



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Fifth Annual 1000 Wheels Day Planned**

(Hartford, CT) -- Chariots of Hope, a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization plans to hold its fifth annual 1000 Wheels Day Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. People with wheelchairs that are no longer in use are urged to bring them to selected State Police Barracks throughout the state. Chariots of Hope, founded in 1998, collects, repairs and distributes wheelchairs to needy individual throughout Connecticut, the United States, and third world countries.

The annual collection day is an opportunity to create awareness for the organization and to encourage people to donate chairs or make cash contributions to assist with the repair and distribution of the chairs. "The State Police have joined with the communities to make our drive a success," said Ken Messier, Chariots of Hope executive director. "We are happy to make our barracks available as drop off points," said Sgt. Paul Vance, Connecticut State Police public relations director.

Last year over 233 chairs were collected and thousands of dollars raised. This year community organizations and local businesses are being asked to participate in the event. Ambulance Service of Manchester has agreed to be a local sponsor.

There are over 20,000,000 people throughout the world, many of them children, who have no access to wheelchairs. Chariots of Hope has already distributed chairs to needy people in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Peru, Bolivia, Tanzania, Anquilla, and Haiti. For more information contact Ken Messier at Chariots of hope at 860-249-HOPE or visit their website at [www.chariotsofhope.org](http://www.chariotsofhope.org).



**Barracks Locations:**

Troop A Southbury  
Troop B North Canaan  
Troop C Tolland  
Troop D Danielson  
Troop E Montville  
Troop F Westbrook  
Troop G Bridgeport  
Troop H Hartford  
Troop I Bethany  
Troop K Colchester  
Troop L Litchfield

**Other Drop-off Locations:**

Bickford Healthcare Center, Windsor Locks

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