

Chair Corps

Without our mighty Chair Corps, we would not have a **Wheels for the World** program here at Joni and Friends. Our Chair Corps Area Representatives (CCAR's) reach out to others as they go about serving the ministry as, they share the gospel, offer a comforting word, express thanks for the gift of mobility and minister to the needs of the donor. Many wheelchairs come from a family that has lost a loved one. Our Chair Corps are sensitive to this and are appropriately empathetic and loving. Many remember these donors at Christmas, Easter or any other day and give them a call to see how they are doing. They give of themselves and experience God's blessing and bless the donors by modeling Christ's love and share that joy and watch God multiply it.

COMMITMENT

The amount of time spent in ministry by CCARs will vary for each individual. Joni and Friends only expects CCAR's to live up to the commitments they make to the ministry and to others, based on the biblical mandate of stewardship.

- *Local Contact:* The local WFTW contact person is available to individuals wanting to donate wheelchairs. This may involve picking up wheelchairs or just providing a drop-off site, storage, or coordinating transportation of wheelchairs to a Restoration Shop. Simply directing the individual by phone may be all that is needed.
- *Hold Annual Drive:* Usually requires a six to eight month period of time to plan and coordinate a city-wide drive. Guidelines are provided in the Wheelchair Drive Packet. The key to success is to have a support group available.
- *On-Going Collection:* This may or not be in conjunction with annual drives. CCAR's contact healthcare facilities, occupational therapists, physical therapists, as well as, local short-term storage facilities and transportation companies to help transport wheelchairs to Restoration Shops.

TRAINING

CCAR's receive training in any or all of the following areas to equip them for service:

- ✦ National Chair Corps Conferences - held every other year and hosted by the Home Office in Agoura Hills. They provide practical training, as well as networking and support from veteran Chair Corps, Regional Coordinators, District Coordinators, and the Chair Corps Supervisor.
- ✦ District Conference - held every other year (alternating with the National Conference) and hosted by the District Coordinator. These provide local training and support.
- ✦ Joni and Friends ministry staff can provide one-on-one instruction and support.
- ✦ Personal study and development in disability awareness and ministry can be gained through Joni and Friends materials.

Wheelchairs are collected from a variety of sources through a variety of methods:

- ❖ Wheelchair Drives
- ❖ Ongoing Wheelchair Collections
- ❖ Field Ministries
- ❖ Donor Call Ins

Wheelchairs are not miracles; but to some people, it is the closest they will see... Those who deal with disabilities experience extreme discouragement in many countries where basic services and human rights are neglected. But having been introduced to a world-wide community and local Christians that care about their dignity as a person, each recipient of a wheelchair can experience a new freedom. As more and more churches capture the vision, we will find **Wheels for the World** playing a critical role in the Kingdom of Christ.

COLLECTING WHEELCHAIRS ~ CHANGING LIVES ~ ONE CHAIR AT A TIME!