



Free Wheelchair Mission®
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE GIFT OF MOBILITY



Greetings and Happy Friday!

Friday Wheelchair Story: Las Cruces

June 26, 2009



A couple of weekends ago, Las Cruces, NM hosted 4 days of events for their “Lifting a Life” campaign. Below is a story from our Development Manager, Alyson Roth:

The energy and enthusiasm for supporting Free Wheelchair Mission in Las Cruces is amazing! We have a wonderful ambassador for Mobility in this community, Dennis Prickett who is a physical therapist. The passion to raise money for mobility that Dennis and local event planner, Erlinda Portillo, share spread quickly throughout the community. Radio stations, newspapers, and local businesses all joined together to help promote the events. Being so close to the Mexican border, many people in this town have family members or friends that are in desperate need of a wheelchair. They truly rallied behind this cause so that others could experience a better life through the gift of a wheelchair. The entire weekend raised over a container of wheelchairs that will all be headed to Mexico in the months ahead!

The weekend was packed with activities including an “Oldies But Goodies” dance, the “Fajita Fiesta” in historic Mesilla where local vendors served fajitas with proceeds donated to FWM, and a presentation at Sierra Vista Community Church. They saved the best for last on Monday when we were able to distribute 10 wheelchairs across the border in Juarez, Mexico! These went to men and women in a skilled nursing facility that had no wheelchairs for any of its residents. The tears that streamed down 80 year-old faces as they received their first wheelchair were heartfelt and sincere. They put their hands together and thanked God for their new found freedom. For Dennis and the entire team, it was an amazing opportunity to see their efforts come full circle.

On Sunday, while speaking to the Sierra Vista Community Church, I challenged everyone to think about the average cost of a soda and how much impact they could have if they were willing to give up 3 sodas per week. If each person in the congregation of 400 people did this, they would be able to provide 4 wheelchairs to someone in need. Many gave sacrificially and gave up something so that others could simply live.

A phone call to the Free Wheelchair Mission office in 2007 led to this entire community getting behind a common effort to get wheelchairs into Mexico. They learned they were able to come together and help people in their own back yard in Mexico while at the same time providing a sense of community within their town. Thank you for all your hard work, and we look forward to seeing you distribute your first container later this year!