



Renaud, relaxes in his new wheelchair outside Hospital Lumiere

Relief to Haiti: Renaud's Story by Margaret Matasic, Through the Roof Ministries

Renaud's home in Port-au-Prince was destroyed by the earthquake in January 2010. His family took him to Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin for surgery. Surgeons were able to save his life and stop the spread of infection by amputating his right lower extremity. Margaret Matasic, Director of TTRM was in Haiti in April and had the opportunity to teach Renaud and others how to do exercise to prepare for a prosthesis. There is hope for a prosthesis in the future.

In April, Wheels of Hope partnered with Through the Roof Ministries (TTRM) Reach Out International to donate mobility equipment to those in desperate need in Haiti. At the same time Operation Mobilization (OM) was preparing boxes that would be shipped to Haiti which later became bunk beds. OM had extra room on their container and we (TTRM) were able to partner with them to ship the donated mobility equipment to Haiti! We received an email with pictures that the equipment arrived in Port-au-Prince and was transported to Bonne Fin, Hospital Lumiere!

When we take each other's hands in partnership it gives us the power to unite our strengths, our talents and gifts, to reach a unified purpose.

Replenish the Earth! Patrick's Warehouse Report

About 95% of the wheelchairs and mobility equipment we receive is usable or repairable. When we receive a "damaged beyond repair" wheelchair, we can still use most of the parts and send them to our partner repair shops in Thailand, Guatemala, Honduras, Iowa and South Carolina.



Haitians unpack the Wheels of Hope boxes, each filled with a wheelchair and walking aids. Partnering ministries Operation Mobilization and Through the Roof Ministries shipped and distributed the medical equipment.

Recycle! We recycle damaged wheelchair parts, bent aluminum walkers, and other aluminum and steel items. We recycle the batteries from power wheelchairs that will not hold a charge. We have used funds produced from our recycling program to partially offset operating expenses.

We even recycle cardboard! We have equipment donated to us that has been damaged slightly, but the boxes are not reusable. We flatten and bale the boxes, and they are picked up by River Valley Paper Company www.rivervalleypaper.com

About the only thing we can't recycle is the Styrofoam, rubber tires, plastic and stretch wrap that accompany our donations. We are doing a small part of what God has told us to do in Genesis 1:28 and 9:1— "replenish the earth." God says in Deuteronomy 10:14 that the Earth is His and every thing in it. Recycling is not just for a few special groups, it's the concern of all people and a good way to practice stewardship.

At this time we could use more volunteer help. Do you like to take things apart? We receive many items that need dismantled so we that can repair or recycle them.

Restore! Wheels of Hope has an abundance of light-weight aluminum rollators that have welding problems. Most are easy repairs using two pop rivets. These rollators are a recall by Invacare. These top-of-the-line rollators can't be repaired and sold here in the US, but we can repair them and ship them to people in need elsewhere, in safe and usable condition. We are also recycling the rollators that are not repairable.

Collection and distribution

Invacare continues to generously give us an abundance of equipment. We have loaded a 26 foot box truck four times since September. On November 16th we picked up two loads in one day.

We had expenses go up in February this year, because of truck rental fees. Penske raised the cost of renting from \$45 a day, 16 cents a mile, to \$95 a day, and 28 cents a mile. Ryder gave us a better rate - \$65 a day and 14 cents a mile. Diesel fuel is high in cost and we usually use about \$55 each load. Therefore, our total cost per load is about \$130, which is still less than the cost of operating our own van and trailer.

In October we loaded a 53' truck with wheelchairs, rollators, mattresses and other items for Hope Haven in

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Hubert, one of our regular Tuesday volunteers, inspects a wheelchair

Iowa. Mark Richard is the director of the wheelchair project there. He played a major part in establishing Wheels of Hopes in 1997. Since then, we have sent our non-Invacare wheelchair donations to Hope Haven for reconditioning and distribution to the needy, with the same mission as Wheels of Hope. In Guatemala, equipment “flies out of the bodega,” Mark reports.

So far this year we have inventoried 476 wheelchairs from Invacare, and possibly another 50 will be inventoried. We have shipped a total of 517 wheelchairs, and other items. The total value of shipped items is \$588,653.00 as per Invacare SRP

We participated in three separate earthquake relief shipments to Haiti

Two 40’ containers were sent: one to Thailand/Pioneers of Hope valued at \$182,010 and one to Guatemala/Vine International valued at \$84,569

One 20’ container was sent to Chile/Christo Ayuda valued at \$31,944

36 wheelchairs were sent to Tanzania via Catholic Charities

Other items were sent to:

Christian Aid Ministries - which does worldwide shipping

LifeLine - with items to Haiti

Apostolic World Relief - to Haiti

Sanctuary of Praise - Dominican Republic/Haiti

Hope Haven International - which ships worldwide

Through the Roof Ministries - both to Honduras and Haiti

Please pray that when the equipment is be given to the least of the least, that the good news of Jesus’ unconditional love impacts their hearts.

Operating Expenses and Financial Support

This year, we have been blessed by a few supporters who gave large donations in the fall. Once again, God’s timing is perfect. We rejoice that this year, your year-end giving will all go towards operating expenses and support in 2011, without pulling us out of the red from an exceptionally lean fall season. Like all non-profits, we were especially hard-hit during 2008 and 2009 (which only makes us appreciate our faithful financial supporters all the more!)

We will be sending out a complete 2010 financial report to our donors in January 2011.

We now have a PayPal account set up through our website. Donations can be made right on our website without registering as a PayPal user. Our “donate” button takes you directly to PayPal. Simply fill in the amount you wish to give, which will be billed to the credit card you choose, and click “donate.” A second page will appear with the amount filled in, and all the fields below as on the previous page. Continue to fill in these fields and verify and approve your donation. It’s that simple!

Prayer points: Continue to pray for complete healing for Luc, our Thailand director. Pray for God’s supernatural favor over Wheels of Hope and all the ministries we partner with: Pioneers of Hope in Thailand, Through the Roof Ministries in Honduras and Haiti, and FRIDLA (Friends of the Disabled) in South America.

Our Mission

To raise the poor with disabilities from the dust and give them a place of physical dignity spiritual regeneration in Christ and capability in Christ.

May God bless and direct you as you consider supporting our mission.

Contact us via e-mail patrick@wheelsofhope.org or call 330-620-4214

Visit www.wheelsofhope.org

God continues to provide through your **prayers, volunteer efforts** and **financial giving**. —Thank you

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



A Through the Roof Ministries volunteer unpacks a Wheels of Hope donation in Honduras