

# 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**

Since 2009, the Knights of Columbus has partnered with the American Wheelchair Mission and Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, which fall under the umbrella of the Global Wheelchair Mission. The goal of this initiative is to provide aid to those who lack the freedom of mobility in our communities and around the world. Whether councils are presenting wheelchairs to local veterans and neighbors in need or donating funds to benefit those abroad, mobility brings with it independence and dignity.

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 community 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 partner with the jurisdiction in their Global Wheelchair Mission activities.
- Coordinate with your pastor, obtain his permission to host a Wheelchair fundraising event to encourage parishioners to donate to assist those who lack freedom of mobility.
- 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 the Global Wheelchair Mission (i.e. specific dollar amount or specific number of wheelchairs).
3. Work with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a Wheelchair fundraising event in the parish. Councils are especially encouraged to host a “Wheelchair Sunday” drive!
4. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Global Wheelchair Mission in your 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



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.
  - Immediately after your event is finished, complete the *Global Wheelchair Mission Report Form* (#10071)
  - At the end of the fraternal year, complete your *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7)

*Please Note: To satisfy program requirements and receive two credits toward the Columbian Award, councils must purchase and distribute the contents of a small shipping container which can be ordered at deeply discounted prices through the American Wheelchair Mission and Canadian Wheelchair Foundation*

### **Featured Program Requirements**

Councils are required to purchase a large container of 110 to 280 wheelchairs for their own donation site, by raising funds through council, parish or community activities. Report activity using the *Global Wheelchair Mission Report Form* (#10071).

### **Resources**

1. #10591- *Global Wheelchair Mission - Brochure*
2. #10071- *Global Wheelchair Mission - Report Form*
3. #10592- *Global Wheelchair Mission - Vertical Poster*
4. #10728- *Global Wheelchair Mission - Horizontal Poster*
5. #10593- *Global Wheelchair Mission - Participant Certification*

### **Link**

[www.kofc.org/wheelchair](http://www.kofc.org/wheelchair)