

Chariots *of Hope*

WHERE THERE IS **HOPE** THERE IS **TRIUMPH**

Letter from the President

Chariots- Newsletter Article09

Chariots of Hope is a unique and special organization because of what we do and how we manage to get it done. Starting in 1998 the mission and philosophy has been to collect a used manual wheelchair, refurbish it and send it to those in desperate need at no cost to them, with volunteer staff only. In this day and age when 'need' is on every one's mind, I am so very proud of the work we do, the joy we both give and receive and how we have managed to 'grow' so much over the years.



Our volunteers are where it all starts and I would be remiss if I did not say how grateful we are for their labor of love and accomplishments. From answering the phones, to picking up chairs, to packaging and boxing chairs, to fundraising, marketing, accounting, promoting and just plain believing in our mission, over 100 individuals give their time, talents and dollars to support the organization all year long.

After ten years we have a few well established events that occur every year. We collect chairs from the general public on 1000 Wheels Day in June by having volunteers at the State Police Barracks throughout the Connecticut. This partnership has been so successful for both raising awareness of our work and by obtaining the chairs we need to repair for those on our waiting list. This year the event will be moved to the first Saturday in June rather than in May, but that is the first change to

this activity in over ten years.

In June we host an annual golf tournament, which produced over \$14,000 dollars in profit! With the economy today, it is wonderful to see people come out and support this event. Over the past 8 years more people come to golf, more sponsorship dollars have come forward and more people want to be a part of this event. In September we hosted the 6th Annual Tea Party. As we have grown we have now moved the event to the Simsbury Inn, in Simsbury, CT to help accommodate the growing number of attendees.

We thank those of you who know us and support us. We welcome new volunteers who may want to work on any one of our projects. We always need your help and we always need your financial support to keep our momentum going.

Thank you and Happy Holidays,

Michelle Carney

President, Chariots of Hope



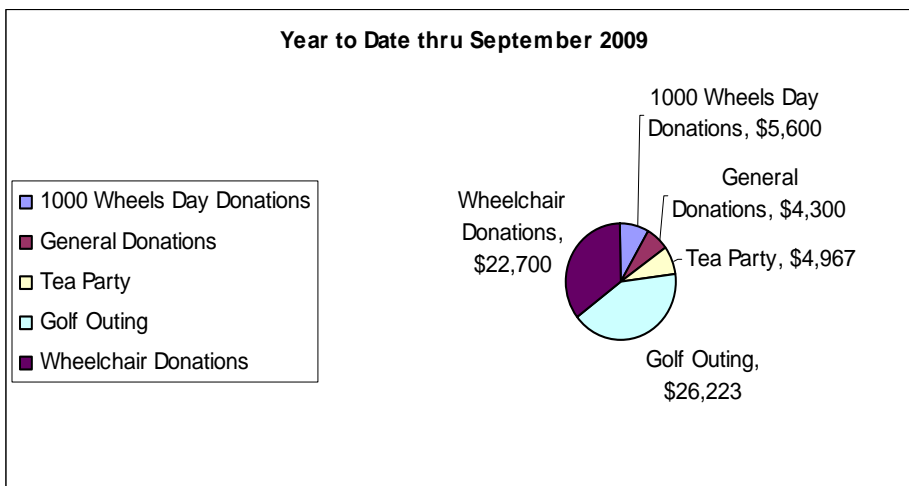
Donation made to Danny C of Norwich CT October 2009

Progress Overview

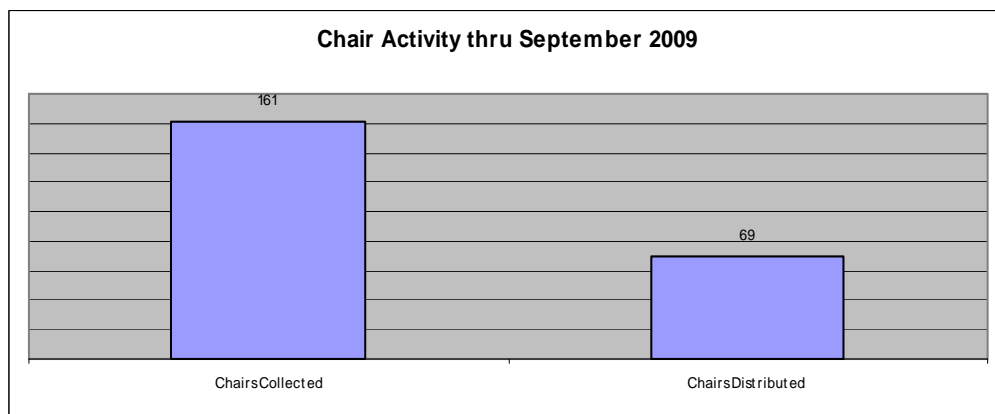
By Sherry Grando Foster

1000 Wheels Day Donations \$5,600 *
 General Donations \$4,300
 Tea Party \$4,967
 Golf Outing \$26,223
 Wheelchair Donations \$22,700 *

*Wheelchair Valuation



Chairs Collected 161
 Chairs Distributed 69



Golf Tournament

June 24, 2009, a warm and sunny afternoon. A perfect day to play golf, especially for those who joined Bob Maxon and Brad Drazen at the Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow, MA for the annual Chariots of Hope fundraising golf tournament. Each year Chariots of Hope is fortunate to have over seventy five golfers, ten volunteers and a host of vendors who come out and support our mission. This year we were especially pleased to have two major sponsors, The Medicine Centre and Janney Montgomery Scott who together gave \$10,000 in cash and joined us for the day, golfing.

The evening began with an enjoyable cocktail hour, followed by a delicious dinner and ended with the annual Live and Silent Auction event. With both Bob and Brad as emcees, no one could resist bidding on the trip to the Dominican Republic or the many rounds of golf donated by area golf courses. The competition was fierce and the laughs non stop.

We thank everyone who came out to support us. To the many vendors who sponsored Tees, prizes, the raffle and the auction we are most especially grateful. Look for the 'save the date' card for the 2010 annual golf tournament.

1,000 Wheels Day Moving to June 5

By Sherry Giando Foster

We are changing the collection of manual wheelchairs to Saturday June 5, 2010 from 10AM-2PM to be held at the State Police Barracks. Any manual folding wheelchair may be dropped off prior to the event, Cash donations for repair and distribution costs are also encouraged.

We are an all volunteer organization and always looking for new friends. Any amount of time you can give is always appreciated no matter how small. Splitting the day at a Barrack or sharing the time and making new friends. Do you have a truck? Picking up chairs and returning them to the garage in Bloomfield is extremely helpful. Please contact me at sgf@chariotsofhope.org



Westbrooke 1000 Wheels Day 2008
 State Police Department

Why We Give

By Paul Bobbitt

David Sutherland uses the acronym "PATRIOTIC" to show reasons why we give:

- Passion – believing in a cause or work
- Affiliation – belonging to or among a group
- Tradition – a history or practice of giving
- Recognition – the desire to be known
- Inspiration – captured by the work or project
- Obligation – doing our duty or expectation
- Transformation – wanting to make a difference
- Invitation – invited or asked to give
- Completion – fulfilling a commitment

Will you take just one minute and think about what Chariots of Hope is doing for others? I am sure you will find among these reasons one that moves you to send your check. We thank you for giving.



2009/2010 CT Sled Hockey

The 7th Season for Connecticut Sled Hockey began earlier this year with a season Opening Tournament in Burlington, Vermont. Connecticut Sled Hockey participates in the Northeast Sled Hockey League along with teams from NH, NY, PA and this year Vermont has formally joined the league.

Although Connecticut Sled Hockey is one of the 'younger' teams in the league, they enjoyed a very successful trip to Burlington with wins against NY and VT and losses to PA and NH... resulting in a very respectable 3rd place finish.

The team begins regular season play at the rink in Danbury on Sunday November 22nd. For additional information regarding the schedule for CT and the other teams, please visit the Northeast Sled Hockey League web site @ NESHL.org. Any opportunity that you have to watch this exciting team play...would certainly prove to be an enlightening and uplifting experience.

Connecticut Sled Hockey has been traveling to an 'invitation only' tournament in Ottawa, Ontario, CAN for the past several years... This past year the Connecticut team shocked everyone and came home with the trophy. Additionally noteworthy is the fact that several players from the Connecticut squad are now competing internationally as part of the USA Hockey National Team.

Connecticut Sled Hockey, originally formed by Chariots of Hope, provides an athletic experience to all physically challenged residents of the State of Connecticut. The goal is for the participants to improve their strength and balance...plus to develop a strong sense of teamwork and improved self-esteem. CT Sled Hockey is a 501-C3 corporation with a volunteer staff and 100% of all funds and donations go directly to the program and the participants.

One Side of the Story...

... Paul D. Bobbitt

Chairman of Board of Directors

We often say, "Every wheelchair has two stories. One is where it came from and the other is where it is going." Both are compelling accounts. We would like to share some of the comments from the requests we receive for chairs and to whom we have sent a chair.

Charles is my father. We share an apt. I help as much as I can but I am sick also and have not worked in two years. Dad is on a small fixed income. I have none and we are both broke. Please help my dad. Thank you.

- *I can move around somewhat at home, but if I have to stand or walk more than three or five minutes both of my legs will go numb and I cannot move and will fall. So, I can't leave my house, go grocery shopping, to the library or anything that I used to do. I appreciate anything you guys could do. God bless you.*

I am C's son. My mother had a spinal cord injury that left her wheelchair bound. She still has the same chair she was given at the hospital 2 years ago. She has since lost all insurance and disability and her chair is falling apart. Can you help us get a wheelchair for my mom, please?

- *Aura is a 34 year old mother of three from El Salvador and is unable to receive any type of insurance to help her get a wheelchair. She recently suffered a 7th stroke and doctors say her brain is very damaged. She is in need of a wheelchair is she unable to see well, talk or walk.*

Yes, every wheelchair has two stories. And that is why we at Chariots of Hope do what we do with your support in so many ways!

Tea Party 2009

Tea Party 2009

September 20, 2009

By John M. Reynolds, Co-Chair

A new face for a cherished event. We would like to begin with a special thanks to the Simsbury Inn in Simsbury CT, for the wonderful space and the abundance of delicious food served. The most beautiful view was the individualized table settings decorated by each committee member. The very unique china and silverware made each table elegant and hard to decide on where one might want to sit to enjoy the day. This year the event was a great success and we owe a big thank you to all of the hard work of the tea party committee and loyal volunteers. The afternoon started off with a great deal of enthusiasm for the raffle and anticipation for the fashion show. Once again we would like to express our appreciation to Astrid Niemelaeinen of Astrid Niemelaeinen Couture for her continued support to Chariots of Hope. I would also like to thank all of our Sponsors, and hope that they will join us next year for the 2010 Chariots of Hope tea party, which will be September 19th, 2010 again at the Simsbury Inn. Anyone interested in participating in next years event please contact Chariots of Hope at www.chariotsofhope.org for more information on how you can get involved.

Save The Date— Chariots Fundraising Activities

June 5, 2010-1000 Wheels Day

June, 2010- 9th Annual Golf Tournament

Sept 19, 2010-Tea Party



YES, I'd like to continue as a partner with Chariots of Hope's Friend!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State- _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

Gift Amount _____
This gift will be matched by _____ (Company)
This gift is for Chariots of Hope _____
This Gift is for CT Sled Hockey _____

Continue to send me newsletters and information about Chariots of Hope
 I would like to receive e-mail updates at the e-mail _____
 I want to volunteer _____

Make checks payable to Chariots of Hope

Contributions are tax deductible for tax purposes, as provided by law
Return to Chariots of Hope, 45 Barber Pond Road, Bloomfield, CT.06002

Chariots of Hope is a 100% Volunteer organization and 100% of the profits go to the charity, not salaries!



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Visit our new website!
www.chariotsofhope.org