



'Reach Out and Care'

2007 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
FACTS, FIGURES, AND TESTIMONIALS

Prepared By:
Andrew T. Babcock
Executive Director

Annual Report 2007

Financials:

Donations Received

Individual/business contribution	\$130855.00
Grants	\$57,773.00
Non-Cash Contributions	\$14,350.00
Interest Income	\$2,277.00
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	\$28,916.00
Total Revenue	\$231,705.00

Wheelchair Distributions

Iraq – June and December 2007	Delivered: 200 ROC Chairs
Mexico – Feb 2007	Delivered: 40 Wheelchairs
Peru – Aug 2007	Delivered: 100 Wheelchairs
Kenya – Nov 2007	Delivered: 400 Wheelchairs

Other accomplishments:

Kids First Vietnam ROC Chair Factory
ROC Chair production and training for manufacturing staff and fitting specialists.

Redesigned ROC Chair to build in additional strength for longevity in developing countries.

YEWTH (Youth Empowered With The Holy Spirit) Program Expansion

WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTIONS

MOSUL AND BAGHDAD, IRAQ

June and December 2007

200 Adaptable ROC Chairs

Partners

Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids

US Military

Iraq Military and Police Force

Distribution Sights: Baghdad and Mosul

Other Trip Objectives

Build partnerships to progress towards local manufacturing- NGO strengthening

Written By: Brad Blausler, President, Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids (Iraq Strategic Partner)

A new phrase, “Hearts and Minds,” is becoming an important part of soldiers’ lives here in Iraq. Personally, I had not been able to experience that aspect of our mission because of such limited interaction with the Iraqi people. That was before I participated in a humanitarian mission that has become one of the most moving experiences I have had in Iraq or in my life in general.

The goal of our mission was to facilitate the non-profit organizations Wheelchair for Iraqi Kids and ROC Wheels in their efforts to distribute wheelchairs to people in need. Myself, along with 34 other U.S. Soldiers, two Iraqi contractors and one Department of Defense contractor, traveled three hours in a convoy to an Iraqi Border Patrol base. After all the security procedures, discussion on problems facing the Iraqi forces and the Iraqi people, and border control we were finally prepared to perform the distribution. A team of Iraqi and American soldiers set out 44 ROC Chairs and 30 adult wheelchairs. The Iraqi parents and grandparents filed in with their children. The images from the next two hours were enough to bring tears to even the toughest soldiers’ eyes as emotions ran extremely high.

Several of the parents had carried their children for miles just to have a chance of getting a wheelchair for their child. While fitting one little girl’s new ROC Chair I spoke with her father who said he carried his daughter over 10 kilometers to receive this wheelchair. I asked him if it was difficult carrying his child so far and he told me that he was used to it. He had been carrying his daughter like this since she was born. He gave me a hug and I stepped back with a wet shoulder, as the father was so happy that he had been crying. It is well-established for soldiers to be “tough guys” and never cry, but I was so moved that, I’m not going to lie, tears filled my eyes. As I looked around, slightly embarrassed, I saw that there was no one who wasn’t moved by the experience. Several of the soldiers

from sister units in my battalion were moved to tears. It was very moving to see soldiers who spent 99 percent of their time turning wrenches and riding up and down the road in convoys being so touched by this experience.

The soldiers who assembled the wheelchairs were from 164th Maintenance Company from the Washington National Guard. The soldiers who were in charge of the convoy were also from a sister unit, A 1/321 Field Artillery from Fort Bragg, N.C.

It was a very touching experience. If I do nothing else beneficial in Iraq, I will at least know that myself, my fellow soldiers, and one determined contractor helped those Iraqi children and their parents.

Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids (www.WheelchairsForIraqiKids.com) began in 2005 as a request from LTC David Brown, a Battalion Surgeon with a Stryker unit in Mosul, Iraq. He had seen many children in the city of Mosul dragging themselves on the ground as they could not walk. Since that time, WFIK has brought over almost 250 high quality pediatric wheelchairs for disabled Iraqi children. Most who receive them are born with disabilities such as Spina-Bifida, Cerebral Palsy, and contracted diseases like Polio. And yes, one in a great many is disabled because of war injuries. I'm told that over 12,000+ disabled children who have no means of mobility reside in this one Iraqi city alone.

SAN CARLOS, MEXICO

January 2008

24 U.S. Team Members

10 Adaptable ROC Chairs

40 Refurbished Wheelchairs

Partners

Rocky Mountain Ministries

San Carlos Community Church

Hope Haven International Ministries

Distribution Sights: Guaymas and rural areas

Other Trip Objectives

Medical and Eyeglass Clinic

Written by: Wayne and Lee Ann Hanson, Founders of ROC Wheels

The air was filled with shouts of excitement and laughter as the brightly colored parachute danced up and down in response to the multitude of children grasping its perimeter. Other children were creating salvation bracelets that tell the story of God's love. Puppets acted out fun skits and songs in Spanish while village people waited to see the doctors and nurses. Vitamins and medications were distributed by the mobile pharmacy and eye glasses were dispersed to hundreds. Throughout the ten days nearly 1,000 villagers were seen and ministered to physically and spiritually by the team. This was ROC Wheels third consecutive year of partnering with Rocky Mountain Ministries in the surrounding area of Guaymas, Mexico. Missionaries Brenda and Art Koenes (ROC

board member), hosted the 30 person team at their mission base in San Carlos. ROC especially appreciated the help of the “farmers” on the team for their creative problem solving, extensive skills with tools and genuine love for the people we fit with wheelchairs. We also had a great team of youth who helped with fitting chairs, translating, photography, registration and playing with the children while they waited. Four of the disabled children who received ROC Chairs were sponsored by the Emily Dickinson fifth graders from Bozeman, MT. These school kids showed they cared by creating beautiful hand made ceramic beaded necklaces which they sold at their Christmas program. Special thanks to the Gilhousen foundation for helping us to empower kids to reach out and care. Many of the children we fit experienced the joy and freedom of receiving their first wheelchair. Daniel was particularly excited since his new ROC would allow him to attend school for the first time in his life. We’d like to end with a precious memory of Susana, a 42 year old woman with severe cerebral palsy from birth. God blessed us with the privilege of fitting Susana with her very first wheelchair. Cries of joy and thankfulness were expressed by Susana and her family as we wheeled her outside her home. We’ll never forget the parting image of Susana and her sister making their way down the bumpy dirt road to visit family, friends and the local church. Her contagious laughter and flailing arms signified her new found freedom. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” 2 Cor. 3:17 May the Lord bless each of you for caring and helping to make this all possible. .

AREQUIPA, PERU

August 2007

4 ROC Team Members

15 MMI Team Members

100 Adaptable ROC Chairs

100 Various Wheelchairs

Partners

Medical Ministries International

Hope Haven International Ministries

Senor de Los Milagros

Caritas

Distribution Sights: Arequipa, Peru, Hospital de Apoyo Camana

Written by: Jodee Fortner Physical Therapist and Volunteer

I have been on many medical mission trips to overseas countries to provide pro bono physical therapy, but this past trip to Arequipa, Peru in August will always stand out with special memories. This was my first experience with a wheelchair distribution. The impact of the 100 wheelchairs we delivered was very evident. I will never forget the woman named Yolanda who was so thankful for her wheelchair that she led us all to tears in Spanish, no translation was needed! She thanked God ultimately and also us for the wheelchair. She never thought she would get such a nice wheelchair and now she can sit

upright and experience the world instead of being in bed all day as a result of her spinal cord injury and lack of physical therapy.

Our physical therapy team in Arequipa consisted of 15-physical therapists, students, helpers and translators. The project was lead through Medical Ministry International (MMI) in conjunction with ROC Wheels. Andrew from ROC and a mobility specialist named Mel Elliot completed our team. We held a physical therapy clinic and gave out foot braces, walkers and other equipment in addition to the wheelchairs. It was amazing to see how God provided the perfect wheelchair for each adult or child we saw. Needed footrests seemed to just appear out of “nowhere” when we hunted for them. It was a blessing to see children come in carried by their parents and leave sitting upright for the first time or pushing themselves independently for the first time. Through tears, little Claudia told us she could not keep up with her peers at school because she can’t walk. This broke my heart. However, after receiving a ROC Chair, her teacher emailed me a video of Claudia wheeling herself down the street with her peers during a school parade! What a privilege it is to be a part of that. Being able to share with others just a small taste of the blessings we have in this great country is an experience I can never forget and one I long to do over and over again.

The need for wheelchairs in Arequipa is very great. We already have a waiting list for children and adults needing wheelchairs. We also want to expand our distribution to surrounding areas such as Lima and possibly the jungle. Our goal for August of 2007 is 200 wheelchairs. If you would like to help us reach our goal, send donations to ROC Wheels labeled for Peru.

Kenya

October 2007

12 U.S. Team Members

120 Adaptable ROC Chairs

80 Various Wheelchairs

Partners

Big Sky Rotary Club (\$17,400 from Gold Auction)

Feed the Children (shipping and trucking)

Dagoretti Children’s Center

CORA Foundation (\$15,000 matching grant)

Distribution Sights:

Dagoretti Children’s Center, Tenwek, Nakuru, Nyabondo Rehabilitation Center, CPSK, Kaplong Hospital, Nakuru, Nariobi Family Support Services, Kibera Slums

The Kenya wheelchair distribution is quickly approaching with much anticipation. We are preparing for the largest wheelchair distribution in our history. The distribution team is composed of renowned therapists, wheelchair fitting specialists, physical therapy students, and handy volunteers that are ready for the hard work that lies ahead. The team will arrive in Nairobi in two groups. The first group will have the massive challenge of

unloading the two containers of 400 wheelchairs, assembling them, and sorting every wheelchair for a specific recipient and distribution site. They will be assisted by volunteers from Feed the Children. The second team will arrive two days later and the distribution will begin. The distribution begins at Dagoretti Children's Center in the Kibera Slums in Nairobi. The next three days we will custom fit nearly 200 wheelchairs. On Oct. 26th we will travel to Nakuru for the next two days of fittings before we depart for Sondu. In Nyabondo we will follow up with some past wheelchair recipients and serve another 42 children. On Oct. 29th we'll travel to Tenwek Hospital to visit children from past distributions and fit another 29 recipients. We will visit some cultural sites and walk up Mt. Motigo. The following day we will visit Kaplong Hospital and distribute the remaining wheelchairs.

On Nov. 1st we will rest and enjoy the beauty of the Masai Mara National Reserve during a two day Safari. The Masai Mara is an undisputed paradise due to it's quantity and variety of wildlife. It is also renowned for it's lions and for the annual great wildebeest migration. After some much needed rest we'll return to Nairobi and shop at the various markets and shops before celebrating our completed mission at the Java House Restaurant where we will enjoy an authentic feast before our return flight to the states. Please keep our team members in your thoughts and prayers. We have been blessed with a dedicated and qualified team!

YEWTH Program: ROC The World Tour Event

Written by: Lee Ann Hanson, Co-Founder and YEWTH ROC Director

The event began with the laughter of children working together to make gifts for wheelchair recipients on the other side of the world. Smiles and laughter spread as the creativity of the children fueled the excitement that soon spread to everyone in the room. The ROC the World Tour event was a family friendly evening to spread awareness, understanding, and support for those with developmental disabilities both here in the US and abroad. The financial goal of the event was to raise funds to cover the remainder of the Kenya budget and upcoming San Carlos Mexico distribution. The event raised \$7,350. The event also gathered children from our local Kids ROC program at Emily Dickinson School. Principal Robbye Hamburgh, "In today's world, the meaningful engagement of students in school is key to their success in life. Altruism is a great way to engage students. When our fifth graders participate in the Kids ROC program to get wheelchairs to students around the world, they go outside of themselves and think of others. Perhaps this is one of the best skills we can teach the students of the twenty first century." Lee Ann Hanson co-founder of ROC Wheels and director of Kids ROC, "I am extremely excited because Kids ROC is a dream coming true. It's all about kids helping kids. I want to thank the Gilhousen Foundation for donating the seed money to get this all started. We have an amazing resource of energy and creativity and love in our youth." Linda Wolfe, Teacher of fifth grade class at Emily Dickinson Elementary School, "Our involvement with Kids ROC has ignited my fifth grade class's enthusiasm to personally reach out and care for the needs of children in developing countries." Each fifth grade class is raising funds to adopt a ROC Chair for a child in Kenya. You can help by donating towards the Kenya mission.

DEVELOPING IN-COUNTRY MANUFACTURING

The movement has begun and ROC Wheels is one of the leaders to empower people in developing countries to provide for their own mobility needs. The World Health Organization's adopted standards and guidelines for serving mobility needs around the world including the following components. Training and education for local specialists, appropriate mobility devices, and local assembly or manufacturing operations to empower each region to provide for their own needs. These guidelines are everything that we have been emphasizing for years. Wheelchair distributions are a wonderful tool for networking and developing partnerships leading towards future local production. We must avoid creating a dependent relationship with humanitarian aid and especially wheelchairs, as the need is only growing and locals must be able to serve the need and provide ongoing support and maintenance. It is crucial to "teach a man to fish." ROC Wheels will continue to coordinate 4-6 wheelchair distributions a year. ROC's growth will come from starting manufacturing operations in developing countries. Partnering with USAID is the best way to expand our potential to establish local manufacturing.

QUANG TRI PROVINCE, VIETNAM

KIDS FIRST ROC CHAIR MANUFACTURING FACILITY

Partnership is one of the key ingredients for any non-profit organization, but this simple concept is intertwined with the very fabric of our inner desire to help others meet or exceed their potential. ROC Wheels is "looking outside the box" to reach out and help those here at home who have a heart to be pro-active in helping others, as well as serve one or more of the basic human needs of those we touch in developing countries. By offering a custom built wheelchair to a child, the gift of mobility and a personal relationship is forged with each child.

We are currently partnering with Kids First Vietnam with the express goal of allowing them to manufacture our ROC Chair in Dong Ha, a small town with a population of about 18,000. Kids First Vietnam's mission is to create educational and vocational opportunities for disadvantaged young people, some with disabilities, in the Quang Tri Province. Mike Harmsen and David Urband traveled to Vietnam in March 2007 and performed the three week manufacturing training. Currently the facility has the capacity to manufacture 100 ROC Chairs per month for distribution in Vietnam and the surrounding region. Awareness is spreading in Vietnam and the operation continues to grow to serve the need.

ROC Wheels Inc. is grateful to be helping to develop a sustainable program to provide socio-economic development for one of the poorest communities in Vietnam. The long term benefit to the landmine affected people in this region will be exciting to track over the coming years. This program is self-sustaining, provides jobs in the local community, and makes it possible for the recipients of the wheelchairs to lead a more comfortable and dignified life.

To date the estimated cost of material to manufacture the ROC Pediatric Wheelchair is \$160 per unit. We hope to improve on that number but it is close to the original projections.

KENYA MANUFACTURING / ASSEMBLY POTENTIAL

During the Kenya distribution we met with new partners to discuss the likelihood of manufacturing in Nairobi. The key partners in the discussion resulted from discussions during the Rotary International Convention in Salt Lake City. Two prominent Rotarians opened dialogue between ROC and Hubert Siefer, National Director of the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK). During the distribution ROC representatives met with Hubert and his staff and the two Rotarians to discuss a potential partnership. The Rotarians presented funding methods within Rotary International that could finance the budget requirements. It was agreed upon that these options would be pursued if APDK and ROC could develop a Memorandum Of Understanding. APDK is currently manufacturing mobility devices that are suited to the African environment. While touring the facility it was evident that their production methods would need to be significantly developed in order to manufacture the ROC Chair. The meeting adjourned with plans to work together to provide an appropriate adjustable pediatric wheelchair in Kenya utilizing the input of our partners. Soon after returning from Kenya the elections occurred and violence spread throughout the country. APDK suffered greatly from acts of looting and destruction. We continue to support their efforts and will re-visit the issue when the time is appropriate. New potential is developing for establishing an assembly operation in Nairobi that could later mature into full production.

GROUNDWORK ESTABLISHED FOR IRAQ / TURKEY MANUFACTURING

Soon 500 ROC Chairs will be assembled in Iraq thanks to a partnership with representatives from the Provincial Reconstruction Team that coordinated strategic partnerships with the Iraqi Red Crescent Organization, the Turkish Consulate, and the assistance of individuals with USAID. This comprehensive program will be a powerful first step to serve the overwhelming need for pediatric wheelchairs in this region.

Manufacturing of wheelchairs was not an option in this region at this time. It took tremendous coordination between all parties to develop a strategy that would create an assembly operation to create jobs and a hub for follow up with wheelchair recipients. ROC Wheels is using a similar template to what was used in Vietnam, specifically tailored to this region. ROC manufacturing specialists will perform an assembly clinic in Ankara, Turkey at the Red Crescent Organizations facilities to train the Iraq facility managers how to assemble the ROC Chairs, custom fit them to children, and necessary follow up to ensure proper fit and maintenance. It is likely that the success of this mission will lead to other assembly facilities in the region and the potential to incorporate other needed mobility devices. Outright support for this project is needed. This mission provides more than just mobility. Please help support our efforts to create sustainable programs for long-term solutions.

RAMALLAH, PALESTINE

ROC's Board determined that conditions remain to unstable in Palestine at this time to return to our previous three years work to help the Abu Raya Rehabilitation Center in Ramallah manufacture ROC Chair. The new center included a factory that was built according to ROC's design and recommendations. During a wheelchair distribution in Israel and Palestine in April of 2006 Andrew Babcock met with the director and the two new wheelchair manufacturing facility managers. Just two months before Palestinians voted Hamas into power. Resulting in a US government limiting humanitarian aid in Palestine. ROC performed the distribution and met with the managers that mutually decided that it would not be possible to proceed at this time.

WHEELCHAIR INNOVATION AND AWARENESS UPDATED ROC CHAIR

A new ROC Chair to better serve the needs of children in developing countries goes into production thanks to input from therapists around the world that are working with children that received ROC Chairs. Wayne Hanson, Stephen Sanford, David Urband, Mike Harmsen, and several other contributors put their minds together to make improvements to the ROC Chair that will allow for greater durability and function. These changes went into effect for the Vietnam facility as well as at the South Dakota State Penitentiary.

Durability is a crucial factor for all wheelchairs. Wheelchairs that are distributed to those in developing countries should be equal to the quality and strength of wheelchairs in the for-profit sector. When a wheelchair is given to someone it is nearly inhumane to provide a product that will last little over a year. It is hard to believe that thousands of wheelchairs being distributed have severe structural flaws. ROC Wheels and our partners strive to lead by example. What good will a wheelchair that is half the price or less be to a immobile child or adult when it breaks and there are not any replacement parts for repair? The new ROC Chair is built with stronger components that will result in the likelihood that one ROC Chair can serve most of the children for the duration of their life. It is sad to think that many of these children will not live to see adulthood, but it is comforting to know that the rest of their lives will be one of mobility in a comfortable ROC Chair.



The design includes strengthening of the footrest and leg extensions as well as a new front caster system that serves as a keystone for the frame. Several new crossbars in both the seat and seatback further strengthen the structural stability for heavy wear in developing countries.

RESNA

(The Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America)

RESNA is the primary professional organization for those who work with wheelchairs. Its members include engineers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech pathologists and who are committed to rehabilitation technology and practice.

By MICHAEL BECKER Bozeman Chronicle Staff Writer:

ROC Wheels won second place and a people's choice award in the national 2007 Appropriate Design Competition for their custom design, known as the ROC Chair.

The design's adaptability was a big factor in winning the awards, said Jon Pearlman, a researcher at the University of Pittsburgh and one of the contest organizers. The contest is sponsored by RESNA, an association of disability and assistive technology specialists from across the United States.

Pearlman said the judges chose the winners based on factors like affordability and practicality.

“When it comes down to it, the judges picked out the ROC Chair because it was, all around, the best device for the problem,” Pearlman said.

The need for such chairs is vast. The World Health Organization estimates that 80 percent of the world's 600 million disabled people live in low-income countries. Of those, only 10 percent who need assistive devices have access to them, and those are often low quality. Unsuitable chairs can make the disabled more dependent on others and, ironically, less mobile than before.

Babcock said the ROC Chair is designed to provide a quality chair that fits the user's need. In distribution since 2003, the chair is intended for children with cerebral palsy or other disabilities that affect upper body movement. Similar chairs would cost about \$3,000 each if sold in the United States, but thanks to a partnership with the South Dakota State Penitentiary, ROC Wheels can make the chairs for about \$300 each. “It's an ongoing project,” Babcock said. “We never stop innovating.” The nonprofit's founder, Wayne Hanson, said the ROC chair goes beyond the standard wheelchair. “When you're talking about an adaptive wheelchair, everything adjusts to fit the child dramatically,” Hanson said. “It grows up, down, sideways and everywhere.”

Hanson's new company, Kids UP of Belgrade, assisted ROC Wheels with the chair design. The chair is highly adjustable, allowing clinicians to fit the chairs to patients in the field. Neck, torso and hip supports ensure the patient is supported comfortably. The chair even breaks down quickly to fit in cars and is easy to repair. “It can really serve a lot of these children their whole lives,” Babcock said. Babcock said delivering the wheelchairs and meeting the children has been very rewarding. “They're answered prayers,” Babcock said of the chairs. “We're just tools along the way to provide that chair.”

IRAQ- CNN COVERAGE

BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN Covering December distribution) -- Mothers cradle children in their arms. Fathers smile softly at the helpless bodies they hold. Other parents are bent over from the weight of their teenage kids whose legs fall limp, almost touching the ground. In the absence of basic medical equipment, these parents do this every day.

Khaled is a father of three. On this day, his young daughter, Mariam, is getting fitted for her new wheelchair. Her arms and legs are painfully thin, little more than skin and bone. She's 7 years old, but looks barely half that. She and both her siblings, a sister and brother, suffer from varying degrees of polio. None of them can walk.

Asked how he and his family cope, Khaled chokes up, fighting back tears.

"I am sick of life -- what can I say to you?" he says after a long pause.

One man, Brad Blauser, has vowed to try to make life a little easier for these families by organizing the distribution of wheelchairs, donated and paid for by his charity, Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids. He first came to Iraq in 2004 as a civilian contractor. Struck by the abject chaos surrounding him and seeing helpless children scooting along the ground, he pledged to find a way to help.

His first step was to consult an Army medic to find out what hospitals really needed. "He surprised me with his answer about pediatric wheelchairs. We've got so many children out in the city that the ones who can get around are following their friends by dragging themselves around on the ground, which is heartbreaking to see," he says. "I was surprised. It took me aback."

Enlisting the help of generous supporters and an Iraqi humanitarian group Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids was born in August of 2005. Thirty days later its first 31 chairs were delivered. To date more than 250 Iraqi families have received the wheelchairs.

Blauser has partnered with a nonprofit group called Reach Out and Care Wheels, which sells him the chairs at a manufacturing price of about \$300. The chairs are made by prisoners at the South Dakota State Penitentiary and ultimately delivered in Iraq by the U.S. military.

"Getting these prisoners involved, it just means the world to them," said Andrew Babcock, the executive director of Reach Out and Care Wheels. "Even the prisoners, I've been there and visited, and they're so excited. They come up with different design ideas and ways to make things better for the kids. They want to know where the chairs are going and what kids we're helping." Blauser said it's unbelievable to be there when the chairs are delivered.

"The most affecting thing about this whole wheelchairs for children is when the parents realize the gift that is being given to their children and they reach out to hug you." he said. "The tears are running from their eyes and they say, 'We never thought that you could do this.' "

Blauser is helped on the Iraqi missions by the civil affairs division of the U.S. military, which helps organize the safe transport of the families to the distribution point and adjustment of the wheelchairs to fit each child.

He said it gives "the troops something when they go home, something good to remember where they know they have contributed, they know they have done a good thing."

Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason Jurack agrees. "It brings a smile to your face. It really gives a different image to the Army as a whole -- helping people out, putting a smile on local nationals' faces, little kids that need our help."

It's a sentiment that is echoed by Samira Al-Ali, the head of the Iraqi group that finds the children in need. On this day, she tells the soldiers she hopes that this humanitarian act will give them a different image of Iraq, not one of a gun and war, she says. Her words are simple but effective.

"I wish the world would see with their own eyes the children of Iraq and help the children of Iraq, because the children of Iraq have been deprived of everything," she said. "Even a normal child has been deprived of their childhood; a disabled child and their family is dealing with so much more."

The children also show gratitude, even those who can scarcely move. Blauser remembers one boy's father who dressed him in a three-piece suit, with the trousers hanging off his motionless legs.

"He couldn't move his legs or his arms. But when we sat him in his chair, he gave us the thumbs up."

Iraqi parents will go to any lengths to improve the quality of their children's lives. Blauser points to one of his favorite photographs, of a father carrying his son in his arms, an endless desert road behind him. He had carried his son more than 6 miles to get a wheelchair.

"In August 2006 we had a distribution in northern Iraq," Blauser remembered. "We watched him [the father] come forward, and people rushed to take the boy from his arms. And he said, 'No, I've been carrying this child all my life. I can carry him the last 100 yards to receive his wheelchair.' "

E-MAIL FROM GEN. PETREUOS

“I just saw the CNN story on your program and wanted to thank you for what you're doing. Your initiative has proven to be a wonderful idea, and you clearly have been doing a superb job turning that idea into reality. Needless to say, our troopers enjoy distributing the wheelchairs very much, and the goodwill they generate has been significant.

Well done/thanks very much –

GEN Dave Petraeus, CG, MNF-I”

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION –SLC

ROC Wheels partnered with the Wenatchee Rotary Club of Wenatchee, WA and the Troizk Rotary Club of Troizk, Russia on a wheelchair distribution in July of 2006. ROC and the Wenatchee Rotary Club joined together to highlight their partnership at the Rotary International Convention in Salt Lake City in June of 2007. The response from Rotarians around the world was overwhelming support for our efforts. The opportunity to network with prominent Rotarians from around the world provided many opportunities for future wheelchair distributions and manufacturing opportunities. Other non-profits also met with ROC and discussed potential ways to unify our efforts to serve the need. In June of 2008 ROC will have a booth at the convention being held in Los Angeles.