

KC HELP

Knights Community Hospital Equipment Lend Program

Visit www.KCHelp.org

From the President: Jerry Rhoads

To simply say "Great Things ARE Happening" would be an understatement. The improvements we have been able to make this last year to our service because of your support is a blessing to our volunteers and to our clients.

Your donations helped to improve our warehouse to better house and repair our donated durable medical equipment. With financial support from the Knights of Columbus State and local councils, along with the 3 Rivers Community Foundation, the Tri Cities Association of Realtors, Hayden Homes, and your individual financial donations, we were able to improve our client waiting area, our office area and our warehouse storage and repair areas. Mike Campbell & Company provided us a new HVAC unit, so we now have a cool place in the summer and a warm area in the winter. Don Pratt and the Tri-Cities Home Builders Association fixed our leaking roof, so we have a dry place to house and repair our equipment. It is very enjoyable to have this kind of environmentally controlled space for volunteers and clients. We were also able to obtain a commercial steam cleaner to sanitize our lift chairs and mattresses. While we still use sanitizing solutions for bathroom equipment, we have significantly improved our ability to issue clean germ free equipment. We now have a web site that provides owner's manuals for equipment, information on our service, and other online features. We are also working hard to turn our client and equipment inventory system into a mostly paperless system. You just have to come down and see what your contributions have created.

Our clients continue to increase (now approaching 250 per month) and our relationships with health care providers has improved because we have a place to come to and see what we have available. We have caregivers, social workers, and case managers from many of the area in home service providers drop by to fill the gaps in what is not available through Medicare or their patient's insurance programs. Our telephone line is a hot line where we receive over 400 calls a month. Clients and donors are visiting our New Web site often and requests are coming in through it and our Facebook page. We even have a blog running with many of the amazing things our volunteers are doing. Visit our **Friends of KC HELP** page to see the amazing number of donors that support this work.



Your \$200.00 gift can buy batteries for a Motorized Wheelchair for an amputee or a child that will never walk. \$150.00 provides a mattress for a hospital bed. Your \$50.00 donation can help us keep the lights on and the space cool or warm as the weather changes. Your donation could also help to purchase spare parts for the equipment such as a controller for a lift chair or a hospital bed and a tool to repair a broken piece of equipment. Become a KC HELP Angel and help support our community. Of course, any amount is greatly appreciated. Every amount sent our way keeps our doors open, servicing our communities and those most in need. You could even help us retire our warehouse debt. Would that be a relief! Here's how:

Web: www.kchelp.org- Click on the **Donate heart**. You can also **mail your gift in the enclosed envelope** to our warehouse at 324 West Margaret St, Pasco, WA 99301. **Best of all**, bring it down to the warehouse and see us in action (we are open from 10-2 on Tuesdays and Thursdays). **We would love to give you a tour.**



Please know your generous Spirit has tremendously helped us in the past and will help us continue in the future. We would not be here without you. Thank you!

KC HELP Lines

We have included in this newsletter some articles from our past and present that we hope you enjoy. We pray that God's blessing is gifting you as you have gifted us. With warm regards and immensely thanks,

More stories:

Maggie is a student in a life skills classroom at Hanford High School. She is highly impacted both mentally and physically. She is in a custom-built wheelchair full time because of extreme limited mobility throughout her entire body. She has no verbal abilities but communicates her joy of life with others through expression and vocalization. Maggie needed a wheelchair tray to help with her education, hence a tray donated by KC HELP. The special tray accommodates assistive technology (iPad, interactive communication buttons, etc). The buttons and iPad are rigged such that she can hit it with the back of her wrist, the only part of her hands she is capable of controlling. If it weren't for the tray she would not be able to be among other students, which is her greatest thrill at school, but rather stuck at a desk. Maggie is learning to use the assistive technology to better communicate her needs such as discomfort or hunger and to better her interaction with her peers.

Kay had been fighting a several year battle with cancer, when Gene her husband called asking if we had a wheelchair. Two months later, KC HELP volunteer Gary, who had been keeping in touch, reported that Kay had really gone downhill fast. It looked like she needed a hospital bed and full setup. When we showed up with Lift Chair, Hospital Bed, Over The Bed Table, and Bathroom equipment, Gene was amazed. He took December off to be with Kay through her last days. A few days after Christmas, Kay died at home in the presence of those she loved. When we picked up the equipment, Gene insisted that he help. He asked how we got our funding to pay rent and buy equipment. When we said people in our community donated the equipment and operating funds, he said, "You know, we live in a pretty special place." Gary reported that Gene was "just sure he'd get a bill from the Knights, but after two months he quit looking, maybe those Knights were for real about this being a community service."

Ramona called, worried that she did not have the right kind of equipment to bring her husband home for a weekend visit from the physical recovery ward. Her husband Mark had lost a lung to cancer and wanted to come home. After finding out what we could provide, she asked what she had to do to get in the program and what it costs. When we said nothing it's just what we do, She said "God bless you Knights, I don't know how I would have managed. Mark will be so glad."

Our partners

Washington State Knights of Columbus and Local Councils. Watch for our upcoming tootsie roll drive at your local grocery stores this fall that helps the handicapped through your donations for organizations like Special Olympics, KC HELP, Arc of the Tri Cities and others.

Tri Cities Association of Realtors (TCAR) Partners with KC HELP. A gala event this winter featured an amazing dash for dessert that provided much-needed funds and this summer TCAR launched an equipment and fund raising drive starting with a kick off breakfast to receive the equipment this summer. This fall, they will hold another event along with local television coverage to celebrate.



KC HELP is doing amazing in Wenatchee! "The Wenatchee KC HELP Knights were able to expand their regional repair facility and completely stock it through generous donations and the hard work of our volunteers," said Mike McGlone, the area service manager. Their contact information: kchelp@nwi.net
Hours: M-T-TH, 9-3

KC HELP Lines

A BIG welcome to our Knights in Poulsbo, WA. We now have service on the Western side of Washington State serving the Kitsap Peninsula. To all the volunteers – a great big THANK YOU! For equipment needs or to donate contact: Larry Devlin, 360-329-2461, PO Box 1951, Poulsbo, WA, 98370.

Expanding into Mexico: Talk about excitement! We are outreaching to Baja Mexico! One of our volunteers, Sharon Rhodes, has contacts in San Felipe, Mexico. They sent her a list of equipment that they needed for creating a local hospital/clinic to serve people who can't pay for medical treatment. Sharon asked if she could take some down in her truck. We said "How about a trailer full, as well?"



Offers of additional items came in from our health care partners in the community. A load inventory was finalized and a letter was sent to the Mexican CEO of Volunteers Without Limits and the Mayor of Mexicali to allow us to transport across the border. The mayor approved the request and sent it on to the federal department in charge of transport through the border. At the same time, Sharon pulled that 18 ft trailer to the border and stored it at a friends protected facility in Calexico, CA just this side of the Mexico border. What a trip, 1,238 miles one-



way. Many thanks to Glenn, Tim, Loris, Mark, and Jerry who tirelessly inventoried and loaded the trailer and helped Sharon get on her way! Kyle Crawford of Volunteers Without Limits and Mario Gamboa, a local businessman and Knight, have stepped forward to run the program. The equipment was delivered and the Mexican Government has approved KC HELP, San Filipe as a Charity in Mexico. Stay tuned to our web site for more stories of this amazing effort.



However, the real story is our first recipients, like Lupita who is 10 with cerebral palsy, hydrocephalia and epilepsy or Yosdin is who 6 and has cerebral palsy. These chairs are a Godsend to their moms.

Amazing things are happening in Hawaii. Jonette Kiesow, sister to Jerry Rhoads, received a shipment of medical equipment sent from KC HELP Tri Cities. She is in the early stages of bringing a program similar to KC HELP to Hawaii. They have set up a 501(c)3 non profit, acquired a storage "bus" for their storage needs. They have begun to distribute the Medical Equipment to those in need and are currently looking for additional volunteers to help their efforts. A private donation helped make this first shipment possible. Thankfully, they are not in the path of the volcano or hurricane Lane. They pray for more help and support. If you are able to financially support in some way contact them at www.gloryhouseenterprises.org or mail: Glory House Enterprises PO Box 377445 Ocean View, Hawaii 96737

Over the past 21 years we helped over 30,000 people. Profound good has come to the communities that KC HELP serves. It is our hope that this program will continue to provide these services for many more years and to grow to other states and communities. If you would like to establish a program in your area please contact our KC HELP Founder and CEO Jerry Rhoads at director@kchelp.org.

Health service organizations in the Tri cities, including three hospitals, and Physicians refer clients to us daily. There are 8 councils statewide that provide volunteers to support the three service centers located in the state of Washington. Individuals and businesses from their local area support each of these centers. Many local service clubs and volunteers from other faiths have found this service meaningful and provide a community wide support base. We have provided mobile assist equipment to areas of devastation, including Haiti through networking with the SIGN Fracture Care International Corporation.

KC HELP Lines

A story of our beginning: “What would you do if you needed a hospital bed or wheelchair but could not afford one?” That question spurred the establishment of The KC HELP (Knights Community Hospital Equipment Lend Program). A small group of Knights from the Richland council in Washington State who were helping with setting up equipment in the Tri Cities Hospice program recognized that many people in the area, not enrolled in hospice care, did without. In 1996, the Richland Knights started a pilot program. KC HELP was then created as a non-profit agency. Knights of Columbus councils in Kennewick parishes St Joseph and Holy Spirit along with St Patrick in Pasco sent additional volunteers to serve the community of the Tri-Cities. Shortly after, the Knights in Wenatchee wanted in and service expanded to the greater Wenatchee area.

A story from our past: Mattawa School requests KC HELP in sensitizing fifth graders to their classmate’s handicap. What a privilege to help in the healing and adjusting transition for Arthur Gatica, a fifth grader at that time at Mattawa Elementary, was in a wheelchair. He’s the only one in his class, but his classmates got an idea of what a normal day is like for him.

Thanks to physical education teacher, Tiffany Hedman and the Tri-Cities Knights of Columbus KC HELP program, five wheelchairs were brought to the school so students could use them, specifically to play basketball, and see what



Arthur goes through. “I wanted to bring in the wheelchairs to give our fifth graders a little perspective on what his everyday life is like,” Tiffany said. “The kids absolutely loved it, and asked if we could keep the wheelchairs longer. They quickly found out that wheelchairs are challenging to manipulate, and that Arthur is a seasoned pro at it,” she said.

Arthur spoke with the fifth graders, giving tips on how to turn and stop the chairs. When students struggled in the wheelchairs, they would seek out Arthur for more guidance. “I think this was a great experience for fifth graders, and made them quickly gain tons of respect for how well Arthur has adapted,” said Tiffany.

Volunteers Needed. **We need YOU!** We are in critical need of your help.

Do you like to fix things? We have electric wheelchairs, lift chairs and hospital beds that need your attention. Often times we take three of the same manufacture and produce two good ones. We call it robbing from Peter to pay Paul. Great air-conditioned working space. Experienced people to work with. Flexible work hours after initial training. Liability insurance provided. The smile you experience when you provide them a chair you restored is priceless.

Do you have a few hours per month to lend to KC HELP? Can you pick up returned or donated equipment, deliver needed equipment? Could you be available once per month on a Saturday Morning as we consider staffing the warehouse for Saturday? Two to three hours is all we need. Contact us at 509-212-0900 or just stop by when we are open!



Contact Information for KC HELP: 509-212-0900

Fax 509-792-1110

Website: www.kchelp.org

Address: 324 W Margaret St, Pasco, WA 99301

Warehouse hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am - 2pm.

For Donations – Mail your donation to **324 W Margaret St, Pasco, WA 99301**, or www.kchelp.org **Click on the Donate Heart**

Hospital Beds, Lift Chairs and Electric Wheel Chairs/Scooters require prescriptions to assure equipment meets the client’s medical need and their physical therapy plan. For your Clinician’s ease they may fax directly to KC EHLF