

motif

The Newsletter of the Motivation Charitable Trust Issue 33 September 2008



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Worldmade Coordinator

I joined Motivation just before the official launch of the Worldmade Programme at the House of Commons in July 2005. As Worldmade Coordinator I am delighted that this edition of Motif will focus on Worldmade to show how the programme has evolved over the last three years. Worldmade has gained steadily increasing interest from global organisations in the disability field, particularly this year as the need to provide a range of appropriate and good quality wheelchairs becomes more widely acknowledged. The interest in appropriate wheelchair provision is exemplified by the World Health Organization's

(WHO) Guidelines on the provision of Manual Wheelchairs in less resourced settings, which were launched on 25th August 2008. Motivation will embrace this interest and continue to expand the Worldmade programme through the establishment of more wheelchair service partnerships, training on wheelchair provision and the design and production of a greater range of mobility products. I hope you enjoy reading about the success of Worldmade and the positive impact it has and will continue to bring to people with disabilities.

Worldmade is worldwide

Worldmade is Motivation's international programme which supplies a range of mobility products through a network of professional wheelchair services.

Worldmade is an alternative option within Motivation's wheelchair design portfolio. Since 2005, the Worldmade wheelchair service network has reached Papua New Guinea, East Timor, Nepal, Sri Lanka, South India, Angola, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Worldmade encompasses three key areas essential for wheelchair provision:

Products

It is important that wheelchair users have a choice of products and are prescribed a chair that is appropriate to their needs. The three wheel Worldmade Rough Terrain wheelchair (WM3) has been in production since 2005. The next product, the four wheel Worldmade Active Folding, will be available by the end of 2008. More products will

be added to the Worldmade range in 2009, including a more basic four-wheel chair, a tricycle and supportive seating.

Services

Motivation supports and advises organisations on the basic set up required to run a Worldmade wheelchair service. A wheelchair service ensures each wheelchair user receives a thorough needs assessment and prescription of an appropriate wheelchair, as well as mobility skills training, health care advice and a follow-up and repair service.

Training

Staff involved in Worldmade wheelchair distribution are required to attend Motivation's Fit for Life prescription and assembly training. Since 2005 eight Fit for Life courses have been delivered, with 132 international students now fully qualified in basic level wheelchair provision.

Developing partnerships

The WHO Guidelines on the provision of Manual Wheelchairs in less resourced settings estimate that 65 million people worldwide require a wheelchair. The Worldmade programme can have a significant impact on this need but working in partnership is key. Therefore Motivation has recently developed partnerships with two major international stakeholders.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provides assistance to victims of war and violence worldwide. The ICRC approached Motivation in 2006 to train their team of physiotherapists, prosthetists and orthotists in wheelchair provision, so that they, in turn, could train others in the countries where they operate. Motivation developed an advanced Wheelchair and Postural Support Training course



Worldmade wheelchair users in India.

Designed to Fold

The Worldmade Active Folding wheelchair (WM4X) is the second product in the Worldmade range. It is designed for less challenging terrain than the Worldmade Rough Terrain wheelchair (WM3), although it still is stable and rides easily over uneven ground because of its larger front castor wheels and cambered rear wheels. It complements the WM3, adding a more compact and manoeuvrable chair to the range, great for indoor or outdoor use and transportation.

The WM4X uses the familiar 'cross folding' format which is popular with people who use public transport or store their wheelchair in a small space, amongst others. In contrast to most cross folding wheelchairs, which are designed for short term use in hospital, the WM4X is rugged and performs well outside. The strength of this wheelchair is created by a double X brace which makes it much more rigid. Like the WM3, the new WM4X can be assembled in four different seat widths. It has two 15cm (6") castor wheels at the front and 26" bicycle wheels at the rear. The seat and backrest are made of durable fabric and adjustable webbing straps, which allow the tension in both to be altered as needed.

The importance of building confidence and self esteem is the driving force behind Motivation's desire to create aesthetic products. The WM4X is designed to blend the sporty style of an active wheelchair with the practicalities of a folding one. Looking and feeling good in a wheelchair is incredibly important; in fact wheelchair users in the Philippines rated appearance of their wheelchair as the number one priority for them. Motivation strives to design equipment that users feel like they want to use rather than have to use.

Their second highest priority was durability and the WM4X has been designed using materials and finishes which have been chosen to increase



The Worldmade Active Folding wheelchair (WM4X).

the life of the product. There are also many common parts with the WM3; increasing production economies of scale and simplifying stocking of spare parts. Motivation has also developed internal standards for all of its wheelchairs, so for example a rear wheel from Motivation's African three wheeler would fit the Worldmade products and vice versa.

Posture and pressure relief are both very important in a product in which users will spend many hours everyday. Being

well supported and sitting comfortably isn't normally easy in a standard folding wheelchair, but the tension straps of the WM4X make it simple to adjust the backrest to the individual. The wheelchair costs just over £100 which, for its specification, is very low cost when compared to a wheelchair of its type in the UK.

If you would like to make a donation to the General Wheelchair Fund please contact Motivation on 01275 464012 or mark your donation 'GWF'.

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in conjunction with the Worldmade programme. Eight courses have been delivered over 18 months with 80 ICRC staff now fully trained. ICRC has started to distribute the WM3 through their international delegations, including Cambodia, North Korea, Northern Iraq and Ethiopia.

The Humanitarian

Services division of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) works on a variety of international humanitarian issues worldwide. Since 2001 LDS has distributed over 190,000 wheelchairs in 95 countries. LDS approached Motivation for assistance in improving the way they support people

with mobility disabilities in developing countries. In October Motivation will train a team of LDS volunteers to deliver training in wheelchair provision to LDS's own partner organisations. LDS has agreed to buy 14 containers of Worldmade Rough Terrain wheelchairs in 2008; approximately 5,000 wheelchairs.

The development of these partnerships will enable Motivation to engage a variety of organisations in training, establishing comprehensive wheelchair services and providing a range of appropriate, good quality wheelchairs. Ultimately this will improve the quality of life of more disabled people worldwide.

Worldmade in action



Lekshmi enjoying the independence her Worldmade wheelchair has given her.

Lekshmi Devamma is 22 years of age. She lives in Konapalli, a village in the Kolar district of Karnataka, India. Lekshmi has polio which has severely limited her mobility. Lekshmi was referred to the wheelchair service team of Motivation's local partner the Association

of People with a Disability (APD). Since receiving her Worldmade Rough Terrain wheelchair Lekshmi has become an active member of the village community, attending village meetings, and is often seen out and about with her friends. She loves the independence,

freedom and confidence the wheelchair has given her. She travels up to 5 km in her wheelchair. Lekshmi is currently undertaking higher education and hopes to work once she has completed her studies.



Sunil and his father.

Sunil, 22 years old, lives in the mountainous Dhaulagiri region of Nepal. While collecting fruit from a tree he fell and damaged his spine. Following his accident Sunil stayed within his family home for two years with limited mobility and freedom. He would spend most of his days learning to play the flute and was disappointed that he could not continue with his

education. Motivation got to know about Sunil through Surendra; a friend of Sunil who lost both his hands in a booby trap bomb blast. Surendra received support from an Australian couple, Dennis and Jane, who arranged for him to be fitted with a prosthesis in Australia. Dennis returned to Nepal with Surendra and was asked if he could help Sunil. Dennis made enquiries with

Motivation and as a result Sunil is due to be assessed at the Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre in Pokhara and prescribed and fitted with his own Worldmade Rough Terrain wheelchair. Sunil has since moved to Beni, his local centre, and is currently learning to repair electronic equipment and Surendra is now running his own bus service business.



Shobha is now able to generate her own income.

Shobha lives in a village in Herepalya, in the Karnataka State of India. Shobha contracted polio when she was one year old and had to crawl around her home and local village in order to get anywhere. Shobha was assessed by the rural wheelchair service team of the Association of People with Disability (APD) and

prescribed a Worldmade Rough Terrain wheelchair. This wheelchair has not only dramatically impacted on Shobha's freedom of mobility but has also helped her economic independence. APD provided Shobha with the opportunity to participate in a tailoring vocational training programme and she now runs her own tailoring

service from her home. With the Worldmade wheelchair Shobha can now travel easily and safely around her village and further afield to visit her customers and deliver orders. Shobha is keen to continue expanding her own tailoring enterprise and live independently.

If you would like to support people like Sunil, Lekshmi and Shobha you can make a donation to Motivation.

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Up Close & Personal

Having completed her high school education, Chinu Chinnamma (or "Chinnamma" to her friends) was considering her career options. One day the training and employment team of The Association of People with Disability (APD) visited her village in the Kolar district of Karnataka, India and talked to her about job opportunities within their wheelchair service. As a result of this visit, Chinnamma joined APD as a Trainee Assistant Technician for six months. As well as

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wheelchair technology, she learnt about basic therapy skills and disability management. Having proven her competency, Chinnamma attended Motivation's Fit for Life basic level Worldmade Assembly course and has been an Assistant Wheelchair Technician for APD's wheelchair service team since 2006.

Chinnamma particularly enjoys working within APD's rural project as she gets a chance to visit and support wheelchair users in their remote villages and carry out quality control checks, repairs and maintenance. She also loves the teamwork

involved in wheelchair provision. Chinnamma has assembled over 100 Worldmade wheelchairs and is proud that her job helps bring independence to disabled people. "I am immensely thankful to APD and Motivation for providing me with the opportunity to work with the wheelchair service team."

As well as a wheelchair service, APD also provides rehabilitation, education for children with learning difficulties, counselling,

career guidance and vocational training. Motivation will continue to support APD to advance its services for disabled people. Visit www.apd-india.org for more information.



Chinu Chinnamma, Assistant Wheelchair Technician for APD, India.

News from the Motivation Network

UK

In March Peter Damsberg joined Motivation as the new Finance Manager. Beth Windsor joined in July as PA to the Executive Officers. Ines Lucena joined Motivation in August as Worldmade Administrator. We wish them all a warm welcome.

In March we heard the sad news of Gladys Charowa's death. Gladys was the head of the Disabled Womens Support Organisation (DWSO) in Zimbabwe. Gladys was a board member for MAFRO and was a dynamic and compassionate disability activist. She will be sadly missed as a friend and colleague.

Africa

The Motivation Africa Regional Office (MAFRO) is officially registered as a South African (Not for Profit) Company. This office will support Motivation's work throughout various African countries. Clinical, technical and peer (wheelchair user to wheelchair user) training development is a major focus for the MAFRO team in 2008/9 to establish a range of courses in South Africa and Tanzania that can enable practitioners from across the continent to begin to address the new WHO Guidelines on the provision of Manual Wheelchairs in less resourced settings.

Asia Pacific

In May the Motivation Australia Development Organisation (MADO) carried out a wheelchair feasibility study in Kiribati and the Solomon Islands. We plan to initiate wheelchair services in each country in 2009, utilising Worldmade products. In September MADO is co-hosting a Wheelchair Consensus Symposium, drawing together stakeholders in disability and development in Australia and the Asia Pacific, to introduce the newly released WHO Guidelines and develop consensus on future approaches to wheelchair provision in the region.

Sri Lanka

There are currently three main projects running in Motivation Sri Lanka; two of these relate to services (manufacturing and distribution of assistive devices) and one promotes economic empowerment. Our recent work has focused on developing service centers where services were not previously available. We have also been seeking partnerships with local business enterprises in order to successfully integrate disabled people into their workforces. We continue to support advocacy activities in the region by providing financial support to several disabled people's organisations.

Shorts ★ Motivation would like to congratulate Chris Stubbs who was awarded an MBE in June. In 1988 Chris and his wife Ranji founded MENCAFEP (one of Motivation's partners) to provide non-institutionalised care for children and young people with learning difficulties in the Nuwara Eliya district of Sri Lanka.