

## **Joni and Friends, *Wheels for the World***

### **Information Sheet**

This sheet is provided to you by the Pittsburgh, PA and surrounding area volunteer, Linda Clark – Lives Restored, Inc. (724-678-7471 or [lindaclark@arestorationchurch.org](mailto:lindaclark@arestorationchurch.org)). Additional information can be found at <http://www.lives-restored.org/wheelchairs.html>).

*Wheels for the World* (WFTW) is one answer to the cry of more than 18 million people worldwide in need of a wheelchair. WFTW was started in 1994 and is now one of several disability programs of the disability outreach of Joni Eareckson Tada. Joni has been a quadriplegic for over 40 years and knows firsthand the importance of a wheelchair and what the gift of mobility can mean to others.

*Wheels for the World* consists of four major operations:

**Collection:** Over 1100 Chair Corps volunteers collect; store, and transport used wheelchairs. Over 12,000 wheelchairs were collected in 2007. Anyone can be a Chair Corp volunteer. Volunteers for storage and transportation are also needed.

Contact Carol Haury, Chair Corp Supervisor: 818-575-1722 [chaury@joniandfriends.org](mailto:chaury@joniandfriends.org).  
Linda Clark, Pittsburgh, PA volunteer: 724-724-7471 [lindaclark@arestorationchurch.org](mailto:lindaclark@arestorationchurch.org).

**Transportation (US and International):** Non-restored wheelchairs are moved within the US by Chair Corps volunteers or donated trucking from Goodwill Industries, FedEx, WalMart, and others. Restored wheelchairs are put into ocean going containers and shipped to the distribution site overseas. Volunteer transportation is needed. Contact Susie Hayden, Logistics and Transportation Supervisor 818-575-1778 [shayden@joniandfriends.org](mailto:shayden@joniandfriends.org).

**Restoration:** Inmates in various prisons restore the wheelchairs to a “like-new” condition and prepare them for shipment overseas to a poor and needy country. More than 7,000 wheelchairs were restored at 20 prisons in 2007. Contact Cynthia Berry, Restoration Supervisor 818-575-1788 [cberry@joniandfriends.org](mailto:cberry@joniandfriends.org).

**Distribution:** Teams of approximately 15 short-term missionaries (STM) travel overseas to distribute the restored wheelchairs to the poor and needy. We try to custom fit each recipient to his/hers wheelchair by a physical or occupational therapist and wheelchair mechanic to ensure proper fit and function. In 2007 fifteen teams traveled to Guatemala, Ghana, Poland, Romania, Cuba, Mexico, Kenya, China, Honduras, Ukraine, India, Thailand, Brazil and Peru to distribute 8,000 restored wheelchairs, spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and offer Bibles in the recipients language. Anyone can apply for the distribution team of their choice. Joni and Friends is partnering with churches that want to send a group of STM in conjunction with a WFTW outreach. Contact Kathren Martinez, International Outreach Supervisor: 818-575-1775 [kmartinez@joniandfriends.org](mailto:kmartinez@joniandfriends.org).

The WFTW teams conduct disability-training seminars, distribute wheelchairs, evangelize and support an Outreach in many ways. Because the commitment is long term, WFTW plans to establish a wheelchair repair and/or restoration shop in each country where annual Outreaches are held. This will allow broken wheelchairs to be restored in-country, reduce costs and provide job opportunities. There are repair shops in Ghana, Romania and Honduras and a restoration shop in Poland.

Please consider partnering with **Joni and Friends *Wheels for the World*** in one way or another. Help us change lives one wheelchair at a time.

**Maybe it will be your life that is changed!**

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**1<sup>st</sup> half 2008**

# of Outreaches:	Wheelchairs	Salvations	STM's
1. Thailand	360	0	17
2. Mexico	301	333	19
3. Ghana 1	403	271	13
4. Cuba 1	411	44	15
5. Guatemala	390	37	9
6. India	200	34	15
7. Poland	<u>200</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>
	2265	720	97

# of Harvest projects:	Wheelchairs
1. Mexico	100
2. Egypt	50
3. Mexico	100
4. Honduras	35
5. Nicaragua	52
6. Honduras	35
7. Ukraine	<u>50</u>
	422

# of Custom Harvest Projects: Wheelchairs

1. Brasil	200
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