COMMUNITY ACTS OF KINDNESS

Once a KidChair wheelchair has made its way to the child who ultimately receives it (in a country like Vietnam and Romania), it has usually made a long journey around the world. The roots of that KidChair can be traced back to Hope Haven International Ministries (HHIM) workshops – often one in Orange City, IA. Located in a building along the highway, amongst the Northwestern College campus, the Trinity Reformed Wheelchair Workshop is comprised of 8-10 volunteers who gather to construct and assemble KidChair “kits” twice a week.

In order to create a KidChair wheelchair kit, these volunteers diligently perform a number of tasks – including tracing, cutting, sewing - and working with various fabrics and foam to construct the cushion aspects of the wheelchair. The completed kits are then sent to one of a few HHIM workshops that assemble the final product – a functional KidChair.

The group is composed largely of volunteers from area Reformed churches, and operates on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. It’s a small space, but wisely utilized, and generously provided by Northwestern College. Despite some pauses last spring due to the pandemic, the shop is currently functional and full of activity - and has been for about a year. (Continued inside)
The group that works here not only has passion for the wheelchairs they are producing, but also has displayed a great deal of ambition to see the workshop come to fruition. Stemming from a volunteer inquiry at church in 2019, the group has brought forth many participants who view this endeavor as a more than just a one-time opportunity. Rather, it’s become a longer-term involvement for most. Speaking on this level of commitment, volunteer Dave Mars comments, “the longevity of volunteers is critical and such a blessing.”

Additionally, many of the volunteers, like Jerry Dykstra and his wife Chris, have put forth plenty of time and effort to get the shop operational – offering to help clean, install lighting, organize work flow, among many other tasks. Trinity Reformed Church also donated a new sewing machine to help productivity, and Den Hartog Industries has manufactured punches to help improve the efficiency and quality of the workshop.

This endeavor involves Pioneer Retirement Home and Prairie Ridge Nursing home, where ladies help with cutting out fabric. Harriet Kleinhesselink and Artie Hegstad have both taken a keen interest in participating. The contributions from these women greatly help in moving the process along.

With the combined efforts of all their volunteers, this workshop has produced approximately 130 wheelchair kits since their inception. “While what we do at times seems simple, placing that child in that chair is our goal…being the hands and feet of Jesus,” Mars explains. Hope Haven is deeply grateful for all our generous volunteers who contribute their time and energy to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities!

DAKOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS HOST WHEELCHAIR DRIVE

The students of Dakota Christian School in Corsica, SD decided to end 2020 in a charitable way – by hosting a wheelchair drive competition for Hope Haven International Ministries at Christmastime. “Each year the Student Council organizes a Christmas Giving project and this year we chose Hope Haven,” explains Savannah Feenstra, Dakota Christian School Teacher and Student Council Advisor. Students at the elementary and secondary levels competed in separate divisions, each for the chance at a class pizza party.

Feenstra was delighted to witness the students working hard to bring in donations, along with monetary contributions for the project. The surrounding area rallied around the drive as well. “I was really impressed with how the community got involved and how students stepped up to donate!” commented Feenstra. “We had parents asking their places of work for any donations and kids emptying their piggy banks.”

Overall, the school collected 34 mobility aids (12 wheelchairs, assorted canes and walkers) and a monetary contribution totaling $1600. “It’s really a blessing to have students and a community that are so willing to give and put others before themselves,” said Feenstra. “We are also so thankful to be able to help Hope Haven and those they are striving to help around the world!”
Did you know that Wednesday, February 21, 2021 was “Random Acts of Kindness Day” in the United States? Members of Hope Haven’s My Day program decided to get involved in a unique way in order to anonymously brighten the days of others.

“We learned about ‘Random Acts of Kindness Day’ and a long discussion ensued about all of the people in our community that put others ahead of themselves,” explains My Day Lead Dustin Rodger. “Our participants made a list of people that they wanted to help and partnered with The Floral Market to make it all happen.”

After connecting with the Floral Market in Orange City, IA, a few of our local My Day groups joined in on instructional floral classes at the shop, preparing bouquets of roses and greenery.

“I loved putting the flower displays together and seeing the excitement on the faces of people was awesome,” said My Day member Katie Goedken. These bouquets were ultimately delivered anonymously to community members—like local healthcare workers!

Did you know that you can give to Hope Haven by shopping on Amazon? AmazonSmile is a way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. If you’d like to support our organization through AmazonSmile, be sure to select “Hope Haven, Incorporated” as your charity of choice. Happy shopping!

This winter, Hope Haven participated in unique community experiences in Rock Valley, IA. We participated in Lights Around the Bend (top left) and also partnered with DKOI signs for a drive-thru zoo fundraiser (top right).

Hope Haven received $7,226 from the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation for the purchase of AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machines. Hope Haven was also selected to receive a DQ Smiles & Stories grant from the Sioux Center Dairy Queen (DQ), a member of the Siouxland DQ family. This $1,000 grant will fund sensory and vocational skills supplies for our My Day program.
UPCOMING EVENTS

GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL
JUNE 18/19
Central Park | Sioux Center, IA

Mark your calendar for this day festival, featuring groups and soloists performing gospel music. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the sunshine and music.

TALMSA ATV & HORSE RIDE BENEFIT
SEPT 11
Talmsa’s Trail Park | Avon, SD

Enjoy a day of riding along the Missouri River at this exciting event! Bring your ATC or horse, along with safety gear. If you love outdoor adventure, you won’t want to miss this one.

HOPE HAVEN MEMORIAL

Memorial Gifts to Hope Haven honor the lives of relatives, friends, or associates by enhancing the future for people with disabilities. Such lasting tributes also affirm the donor’s love for the Lord and provide a legacy that supports the practical work of God’s Kingdom. These gifts will provide for special needs among clients. Hope Haven’s “Book of Remembrance” provides an attractive, permanent record of all memorials.

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Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Van Duyn
Hilda Vink
Mr. & Mrs. Verdell Groen
Lois Nagel
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Mr. & Mrs. Verdell Groen
Verne Meyer
Janel Watson
Clara Wolterstorf
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Mr. & Mrs. Ray Ripperda
IN MEMORY OF
Marian Verburg
Marian Verburg
Marian Verburg
Donna Ryepkema
Donna Ryepkema
David Groen
Alice Van Ginkel
Alice Van Ginkel
Alice Van Ginkel
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Victor Renken
Larry Thoelke
Niclas Wolterstorf
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Billy Mergenberg
James Wiering
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Bill & Beverly Kennedy
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Verlyn Scheibe
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John Helmus
John Helmus
JoAnn Ransom
John Koolsta
Merle Klosterbuer
George Kruger
Marcella Julius
Charles Wyatt
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Janeen Enis
Mary Reekers
Joyce Smitt
Marjean Barta
Ray Hall
Arnie Ver Hoef
Randy Van Gelder
Roy Roadier
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Norm Nattress
Howard Thomas
Helen Peterson
Lee De Haan
Larry Mart
Jim Sample
Herb Wrikson
Neal Gritter
Jeanette Jager
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Marlan Hill
Leland Schlimmer
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Larry Mart
Jim Sample
Herb Wrikson
Neal Gritter
Jeanette Jager
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Jeanette Jager
Marlan Hill
Leland Schlimmer

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In loving memory of Ruth Stevenson: Robert Ballou, Seth Ballou, Mr. & Mrs. Doug Brown, Linda Polcha, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pugel, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Stenehjem, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Stevenson, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Stocker, Chris Vernon Family.

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In loving memory of Marie Kopel: Dorothy Atkinson, Mr. & Mrs. John Carrithers, Isabelle Kasel, Sister Barbara Kopel, Chris Kopel, Mr. & Mrs. Eldon Kopel, James Kopel, Sister Jeanette Kopel, Nicole Kopel.

In loving memory of Marnette Ver Hoef: Mr. & Mrs. Brian Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Geels, Mr. & Mrs. Vern Den Herder, Proactive Physical Therapy & Rehab – Sioux Center, Thomas Robinson, Two Rivers Bank & Trust – Burlington, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Welsh.

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In loving memory of Hallard De Jong: Shirley De Jong, East Heritage Duplexes – Orange City, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Oolman, Dave & Lora Vande Brake, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ver Mulm, Jim Sauer, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schreiner, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Tagart, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schreiner, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Van De Water, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Sieperda, Holly Spitler, Susan Stocker, Lamburt Van Olst, Robert Tilstra, Mr. & Mrs. Hallard De Jong, Mr. & Mrs. John Harmelink, Lyle Koon, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Molling, Johanna Mulder, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Rentsh, Deborah Smith, Shirley Tolsma, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Van Zee.

In loving memory of Betty Van Schepen: Mr. & Mrs. Alden Altena, Dr. & Mrs. Gilbert Blankespoor, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Eekhoff, Mr. & Mrs. Andy Miedema, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Pollema, Mr. & Mrs. Curt Van Schepen.

In loving memory of Arnold & Thelma Menning: Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Intveld, Margaret Kuiken, Menning Family, Doc & Bonnie Van Leeuwen.