

ROC the World Times

Empowering People Through the Gift of Mobility

Providing mobility products without regard to political affiliation, religious belief or ethnic identity.

Fall 2008



MOROCCO DISTRIBUTION A GREAT SUCCESS

In late April a ROC Wheels team consisting of Mark Alcon, Andrew Babcock, and Mel Elliot, traveled to Morocco and distributed 185 specialized wheelchairs. The Morocco Foundation and Amicale Marocaine des Handicapes (AMH) coordinated and carefully organized the profiles for every child eligible to receive a wheelchair. The ROC Wheels team worked with volunteers from the United States and Europe spending 3 full days fitting the children into their new wheelchairs and making sure that the chairs were customized to each child's special needs. Fortunately, these children were carried in by their relatives from different regions of Morocco and they left the center rolling their wheelchairs with some independence and hope. The staff of AMH and the Noor Center were impressed with the quality of the wheelchairs and the dedication of the team of volunteers from ROC Wheels.

At the conclusion of the distribution, it was decided that the long term outlook is to start manufacturing these specialized wheelchairs to accommodate the overwhelming local demand. This distribution was made possible through financial support from the Morocco Foundation, Gilhausen Family Foundation, Eastside United Church from Canada, Hope Haven International and the Mobility Project. Thank you for your continued support to help change lives through the gift of mobility.



THE DREAM OF MANUFACTURING IS BECOMING A REALITY

On September 2nd Wayne Hanson, David Urband & Andrew Babcock traveled to Ankara, Turkey to train eleven Iraqi technicians to assemble the ROC Pediatric Wheelchair. This training is part of a grant from USAID distributed through Development Alternatives, Inc. and the Iraqi Red Crescent, to provide 1,300 ROC Wheelchair parts to be assembled in northern Iraq.

In addition to this project, a manufacturing program is being developed in southern Iraq and ROC Wheels has applied for funding to rekindle the local YEWTHS ROC Manufacturing Program in Bozeman.

The YEWTHS ROC Manufacturing Program will bring adults and YEWTHS ROC participants together to locally manufacture, assemble, and distribute ROC Chairs to children in developing countries.

Empowering others to manufacture wheelchairs has been a long term goal of ROC Wheels and thanks to support from foundations and people like you this dream is becoming a reality.



David Urband working with members of the Iraqi Assembly team in Ankara, Turkey

When you make a donation of \$300 to sponsor a wheelchair you will receive a certificate with the child's picture. If you have sponsored a chair prior to January 2008 and have not received your certificate please call or email Holly Floyd. Individuals who have given for general Adopt-A-Chair sponsorships since January 1, 2008 and have not received a certificate will be included in our upcoming Jamaica or Mexico trips. Sponsored chairs for Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids will receive certificates as the chairs are distributed in Iraq, please keep in mind this could take up to a year.

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Morocco ROC Chair recipient

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide mobility products for people with disabilities in developing countries and to foster partnerships through ministry, youth empowerment, wheelchair distributions, manufacturing opportunities and educational development.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

The Power of Partnering

Lord willing, there will soon be 3 manufacturing operations for ROC Wheelchairs in 3 countries. Our prison project at South Dakota State Department of Corrections, (a partnership between ROC Wheels, Hope Haven International Ministries, South Dakota State Department of Corrections and Pheasantland Industries) and the Dung Ha, Vietnam location, (in association with Kids First Vietnam and Kids First Enterprises) continue to move forward and provide mobility despite many challenges. Our new project in Iraq, where the initial production will be 1300 assembled ROC Wheelchairs is off to a great start, thanks to the efforts of Brad Blausler and vast number of generous people and organizations. If I were to mention all of the other partners and affiliations, I would confuse you with acronyms and burn too much ink. We will fill you in on the details in other correspondences.

We have an awesome opportunity through the power of partnering, not only to provide mobility for children

with disabilities, but to develop strategic partnerships between these organizations which will help upgrade and consolidate manufacturing systems, reduce costs, and create new business opportunities. We have recently issued a purchase order to buy ROC Wheelchairs from our Vietnam operation, to serve the people in Vietnam and Iraq. When this happens, we will both serve children with disabilities and help sustain an entire operation. This whole process does not happen without overcoming many obstacles, including the oceans which separate us and the myriad of logistics. Lord willing, we can work together to make this happen and in many cases each one of us will be challenged to go the extra mile. We wish to thank all of the people and organizations who have partnered together to enable us to reach out to so many people and to lay the ground work for the future. We also want to thank God for enabling us to serve so many people. Together we can reach out to even more people in need, thanks to the power of partnering.

A MESSAGE FROM ANDREW BABCOCK

ROC Wheels has been truly blessed these last several months. Perhaps most of all just this last week, having just returned from Turkey where we successfully performed an assembly training operation for eleven Iraqi technicians- by the grace of God! This mission could have resulted in failure due to a thousand uncontrollable factors, and yet everything managed to fall in place perfectly thanks to hard work, exceptional partners, and some help from above. Today we are finally seeing the fruit of our labors after striving for years to position ROC Wheels to be a leader

in creating sustainable mobility solutions designed to empower others to provide for themselves. We will continue down this path by reaching out to others and partnering together to utilize our strengths to serve those in need. Thankfully we have a strong foundation of people that believe in this mission and help by volunteering, spreading the word, and making donations. We have a big challenge ahead and our success will be measured by young smiling faces, teary eyed parents, and newly revived hope. Please help us continue down this path and join us if you are able.

Thinking about that special gift for Christmas, make a \$300 donation to Adopt-A-Chair in honor or in memory of a loved one and give the gift of mobility! The person being honored and the family of the person being remembered will receive a certificate with a child's picture.

WHEELCHAIRS FOR IRAQI KIDS

Wheel Chairs for Iraqi Kids received a shipment of 140 wheelchairs at the beginning of July. These wheelchairs are currently being distributed by Brad Blauser and his military partners throughout Iraq. Since the CNN coverage this project has received 665 sponsors for wheelchairs which are being manufactured by ROC Wheels partners and will be shipped in increments of 100-200 chairs at a time. It could take until the summer of 2009 to get all of the chairs to Iraq. The safety of the distribution team members and recipients is vital to making this project a success.



Brad Blauser with Abduhl a ROC Chair Recipient in Iraq.

Brad joined the ROC Team in Ankara, Turkey to assist with the assembly training for the Iraqi Technicians. During this time Brad expanded his knowledge of custom seating and positioning.

YEWTHS ROC PROGRAM EMPOWERS KIDS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ROC Wheels new school program that empowers youth to make a positive difference in the lives of others is embarking on its second year in the schools of the Gallatin Valley.

YEWTHS ROC or Youth Empowered With The Helper Spirit Reach Out and Care is taking school spirit to a higher level by showing children that they are not just leaders of the future, but they are leaders and world changers right now!

The dream to empower youth to get involved in their world and reach out and care for others now became a reality in the summer of 2007 when the Gilhousan Foundation awarded ROC Wheels, Inc. a \$20,000.00 grant. Thank you Gilhousan Foundation! Lee Ann Hanson, co-founder of Roc Wheels, took the program with its financial blessing and ran to Bozeman's Emily Dickinson School where she and the program was welcomed with overwhelming support from Principal Robbye Hamburg, and fifth grade teachers Linda Wolfe, Lynn Foust and Tawny Advincola. The pilot program of YEWTHS ROC was used as Emily Dickinson students' fifth grade legacy project. Instead of focusing on raising funds for new items for their school, students spent all year creating, marketing and selling projects they made themselves, and raised enough money to

sponsor 16 wheelchairs for children from Kenya, Mexico and Mali! They gave 16 children from other parts of the world the ability to go to school, to go out into their communities, to interact with their peers and to be involved in the day to day activities of their families. They gave those 16 children a chance at life. Thank you 5th graders! Along the way of raising funds they learned about different countries, learned new skills in the arts, learned about wheelchairs and how they fit and why it matters, wrote and received letters from children in Kenya, saw video footage of their sponsored chairs being delivered and received by the children and their parents, and received a certificate with a photo of each child they worked so hard for all year long.

Children are our leaders and world changers right now; they just don't always know it. This program empowers kids by showing them how to reach out and care and really make a difference in the life of another, one step at a time, one child at a time.

We rejoice in this past year's accomplishments and look forward to an exciting new school year of expansion. If you would like to join us on our journey of youth empowerment, please call the ROC Wheels office. Together we can change the world.

YOUTH RAISES MONEY FOR 40 WHEELCHAIRS

The Iraqi children have been blessed with a young man who is taking action to change their lives. When Ben saw the tears in his mothers eyes as she read an email about Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids he set out to make a difference. Ben is 10 years old and has been playing his guitar for peace to raise money to sponsor wheelchairs for Iraqi children.

Ben started with a goal of \$1,000, and to date he has raised over \$12,000, or as Ben would say that's 40 Wheelchairs. Ben spends a couple hours every weekend playing his

guitar in front of a bakery near his home. He is an inspiration and example of how we can all do our part to make the world a better place. Keep up the great work Ben.



SPECIAL THANKS: Gilhousen Family Foundation, Cora Foundation, Aegis Hearts & Minds, USAID, Internal Relief and Development, Broadway Media, Flying Horse Communications, Insty Prints, Kids Up, Ben Werdegar, Shiva Sarram and all the of the wonderful people that have helped to provide a better future for children in need of mobility.

UPCOMING AND POTENTIAL WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTIONS



JAMAICA



MEXICO



TANZANIA



MALAWI

ROC Wheels is planning three distributions to take place over the next ten months. Coordination is still in the works with our partners in Jamaica and our hope is to have the distribution scheduled soon. The annual San Carlos, Mexico distribution is scheduled for early February 2009, and will involve YEWTHS ROC participants. Then we are off to Tanzania, Africa. This will be the first time to Tanzania and the distribution is scheduled for June

2009. Malawi is another potential distribution. If you would like to get involved with volunteer opportunities or distributions please contact the ROC Office. Adopt-A-Chair, Physical Therapy Support, and trip sponsors are needed for all upcoming distributions. Please Reach Out and Care by sending your tax deductible donation to ROC Wheels in the enclosed envelope.

GIVE THE GIFT OF MOBILITY TODAY AND CHANGE A LIFE



Brad Blausler gives the thumbs up to the 2-147th Rat Patrol who contributed \$5,150.00 towards Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids.

Giving Needs

- ◆ General support greatly needed to expand our missions and help more children!
- ◆ \$300 Adopt-A-Chair sponsorship for Jamaica, Mexico, Tanzania, and upcoming missions
- ◆ Financial support for local & international wheelchair manufacturing

Return Service Requested

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