

WHEELS FOR THE WORLD

The explosive growth of *Wheels for the World* testifies to the critical need for wheelchair distributions in developing countries, where the cost of a chair can be more than a year's wages. Credible sources estimate a worldwide need of 18 to 30 million wheelchairs. Lacking simple mobility and removed from society, many disabled people are also tragically secluded.

The beauty of the *Wheels for the World* program lies in its teamwork approach: Local communities in the U.S. collect used wheelchairs which are then sent to correctional facilities to be restored. The meticulous restoration takes place by carefully trained inmates in 20 correctional facilities across the United States. These inmates learn valuable new skills, and many have expressed gratitude for being able to give back to society in this way.



The wheelchairs are then shipped overseas where teams of seating specialists, wheelchair mechanics, and support staff work diligently to achieve the best fit possible for each

person receiving this precious gift of mobility. *Wheels for the World* has delivered over 50,000 wheelchairs to over 102 developing countries. At the same time, we are building alliances and partnerships with other organizations and individuals in the U.S. and abroad. Our desire is to develop these relationships to help meet the needs of disabled people worldwide.



Whether it's the gift of mobility expressed in the delivery of a person's first wheelchair, or an outreach to families, Joni and Friends will continue to seek to meet the compelling needs of people with disabilities worldwide.

JONI AND FRIENDS

For over a quarter of a century Joni and Friends has been serving those who are affected by disability—the person with the impairment, a family member, or friend. Our objective is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of this group of people in practical ways.

Joni and Friends is committed to recruiting, training, and motivating a new generation of people with disabilities to become leaders in their communities. In addition, we seek to equip and mobilize churches to carry out the work of disability ministry. We do this by providing churches with effective programs, training, and materials.

From local neighborhoods to the far reaches of the world, Joni and Friends is striving to demonstrate to people affected by disability in tangible ways that God has not abandoned them. Rather, God's love is poured out upon every person, no matter what their ability... or disability!



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www.joniandfriends.org/local-offices/

Joni and Friends
DisabilityCampaign.org
International Disability Center



*Serving People and
Families Affected
by Disability*



Dear Friend...

When a diving accident in 1967 robbed me of use of my hands and legs, I found myself in a hospital ward, wondering if I would ever smile again. I had become a statistic in the population of people affected by disability. I was scared and depressed.

The darkness lifted when friends rallied around me and my family to offer help and hope. They kept us connected to reality and paved the way for me to re-enter the mainstream of life. My family and friends made all the difference.

And now, over 40 years later, I am pleased to labor alongside the staff and volunteers of the Joni and Friends International Disability Center (IDC). Our teams across the U.S. and around the world are committed to serving families affected by disability in every corner of the globe. It's true that people with disabilities are being helped, but when we go beyond our comfort zones, we realize that we're all richer for it.

Yes, Joni and Friends is all about advancing disability ministry... it's also about changing the world we live in. It's about a change in each one of us—for as we serve others, we can't help but be changed ourselves.



RADIO PROGRAMS

The radio program *Joni and Friends* is a 5-minute broadcast airing on weekdays featuring Joni herself. The program is carried worldwide over approximately 1020 outlets airing over 1300 releases each day. Joni also hosts a one-minute feature, *Diamonds in the Dust* which is heard on almost 600 outlets daily.

Both *Joni and Friends* and *Diamonds in the Dust* cover a wide range of topics. As Joni tackles issues relating to disability awareness, she provides uniquely personal insights into life's tougher questions. Her contagious joy and unwavering faith have provided hope for thousands who find themselves faced with life's crippling blows.



FAMILY RETREATS

The stress and strain of life with a disability is an everyday reality. It wears on the entire family, causing challenges that tear families apart. *Family Retreats* bring relief, provide support, and create an environment where the healing of family relationships can begin. Held at accessible conference centers around the world, *Family Retreats* provide dynamic five-day programs that refresh and strengthen the whole family. The change of pace helps families refocus and have fun together in a safe and accepting environment—a place where they feel welcomed and understood. Ultimately, this week strengthens each family that attends.

Volunteers serve each family so that parents and children alike can take full advantage of the fun activities and amenities offered during the *Retreat*.

These trained volunteers serve each family in practical ways, allowing the family members much-deserved—and often long overdue—rest and refreshment.



Practical workshops are offered covering specific family-related issues. These workshops embrace the needs of the entire family. Families experience a respite from the

everyday challenges they face and return home rested and ready to face life. Each *Family Retreat* is an enriching and inspiring week where families and volunteers build lasting memories and new friendships.

Registration for both families and volunteers is available online every year beginning in January.

CORRESPONDENCE

The *Correspondence and Resource Department* at the IDC processes e-mails, letters, and phone calls from around the world, providing hope and practical assistance with a personal touch. We hear from those who have been

inspired by Joni, individuals and families struggling with a disability, and people who are searching for ways to serve others in their community who have a disability. Our International Disability Center web page,



www.joniandfriends.org, offers a directory of organizations that serve the disability community, along with many resource lists covering disability-related topics.