

## Mission Statement

The Wheelchair Recycler's mission is to provide any means necessary to help mobilize those in need. This will be accomplished through recycling and reclaiming used electric power wheelchairs and scooters.

## Long-Term Goal

Our long-term goal is to set up The Wheelchair Recycler throughout the country. This will be initially accomplished through the help of Spinal Cord Injury support groups and groups that deal with related disabilities, such as Muscular Dystrophy and Multiple Sclerosis.

In the meantime, we are running out of working space and need funding for our daily operations such as transportation, office equipment, utilities and phone.

## How You Can Help

We need your financial support to accomplish our mission and goals. Monetary contributions to The Wheelchair Recycler, Inc. are greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible.



## To Donate Equipment

**If you have a power wheelchair or scooter you wish to donate please:**

- Call Dave at 508-460-6328 or
- Email [WheelchairRecycler@yahoo.com](mailto:WheelchairRecycler@yahoo.com)

The Wheelchair Recycler will pick up equipment within reasonable driving distance from Ashland, Massachusetts.

Working along with physical therapist and family members we will customize your wheelchair to fit to your specific needs or request. Such customized examples include: sip and puff, head control, chin control with tilt, and recline features



**“BECAUSE MOBILITY IS A RIGHT”**



a 501-C3 Nonprofit Organization

**The Wheelchair Recycler, Inc.  
Ashland, MA 01721**

**508-460-6328**



# The Problem

**Hundreds of Thousands of Americans** either desperately need a power wheelchair (or scooter) or could dramatically improve their lives with the use of one. Unfortunately, the price of a new power wheelchair now runs from \$5,000 – \$25,000, and even more depending on the user's needs. This presents an impossible financial hurdle for the vast majority of potential users because so many lack insurance or they have inadequate insurance coverage.

Surprisingly, those who are insured often cannot get power chairs. Medicare qualifiers find this source of coverage to be quite restrictive. Claims are often rejected because of rigid criteria, for example, people who can stand or walk a few steps are denied. People in nursing homes and long-term care facilities will generally not be approved for a power wheelchair.

Many Medicaid cases must wait from 6 months to as long as a year and more for an approved power chair, leaving them without mobility while they wait and in most cases are unable to receive while in a long term facility.

A related problem occurs when power chairs break down. Insurance approval for high-end parts and repairs can be delayed for months at a time, depriving the wheelchair user of this important survival tool in the meantime.

While the desire for mobility is common to all those who are mobility-impaired, it is especially difficult for people who want to work and cannot negotiate the passage between home and employment without a power wheelchair.

# The Solution

## **The Wheelchair Recycler**

A Nonprofit Organization

An impressive stockpile of once-useful power wheelchairs exists. But today, these wheelchairs often end up discarded in landfills or junkyards, rusting in garages, basements or other storage areas because insurance companies and wheelchair distributors have never developed trade-in or recycling arrangements.

**Our solution** – and the mission of The Wheelchair Recycler – is to collect; refurbish and re-issue used power wheelchairs at little or no expense to the new user. Most equipment is 90% below market value.

### **Recognized by:**

**Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation**

**Boston Medical Center**

**Mass General Hospital**

**Spaulding Rehabilitation and affiliates**

**PVA of New England**

**Muscular Dystrophy Association**

**Multiple Sclerosis Association**

**Cerebral Palsy Association**

**Boston Housing Authority**

**Disable Dealer**

**Pass it On Inc.**

**Boston Chapter of NSCIA**

**Umass Medical Worcester**

**Partners with Youth with Disabilities**

**New England SERVE**

**Perkins School for the Blind**

**Boston Council on Ageing**

**Mass Family Voices**

**CLW Center for Living and Working**

**, and countless hundreds of wheelchair users.**

# History of The Wheelchair Recycler

In January 1998, David Heim founded The Wheelchair Recycler, Inc. in Marlborough, Massachusetts. Mobility-impaired since 1995, David is emotionally aware of the intense bond between chair and user. He combines this empathy with hands-on expertise in the various technologies involved in the many types of power chairs in use today.

Since its inception, The Wheelchair Recycler has given away over 500 power chairs worth between \$5,000 – \$25,000 and has provided many hundreds of repairs throughout the United States and even other countries. In many instances, The Wheelchair Recycler has saved many hundreds of people from bed-ridden distress by assisting in a timely manner, whereas the alternative reliance on insurance companies could force handicapped persons to wait up to a year or more for assistance. The Wheelchair Recycler now has a stockpile of power chairs and parts for a variety of wheelchairs, ready to assist those who are immobilized.

It should be noted that most of the people who have received chairs or repairs are on fixed incomes and lacking adequate insurance. David Heim makes it possible for those persons to afford these necessities for life, by significantly reducing the price.

David has a keen knowledge of wheelchair intricacies and is therefore qualified, by means of attitude, intelligence and motivation to aid countless numbers of handicapped persons. Simply stated, David's life mission is to provide as much help in his expertise to as many as he is able.