

Everything you need to know about the KC Wheelchair Charity

San Antonio has been the second largest donor to the American Wheelchair Mission (AWM) in Texas for years thanks to the efforts of Brother Sam Szalwinski. I won't mention who is first (DFW). Wheelchair Sundays are the single greatest way funds are attained. Understandably these events were canceled due to COVID-19. Hopefully, Wheelchair Sunday can be rescheduled after the churches have fully reopened and we are back to normal once we have a vaccine against the SARS-COV-2 virus. (coming soon!)

The wheelchair mission is essential. Each wheelchair is estimated to lift up and change the lives of 10 people beyond the wheelchair recipient. A personal note: As many of you know, my eldest son Ehren has a neuromuscular disease similar to Muscular Dystrophy. He relies on a motorized wheelchair. I cannot imagine how he would suffer without that wheelchair. There are many who cannot afford wheelchairs right here in San Antonio as well as globally. Please help these people obtain the freedom and dignity mobility provides and make a donation of any amount. I want every Council to donate for at least one or two wheelchairs (\$150/\$300). Consider passing the hat or having officers divide the cost. Be creative. Additionally, put Wheelchairs in your annual budget. Skip something (lunch?) one time to donate.

Children with physical disabilities can go to school for the first time, adults can go to work and provide for their families, and the elderly can get out of a bed they may have been in for years and rejoin society.



Since 2007, Knights have provided some 7,000 wheelchairs to veterans who are in need of just a little more help.



A veteran of our

"Greatest Generation" getting his new wheelchair.

Wheelchairs are obtained by AWM at very low cost due to charity designation and volume of purchases, making it possible to provide many chairs to those who can't afford one. St. Mark Council 7613 receives 110 wheelchairs annually and distributes them here in San Antonio to places like the Padua Place home for priests and the Christus Santa Rosa Hospital system at the request of Sister Michéle O'Brien. 16 November 2020 several members of 7613 delivered 28 wheelchairs to CSR Children's Hospital. Sister Michéle was overjoyed.



There are criteria:

1. The American Wheelchair Mission does not sell wheelchairs. They are charitable donations given to the needy. Donations to AWM make this possible.
 - a. Wheelchairs are obtained by AWM at very low cost due to charity designation and volume of purchases, making it possible to provide many chairs to **those who can't afford one**.
 - b. All chairs are charity donations to recipients who, as Chris Lewis President of AWM states, **"are in dire need, the poorest of the poor, those below the poverty line"**.
2. It is imperative that chairs be given only to those in most need. **Chairs are not to be given to those who have alternative means such as personal funds or insurance. Those with Medicare, Medicaid or private/employer insurance should go to one of those for assistance**. All wheelchair donations must meet those restrictions per Supreme and AWM. Giving wheelchairs to individuals who do not meet these guidelines could impact the charity 501 C-3A designation. Please ensure that the recipients of the chairs you distribute meet those qualifications.

I prioritize deliveries in the following manner:

1. Disabled Veteran KCs with no financial assets or insurance. This is a top Supreme priority.
2. Disabled Veterans non-KC with no financial assets or insurance.
3. Disabled KC with no financial assets or insurance.
4. Disabled Relatives of KC with no financial assets or insurance.
5. Others with no financial assets or insurance.
6. Parish churches: limit one per Sanctuary.

Please ensure donations clearly note Knights of Columbus Council xxxx. Donations by check can be sent directly to the American Wheelchair Mission at:

Dan Moberg
American Wheelchair Mission
2600 E. Seltice Way A-172
Post Falls, ID 83854
(208) 457-0745 dmoberg@amwheelchair.org

For online donations using credit cards see <https://amwheelchair.org/donate/>

Please send an email to jonklaenberg@satx.rr.com or text to 210-421-7962 with name, date and amount for my data bank. This is important to have a true record of the San Antonio Diocese totals. I recognize that this is a tough time for most and understand there are those who cannot participate. Everyone please pray for the destitute poor who desperately need a wheelchair to gain mobility and dignity. For each \$150 donation, you will receive a beautiful certificate folder with the picture of a wheelchair recipient inside. You must include your name and address to receive the certificate folder.



For more on helping AWM see <https://amwheelchair.org/>

An additional request. Churches are suffering from reduced attendance and hence reduced offerings. Please consider signing up for auto bank draft or maybe even a matching donation.

Thank you and please be safe and pray for the less fortunate.

Blessings,

Jon Klauenberg

Past Grand Knight Council 7613

St. Mark the Evangelist Church

San Antonio Archdiocese Knights of Columbus American Wheelchair Mission Representative

210-421-7962, jonklauenberg@satx.rr.com