



The Rotations

Oct 24, 2012

SANTA ANA NORTH ROTARY 1959

WWW.SANTAANORTHROTARY.ORG

“Free Wheelchair Mission”

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Today, Amanda Rozzana, Development Officer at the Free Wheelchair Mission, visited SAN to receive donation and update us on progress and Generation 2 chair.

PROGRAM

The subject was progress at FWM and introduction of new product Generation 2 chair which comes in 3 sizes and has many improvements to assist with support and handling.

The GEN_2 features adjustable seating, large castor wheels, an extra-thick cushion, and customizable footrests for added safety and stability. Designed to accommodate a variety of users, the GEN_2 is particularly well-suited for children and recipients with special medical needs.

Costs have risen to an average of \$71.88 per chair of Gen 1 or 2. They estimate that 100 million chairs are needed to assist third world need. Disability could be due to disease, accidents, war, birth defects etc.

Elevation and ability makes not only helps physically but also psychologically. Users become productive and are able to go to work and manage their own daily needs.

As of Sept 12, 663,000 chairs have been supplied thru partners including local Rotary groups or churches etc. to the needy in 86 countries. For more information go to www.freewheelchairmission.com.

President Lisa presented the club's annual donation to Amanda.

GUESTS

Mary Doppelfeld, Anchorage, AK
Barbara Amy

CLUB RECOGNITION

Mel – Happy Birthday
Catherine - Anniversary



Wednesdays 12:15 PM
Antonello Ristorante
1611 Sunflower Ave, Santa Ana

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Oct 31 – SAN Social

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 17 – Annual District 5320 Foundation Dinner @ Hilton Irvine. Tickets \$65.

In developing nations where poverty and economic isolation are the norm, it is estimated that 100 million people need a wheelchair, yet cannot afford one. Already suffering with the pain, inconvenience, exclusion and indignity of a physical disability, many of these people with physical disabilities must endure further burdens. Some are forced to crawl on the ground or wait to be carried by loved ones to reach their most basic of needs. They are subjected to danger and disease. Many succumb to hopelessness. Safety nets are few, and available social services are scarce. Families strain to care for their disabled loved one within an already overburdened existence.

100 million people need a wheelchair, and yet this empowering gift of mobility is an economic impossibility, a dream far beyond their wildest imagination.

Why are so many people disabled?

80% of people with disabilities live in developing countries. There are many



reasons for the preponderance of disability in low-income parts of the world.

Disease and lack of access to immunization. Birth defects from malnutrition or exposure to chemicals are not uncommon. Illnesses like polio that have been eliminated in the United States through a comprehensive vaccination policy continue

to wreak havoc in underserved areas. **Injuries.** Injuries that could be treated and cured with simple medical attention are often left to deteriorate, due to the lack of available and affordable health care in poor areas. Burns are commonplace, working conditions can be unmonitored and highly risky, traffic accidents are on the rise, and often the poorest members of society are caught in the fray.



Conflict-ridden areas haunted by the remnants of war can be peppered with land mines, often killing or injuring children and unsuspecting victims. Biological elements of aggression, such as Agent Orange have caused birth defects which can result in disability in generations to come.



And, unfortunately, the poorest members of any society tend to live in the least desirable areas, which are at best unclean and at worst, dangerous and uninhabitable. **What does poverty have to do with disability?** Disability has many

contributing factors, but one of the most powerful, observable, and universal links is the direct relationship between poverty and disability. The two are intricately connected.

Poverty causes disability through dangerous living conditions, lack of health care and malnutrition. People living in poverty are often forced to live and work in unsafe conditions, risking illness and injury. They often must make decisions that sacrifice their own health and well-being for the sake of children, family or community, and they have no safety net to save them from the consequences of these difficult choices.

Disability creates poverty when it excludes the disabled from full participation in the economic and social aspects of community. In many parts of the world, the disabled lack access to jobs, health services, transportation, or any form of rehabilitation. Disabled individuals may suffer additionally from inbuilt social stigma, cultural suspicion and economic prejudice; in many times they are exposed to abuse and violence, some of which may be considered culturally acceptable.

Education – the vital link... Perhaps the most damaging arena from which the disabled are excluded is that of education. Education is the primary vehicle by which economically and socially disadvantaged populations can lift themselves out of poverty. Education should be a basic right for all people, yet millions of children are deprived as the result of a disability and must face life without basic literacy, math skills and the hope for the future that education provides; **in fact, it is estimated that 98% of children with physical or mental impairments in developing countries do not attend school.**

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