



## SERVICE PROJECT SHEET Wheelchair Foundation UK



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**Project name:**  
**Wheelchair Foundation UK**  
(Registered Charity 1107260)

**Project goal:**  
To supply disabled people worldwide with new wheelchairs suitable to their environment.

**Rotary Service type:**  
Fund raising plus hands on on-site handover of wheelchairs by local Rotary clubs, and representatives from sponsoring Rotary Clubs, Rotaractors, Interactors and Inner Wheel members.

**Unique selling proposition:**

- Giving mobility to one who had none. Was a burden on their family and society and might even have been left to die.
- Allowing the individual to gain an education or work.
- To give one self respect.
- £50 buys and delivers that wheelchair with matched funds from the Wheelchair Foundation.
- Rotary Foundation Matching Grants are available.
- Friendship exchanges are encouraged as part of the handover of the wheelchairs.
- There will be no administration costs for Wheelchair Foundation UK. All donations will be fully utilised for aid.

**Description:**  
The Wheelchair Foundation was established in June 2000 by philanthropist Ken Behring in California and was launched at the RI Convention in San Antonio. It had by chance come to Ken's notice some 100 million throughout the world were without the basic mobility of a wheelchair. He found that by using his business skills he could supply a new all terrain wheelchair at a cost far below the normal price. He then set a goal to supply at least 1 million wheelchairs in 5 years.

An association was formed with Rotary that the Wheelchair Foundation would match penny for penny any monies donated by Rotarians thus making it possible to fund delivery of a new wheelchair at 50% of cost.

The Wheelchair Foundation sends the chairs in containers of 280 wheelchairs to an area where Rotarians or recognised NGO's are available to ensure that the distribution is to those only in need and without payment. If a club or district is able to fund the whole container then they can specify the country and area to receive the benefit if the logistics are possible.

In 2004, following a successful launch of the programme in D1040 the Trustees decided to form a UK based Wheelchair Foundation and Trustees appointed.

The cost of a wheelchair and all other costs is approximately US \$150 but for RIBI purposes we will use the criteria of £100. Therefore, with the 50% matching funds available for the

## **Some principal personalities supporting the programme in addition to senior Rotarians:**

Royalty: King Juan Carlos & Queen Sofia of Spain

Statesman: Mikhail Gorbachev, Nelson Mandela and Valery Giscard D'Estaing

Entertainment: Dame Judy Dench, Jerry Lewis, Wayne Newton and Arnold Palmer

### **Benefits to club:**

If donating clubs or districts wish to follow the Rotary Foundation Matching Grant route, they are invited to contact Rotarian PDG Milton Frary D1040. All applications will be completed on your behalf for submission.

The Rotary Foundation Trustees approve an average of 8 Matching Grants every year. Rotary donations are held by the Trustees in a separate sterling and euro UK interest bearing accounts. The money will be allocated to suitable programmes identified by the Wheelchair Foundation UK staff if the club, district or districts do not make a specific request with regard to the destination.

Matching Grants. Rotarian Milton Frary conjoins District Designated Funds (DDF) if awarded and submits the whole project to Rotary Foundation Trustees for approval.

If required individual certificates can be issued to individuals, clubs or organisations making donations. The certificate carries a photograph of the beneficiary of the wheelchair donated with a personal message if required.

Donations can also be accepted in EUROS to avoid exchange rate costs.  
(Gift Aid is also encouraged for personal donations.)

Friendship exchanges in conjunction with handover of the aid are encouraged.

### **Contact for further information:**

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Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for its work with children, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability. The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and persons with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of his or her ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact in their Rotarian duties. Rotarians should refer to the detailed "RIBI Protection Policy" when planning events and activities.