

WHEELCHAIRS for NIGERIA

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60 wheelchairs given at the palace of the Emir of Hadeja

296 WHEELCHAIRS GIVEN IN MARCH

Ron Rice made his 26th trip to Nigeria in March. He and his partner Ayuba Gufwan gave out 296 wheelchairs in 6 large presentations, four in the semi-desert far north of Bauchi and Jigawa states. Sixty wheelchairs were given at the palace of the Emir of Hadeja, a 7 hour drive each way. Chief Rice wore his robe and turban, proper protocol when a chief visits an Emir's palace. The turban had fallen apart, so one of the Emir's staff rewound the 30 ft. long fabric around and around and down under the chin, as chiefs and emirs are duly turbaned.

In the large city of Lafia, a member of the federal House of Representatives sponsored a wheelchair presentation at a large hotel. He had also advertised on the radio he would give 5000 naira (\$14) to every widow. Thousands came, as well as 120-150 disabled hoping to get one of the 60 wheelchairs. It was chaotic!

Ron and Ayuba reconnected with former Jigawa governor, Sule Lamido, a likely next president of Nigeria (elections May 2019). He remembered them very well from a wheelchair presentation at his office in 2012.



A Fulani woman receives a wheelchair



Chief Rice greets polio survivors who have come for a wheelchair



A disabled mom who has crawled on the ground her whole life, and her baby, get a wheelchair

THANK YOU, supporters of Wheelchairs for Nigeria! Because of your generosity, 17,000 polio survivor's lives have been transformed, from crawling on the ground to having mobility to go to school, church, market or a job.

Send your tax-deductible gift to 1542 Palm Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116, or give online at WheelchairsforNigeria.org. Since no donations are used for travel to Nigeria or fundraising, every penny goes for a wheelchair.



FOOD FOR THE DEAF SCHOOL

by Diamond Chidozie, Ayuba's new assistant

May 15, 2018 was a great day of joy and gladness for the staff and students of the Plateau State School for the Deaf for the surprise visit of Beautiful Gate Handicapped People's Center. Mr. Ayuba Burki Gufwan's arrival was welcomed with a sigh of relief and joy.

I was sent ahead to inform them of his coming. At my arrival I met the principal discussing with the kitchen staff. One of the major topics of discussion was the issue of food. The women were expressing sadness how some of the students seem to be suspecting that they were stealing their food, such that some of them had to miss classes so as to keep watch over the women as they cook. All this was as a result of the limited supply of food stuff.

Mr. Ayuba Gufwan's visit was indeed timely like an angel. He brought 5 bags of grain, 10 bags of maize, 5 Jeri cans of groundnut oil, and two cows. He said he knew the government had only given them a little bit of food and they had run out and were all very hungry. He encouraged them to take their studies seriously. He prayed that God would bless their new principal and promised them that Beautiful Gate Handicapped People's Center would continue to partner with them. He introduced Diamond Chidozie as one of the new staff of Beautiful Gate who will be coming from time to time for their up keep, hence he will represent him periodically as need be. He said the cows should be used based on the discretion of the school authority for the student's good.

The Principal expressed her gratitude for Mr. Ayuba Gufwan's kind gesture; saying she knew that this is not the first time he is doing this but has always done this. Therefore she wished him God's blessings and success in all his endeavors. The Head Boy also appreciated him on behalf of the students, likewise the chairman of the Old Boys Association of the school. Mr. Ayuba also went on to inquire of their well-being; about their electricity if it had been connected? The Principal said yes about two days ago. He asked of the generator – they said the big one was not active at the moment but they are using the other smaller ones. He requested to know the state of the water supply – they said they don't have any problem with the water supply; water is always available.

Thanks to Beautiful Gate Handicapped People Center for putting smiles and hope on the faces of these precious ones.



A VISIT TO THE WHEELCHAIR SHOP



Assembling spokes and rims



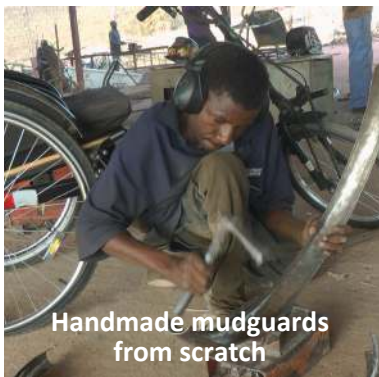
Welding frames



Ayuba's snake charmer friend visits the shop with a 6 ft. cobra



Painting



Handmade mudguards from scratch



Loading the truck