



# Hope in Motion

Volume 12

Volunteer Report 2014

## **Volunteers Keep Wheels Rolling** —by Patrick and Lynda Rimke

As we wind down our second year of work on the many years' worth of donations in need of major rebuilding and repair work, we want to give a huge shout-out to our faithful volunteers who spend one day of every week working miracles, all year long.



*Jim Damer and George Telle dismantle a wheelchair to clean and check and replace bad parts with good before lubrication and reassembly.*

The Tuesday crew has two Jims, George, Rick, Larry, Frank and Loren. The Wednesday team is two Johns and a Jon, a Jim, and Dan. These are the guys that keep Wheels rolling. Patrick stresses that his work in the warehouse is only a small part of the Wheels of Hope mission.

A typical Tuesday or Wednesday begins at 9am with fellowship and devotions. Work begins at 10 with Patrick providing chairs and needed parts and fielding questions about how to fix or modify them to make them usable, sometimes interchanging parts from one brand chair to another. Volunteers put in about 5 hours TLC each, finishing up around 3pm.

An average wheelchair now takes two days to disassemble, repair and rebuild, so the Tuesday guys often leave wheelchairs for the Wednesday guys to finish up and visa versa.

Patrick works to keep a collection of parts to choose from: side frame pieces, caster housings, etc. An example is a valuable tilt-in-space chair

that needs a way to mount the rear wheels. We also have a number of extra-wide chairs that we modify by narrowing the seating to fit a slender person who does not have access to the typical American diet!



*Loren Wallace and Larry Herring prepare a chair for boxing, making sure everything is in working order.*

Patrick relates that the volunteers are, in some cases "miracle workers. They take things in really rough condition: dirty, dusty and sometimes rusty. (Some of these chairs have been lurking in dark warehouse corners since 1998.) With TLC, these miracle workers first dismantle the chair of wheels, casters, armrests, etc. then clean the chair and detachable parts so they look good, and can be closely examined for problems like a bent castor fork or wobbly wheel. They lubricate the bearings so they function properly, and best of all, put all the parts back together to create a blessing."

Another team of miracle workers, Frank and Rick, have spent the last year repairing a mountain of rollators that Patrick had sorted for scrap metal. Rick spends his day at the pile, dismantling the rollators and determining whether the parts are usable. Then sorts them into piles. Frank takes the parts from those piles and rebuilds rollators to make them work. Sometimes he even is able to bolt broken frames together. The result, a functional piece of equipment that enables a frail person to keep moving.

Loren and Larry are the boxing and shipping team. Larry also searches out the right legrests to go with the wheelchairs being boxed. Patrick then, stages the boxed chairs and makes inventories for each shipment.

Volunteers are at the heart of making Wheels work. Without their consistent and faithful labors, Wheels would remain a warehouse full of broken and rusted pieces like Ezekiel's valley of dry bones. Volunteers are the breath of God that puts those bones together to make a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities all over the world!

Total volunteer hours for the year: almost 3000! — with one 45' container sent to Thailand and equipment for one 40' container staged for Guatemala.

We look forward to what the God has in store for next year. We will continue to work on the more needy donations from past years, as well as new donations. Hopefully, rules will change to make it easier for manufacturers to make donations again. For a deeper look at the regulations affecting donations to all medical missions, go to <http://fda.gov/downloads/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM127067.pdf>

Wheels of Hope is a registered 501(c)3 faith-based non-profit organization with a governing Board of Directors.