

REACHING OUT AND SERVING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Beginnings of the Wheelchair Mission

When we travel and meet people in life, the first thing we often face is introduction. Soon after comes the familiar question: “What are you doing? Are you working?”

From one chapter to the next, you begin to notice that people are more interested in what you are doing than in your daily routines. The beauty of that question is that it opens a wider space to share your experiences and the changes you hope to bring to your community.

That is how it all began. At my first encounter with a Canadian family, I shared stories about children born with a wide range of conditions each carrying unique challenges that too often lead to one parent abandoning them. The Frederiksen family and their friends embraced the idea of supporting such children. A year later, Achim visited Kenya and accompanied me to meet one of the families. After seeing the situation firsthand, he too was moved to help children feel accepted and loved.

And so, the wheelchair project was born even before the official creation of BlackAndWhite.

At BlackAndWhite Foundation, we have chosen to serve children with disabilities because we are not only offering support, but we are also restoring dignity, opening doors, and rewriting futures. Each act of kindness empowers a child to discover their strengths, uplifts families who have carried unseen burdens, and builds communities where inclusion is celebrated, not marginalized.

“This is not charity, it is justice. It is the recognition that every child’s voice matters.” PNM

A VISIT TO DAISY SCHOOL

When Achim, Sarah, and Patricia arrived at Daisy School, we were greeted by shining faces of little children who surprised us with a warm and heartfelt welcoming song. Some were seated, others were standing, and a few danced joyfully even while seated. At first glance, you might not notice their mobility challenges or other disabilities, but their spirit and energy were unmistakable.

We joined the children, danced with them, and then offered our gift of wheelchairs, which were entrusted to the school’s management and administration. The joy that followed was overwhelming. Many of these children had been waiting a long time for the chance to move freely from one class to another, or simply to get around without crawling. Thanks to the generosity of all who contributed, the children can now move with dignity and comfort, especially during the rainy season when crawling was their only option.

Imagine if we all had the chance to design our ideal body, most of us would probably make changes. But what if we chose instead to see each person as a masterpiece, just as they are?

Children with disabilities, mental illnesses, or other challenges are not “broken” or “needy.” They are individuals deserving of respect, opportunities, and support.

Sadly, some vulnerable families are exploited, with children used for begging on the streets rather than being empowered through education and resources. This is why we must work together to create a world where every child has access to opportunities, independence, and dignity. Let us break the stigma, challenge stereotypes, and advocate for inclusivity and accessibility for all.

A MOTHER’S JOURNEY

(Testimony of Mama Twitwi not her real name)

When I became pregnant, my family was filled with excitement and happiness. Everyone waited eagerly, imagining what my child would look like and who they might resemble. But when I gave birth, relatives began to analyze my baby’s appearance from head to toe, noting every feature. After their inspection, the joy quickly faded.

As the mother of a child with a disability, I have suffered in painful ways. My husband abandoned me, my family stigmatized me, and the wider community rejected us. Instead of support, I was left to carry the burden alone.

My child faces mobility challenges limping, crawling, and struggling to walk without support. A wheelchair would make a world of difference, but such devices are scarce in our community. I have also seen other children with albinism, who endure discrimination and harmful cultural myths. Some children live with intellectual or learning disabilities and are misunderstood or labeled. Others have rare skin conditions that lead to exclusion and bullying. Many are born with mental health syndromes that require special schools, or with blindness and other forms of disability.

We mothers carry not only the weight of raising our children but also the heavy burden of isolation and judgment. Our children, who deserve dignity and opportunity, are instead pushed to the margins.

Then one day, **Achim and Patricia visited Daisy Special School and delivered wheelchairs.** My child was among those who received one. For the first time, I saw my child sit with dignity, move with independence, and smile with joy. That wheelchair was more than a piece of equipment, it was freedom, acceptance, and hope.

“Each of these children is a masterpiece, not a mistake. Yet too often, society treats them as burdens instead of blessings.” PNM

YOUR GIFT CREATES WAVES OF CHANGE

When you donate to BlackAndWhite, your generosity touches lives in powerful ways: Families find relief and hope when they have someone to turn to. Through BlackAndWhite, they know their children are seen, valued, and supported.

Schools' future generations inherit a legacy of inclusion. The seeds we plant today will grow into tomorrow's opportunities, replacing barriers with bridges and inspiring better ideas than we can imagine today.

At BlackAndWhite, we believe in a shared legacy. Together, let's roll hope forward. Serving children with disabilities is more than a program or a movement—it is a mission rooted in equity, compassion, and dignity. With your partnership, we are building a world where every child's potential is recognized and every child's future is valued.

We must also remember the children whose fathers or mothers have abandoned them due to financial hardship or domestic violence. They, too, live with a different kind of disability, one of loss and neglect and they deserve our care and support.

To every donor with a generous heart: your gift is a blessing beyond measure. We may not know how to repay you, but we offer the deepest words we know: **Asante Sana. Thank you.**

Your gift is not just an investment in education, it is an investment in humanity and here is where hope begins, your generosity ensures that no mother stands alone, and no child is left behind." PNM