lost mobility in a devastating accident while selling milk and whey out of his horse-drawn cart. An out-of-control truck struck him, dragging him several yards and causing severe injuries that led to the amputation of both legs.

Determined to remain mobile, and with no mobility aids available to him, Evert resorted to a makeshift solution: he would place two plastic milk containers on the ground, one after the other, and crawl over them to move about. Evert did this for three years.

That all changed when Evert received a new wheelchair from our local distribution partner, Metanoia Missions. Now, Evert can continue selling milk from his cart, mounting his wheelchair in the back.

“The wheelchair has restored my independence, health, and ability to continue providing for my family,” grinned Evert.

The new wheelchair has also granted him the freedom to go places more easily on his own—something that once seemed impossible after his life-altering accident.

Evert, 31 years old, Nicaragua

Where We Worked

Free Wheelchair Mission has distributed wheelchairs in 95 countries since 2001. In 2023, we shipped wheelchairs to the following countries:*

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Argentina | Kenya |
| Brazil | Mexico |
| Chile | Nicaragua |
| China | Pakistan |
| Colombia | Paraguay |
| Costa Rica | Peru |
| Dominican Republic | Philippines |
| Ecuador | Rwanda |
| El Salvador | Somaliland |
| Eswatini | South Africa |
| Ethiopia | South Asia |
| Ghana | South Sudan |
| Guatemala | Thailand |
| Haiti | Uganda |
| Honduras | Ukraine |
| Iraq | Vietnam |
| Jamaica | |

*This list reflects shipping data from July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023 and may not include countries where our partners distributed wheelchairs received prior to these dates. For a full list of countries where we have provided wheelchairs, visit FreeWheelchairMission.org/where-we-work.





Our Impact*



61,732 Wheelchairs
Distributed to 33 Countries



124 Containers of
Wheelchairs Shipped



169 Wheelchairs Distributed
Per Day on Average



88% of Wheelchairs Distributed
With a Christian Message



12 Distribution Partners Trained
or Audited in 11 Countries



1,365,696 Wheelchairs
Distributed Since 2001

*Statistics reflect data from Fiscal Year 2023: July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023.

Our Distribution Partners

In 2023, Free Wheelchair Mission distributed 61,732 wheelchairs through our distribution partners, including:*

- ADR

Agape Mobility Ethiopia

Al-Khidmat Foundation

Bethany Kids

Buenas Nuevas

Camino de Vida

CAPNI

CEPD

Children International Philippines

Christian Aid Ministries Nicaragua

CILSA

Diversity Action Network

Do It Foundation

Faith in Practice

Father’s Heart Mobility Ministry

Food for the Hungry Nicaragua

Food for the Hungry Rwanda

Food for the Hungry South Sudan

Food for the Poor Colombia (Order of Malta)

Food for the Poor El Salvador (FUNHOPO)

Food for the Poor Guatemala (Order of Malta)

Food for the Poor Haiti

Food for the Poor Honduras (CEPUDO)

Food for the Poor Jamaica
- Fundación Hospital General El Buen Samaritano

Fundación Vista Para Todos

FURMEX

FUSAL

Giving It Back To Kids

Help for the Andes Foundation

Henan Disabled People’s Foundation

Hubei Disabled People’s Foundation

Jesús Responde

Junta de Bene icencia de Guayaquil

Metanoia Missions

MJF Charitable Foundation

Network 21 South Africa

Pure Hands

RICD Wheelchair Project

Rotary Club of Maringá-Parque do Ingá

Tenwek Hospital

The Luke Commission

United Palestinian Appeal

Urban Mosaic

Walkabout Foundation Haiti

Walkabout Foundation Kenya

World Vision El Salvador

Xinjiang Disabled People’s Foundation

*Statistics reflect data from Fiscal Year 2023: July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023.





Reaching New Territories

Our worldwide network of distribution partners not only handles the logistics of importing and assembling our wheelchairs but is also deeply embedded in their communities, possessing an intimate understanding of their local contexts. As this network expands, Free Wheelchair Mission continues to broaden our impact, reaching new territories and transforming lives in more places around the world. This collaborative effort has been the cornerstone of our success, allowing us to transform lives in some of the most remote regions on earth.

The wheelchair program has become one of our most important programs. Thanks to the work you allow us to do, we are a reference in the Dominican Republic for all people or institutions that need wheelchairs. We have touched the lives of thousands of people with disabilities, many of whom are now able to work.

Fundación Hospital El Buen Samaritano, Dominican Republic

We are reaching more areas of distribution throughout the country, allowing our program a major scope. The wheelchairs have given us an opportunity to develop a program that allows us to provide medical attention and physical therapy for immobile patients. We can fulfill wheelchair users' needs in a better and more effective way.

Faith In Practice, Guatemala

From providing wheelchairs to refugees in Northern Uganda to aiding victims of the devastating earthquakes that struck Haiti in 2021, our partnership with Free Wheelchair Mission and Walkabout Foundation has been transformative. We look forward to expanding our impact together into new regions, starting with South Sudan.

Hope Health Action, Haiti, South Sudan, and Uganda

Hoa's Story

Hoa, a 23-year-old in Vietnam, has faced the challenges of living with polio since birth. With limited mobility, she has had to crawl or be carried, and her daily activities, including personal hygiene, require constant assistance from her parents. The extent of care she needed has significantly impacted the family's already-limited resources, resulting in diminished assets and reduced income.

However, a ray of hope beamed into Hoa's life when she received a new wheelchair from our local distribution partner, Giving It Back To Kids. With the newfound mobility provided by the wheelchair, Hoa can now explore the world more freely, and her parents can witness her enjoying life beyond the confines of their home.

“This is a precious gift that will be with her for the future,” said Hoa’s mother. “Hoa will no longer have to crawl like she used to. She can go farther now.”

The gift of a wheelchair has not only enhanced Hoa's independence but also alleviated the burden on her parents, symbolizing a positive change in their family's journey.



Hoa, 23 years old, Vietnam

Our Financials*

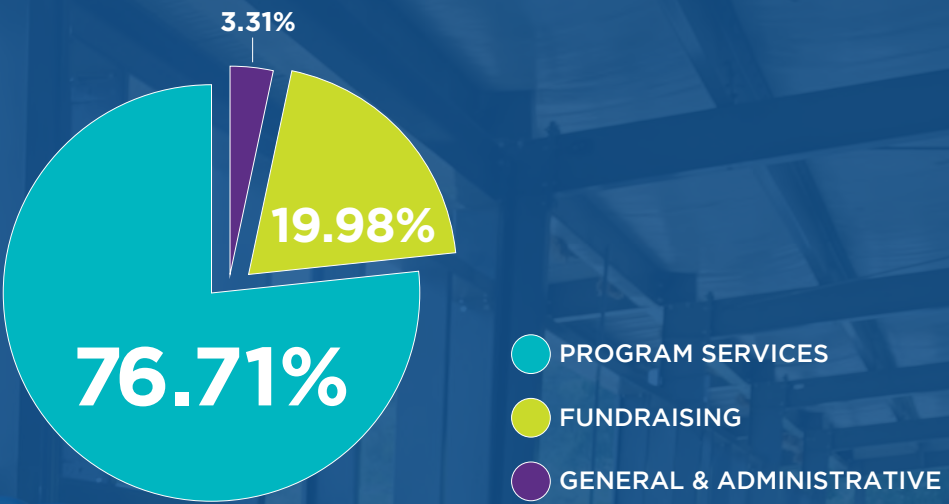
In 2023, we continued to strive for excellence by maintaining a 76% program ratio as we distributed 61,732 wheelchairs in 33 countries.

We continue to transform lives thanks to the unique partnership we have with our distribution partners and donors like you.

Statement of Financial Position			
Assets	2023	2022	2021
Total Current Assets	\$2,657,586	\$2,582,334	\$2,188,091
Other Assets	\$1,220,499	\$963,066	\$1,092,781
Total Assets	\$3,878,085	\$3,545,400	\$3,280,872
Liabilities	2023	2022	2021
Total Current Liabilities	\$645,817	\$716,580	\$468,462
Other Liabilities	\$372,829	\$259,650	\$315,461
Total Liabilities	\$1,018,646	\$976,230	\$783,923
Net Assets	2023	2022	2021
Unrestricted/Undesignated	\$2,214,343	\$1,860,349	\$1,577,549
Temporarily Restricted	\$645,096	\$708,821	\$919,400
Total Net Assets	\$2,859,439	\$2,569,170	\$2,496,949
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,878,085	\$3,545,400	\$3,280,872

*Fiscal years reflect July 1st through June 30th of 2023, 2022, and 2021.

Expense Allocation



Statement of Activities			
Support & Revenue	2023	2022	2021
Contributions	\$10,969,834	\$8,990,684	\$7,223,816
Gift-in-Kind	\$3,092,177	\$2,763,573	\$2,341,259
Other Revenue	\$318,017	\$135,437	\$418,848
Total Support and Revenue	\$14,380,028	\$11,889,694	\$9,983,923
Expenses	2023	2022	2021
Program Services	\$10,808,424	\$8,866,985	\$7,060,321
General and Administrative	\$466,096	\$593,135	\$449,207
Fundraising	\$2,815,239	\$2,357,353	\$1,933,522
Total Expenses	\$14,089,759	\$11,817,473	\$9,443,050
Net Assets	2023	2022	2021
Change in Net Assets	\$290,269	\$72,221	\$540,873
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$2,569,170	\$2,496,949	\$1,956,076
Net Assets, End of Year	\$2,859,439	\$2,569,170	\$2,496,949

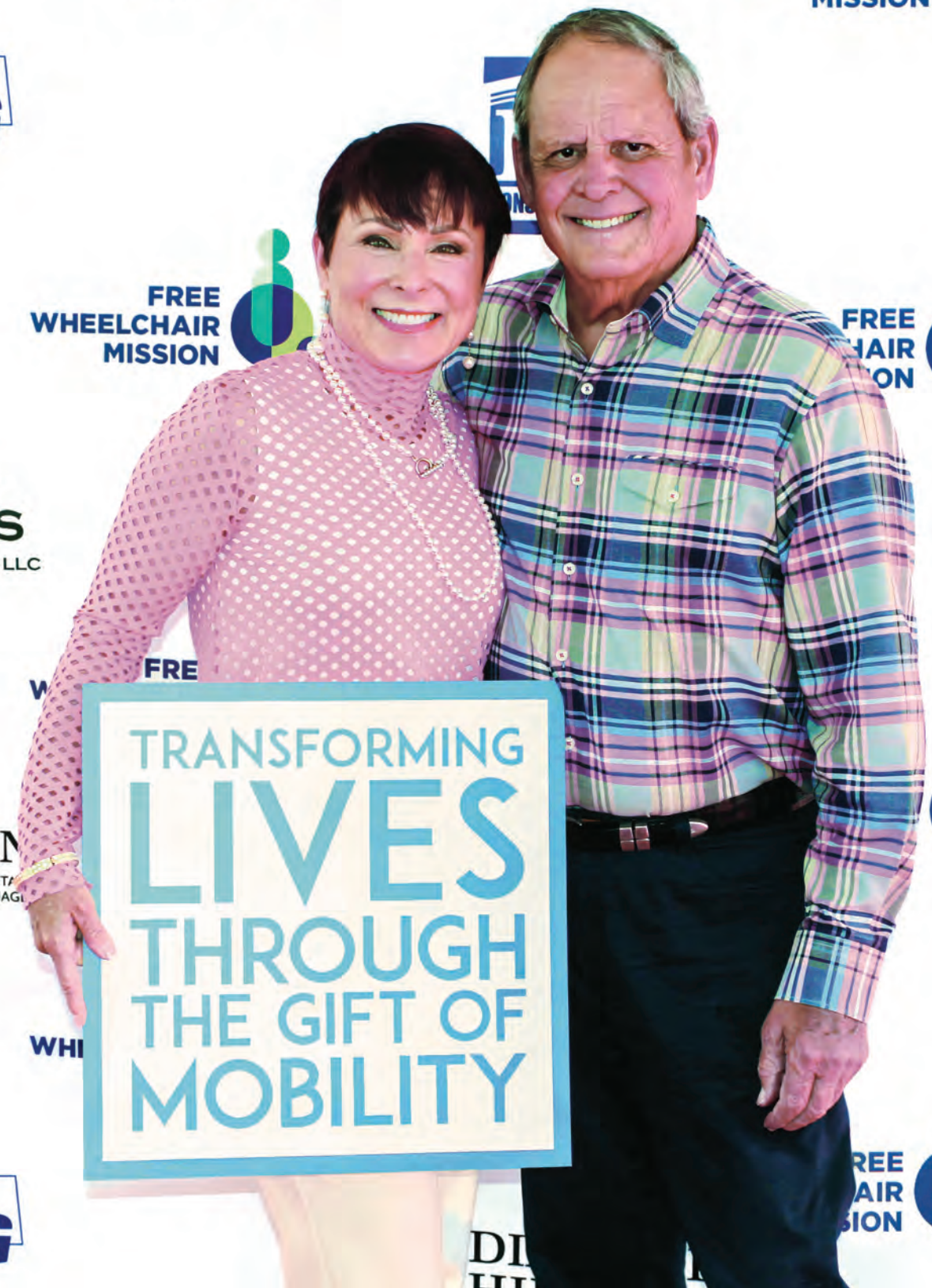
As a result of our financial transparency and accountability efforts, we are proud to receive the highest ratings from the following charity rating organizations:



Mobilizing Lives

Deborah Anderson has been an integral part of Free Wheelchair Mission since 2002, when she first met Don Schoendorfer at Mariners Church in Irvine, California. “I had been praying every day for a whole year that God would find me a mission that I could give my time, talents, and treasures to, and God blessed me seven times seventy-seven. My life has never been the same.” Over the years, Deborah has embarked on wheelchair distribution trips around the world, served on the Free Wheelchair Mission Board of Directors, and played a key role in launching the event that would become our annual Miracle of Mobility.

Now retired from our board, Deborah continues to support Free Wheelchair Mission through Mobilize, a new program designed to support our mission long-term through gifts that go toward specific countries each month. “Mobilize has redefined my journey, unveiling the impact of my gifts in a more personal way,” said Deborah. “The monthly newsletters not only highlight the specific countries that my gifts went to, but also feature stories and photos that immerse me in a life being transformed by my contributions. Thanks to Mobilize, I feel an even deeper connection to this cause that has been dear to me for so many years.”





Company and Foundation Supporters

Our special thanks to these corporations, foundations, and other organizations for their significant financial support in 2023. Their generosity helped transform thousands of lives.*

Abra Prentice Foundation, Inc.

Advisors Mortgage Group

CapRock Partners

Cynthia Lake Charitable Trust

Donald G. and Ellen Goodwin Family Foundation, Inc.

Downs Energy

FOAMit

Hager Family Foundation

Invacare Corporation

JKJ Charitable

Kellogg Supply, Inc.

Marriott Daughters Foundation

MIC Systems & Software Inc.

Right at Home, Inc.

Robin & Linda Boyd

The Capital Group Companies, Inc.

The Croul Family Foundation

The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation

The Logos Charitable Fund

The P & L Odette Charitable Foundation

The Thompson Family Foundation

Wasily Family Foundation

Wheeler Family Foundation

*Some unlisted corporate or foundation supporters have requested to remain anonymous.

