

GLOBAL WHEELCHAIR MISSION

A Higher Purpose

Change the lives of people with disabilities worldwide. Councils are encouraged to donate at least \$150 for a wheelchair. Through partnerships, councils can also purchase a large container of 110 to 280 wheelchairs for their own donation sites. A featured program, Global Wheelchair Mission counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

Overview

The Knights of Columbus has partnered with the Global Wheelchair Mission since 2003 with the goal of providing wheelchairs to all those who lack the freedom of mobility. Fourth Degree Knight Chris Lewis, son of legendary entertainer and philanthropist Jerry Lewis, helped to create the humanitarian mission that has delivered close to a million wheelchairs to people around the globe. Today, the initiative started between Lewis and his fellow Knights in the United States has expanded into Canada through partnership with the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation.

Obtained at deeply discounted prices, these wheelchairs change the lives of their recipients. Working with the Global Wheelchair Mission is a perfect opportunity to put your faith into action and involve the entire parish in the rewarding charitable work done by your council.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Contact the Knights of Columbus jurisdiction to determine how the council can assist with their Global Wheelchair Mission activities.
- Plan and lead council fundraising efforts.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Contact the Knights of Columbus jurisdiction and coordinate with the state wheelchair chairman to determine how the council can assist with their Global Wheelchair Mission activities.
2. Set an annual goal for the council to contribute to Global Wheelchair Mission (i.e. specific dollar amount or specific number of wheelchairs).
3. Build public interest for the program! Promote the work of your council on behalf of the Global Wheelchair Mission in the parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages



4. Schedule events to raise funds and promote progress toward your council goal. If you plan to conduct a Wheelchair Sunday, work with your pastor to obtain his permission and recommendations. Do not forget to encourage individual contributions!
5. Once your goal is met, submit the associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission to gain credit for your program. Remember to retain copies for your council records.