



FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Melany Ethridge 972.267.1111
melany@alarryross.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wheels for Haiti

Joni and Friends Wheels for the World Outreach to Provide Wheelchairs to Haiti Earthquake Victims

AGOURA HILLS, Calif., January 26, 2010 – As news of the devastating injuries sustained by survivors of the Haiti earthquake continues to pour in, [Joni and Friends](#) (JAF) International Disability Center and founders of the Wheels for the World program has announced its first shipment of wheelchairs for delivery in Port-au-Prince, to bring much-needed mobility to those who have been disabled as a result of the earthquake.

“In this devastating natural disaster, thousands of victims of the earthquake have become permanently or temporarily disabled. Many are struggling with the affects of amputation. Every day the need for wheelchairs, walkers, canes and crutches escalates as the injured are pulled from the rubble,” founder Joni Eareckson Tada said. “In the midst of this overwhelming tragedy, we have the opportunity to link arms with other Christian organizations who are responding to the urgent needs of the people there.”

To that end, JAF is partnering with churches and other respected non-profit organizations already in Haiti who are asking for wheelchairs and immediate help. The first shipment of 200 wheelchairs is already on its way, and JAF is working with U.S. and international partners to get more chairs to those who need them most. Those who wish to donate to the relief effort through JAF can be assured that their donations will go to help ship hundreds of adult and pediatric wheelchairs, walkers, and canes to the earthquake survivors. The average cost per wheelchair is approximately \$150.

This special provision of wheelchairs for Haiti will be above and beyond the existing 2010 Wheels for the World delivery schedule, which already includes countries in need around the world.

JAF continues to serve the disability community through its International Disability Center, offering a wide array of life-affirming ministries to people with disabilities around the world, which has seen thousands of individuals receive wheelchairs and the life-giving message of the Gospel.

- 30 -

Note to Editors: For more information about Joni and Friends Wheels for the World, or to arrange an interview with Joni Eareckson Tada or JAF representatives, please contact Melany Ethridge of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or melany@alarryross.com.