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Every person deserves access to healthcare – not just those who can afford it.

Walter and Dorothy Magill have been married 68 years. For their entire marriage, they’ve lived in the same home, tucked back on 140 acres of farmland in Western Pennsylvania. Both in their early 90s, Walter and Dorothy were happy and doing well.

Then one day, Dorothy fell down a set of stairs in their home and broke her hip. In recovery from hip replacement surgery, Dorothy was unable to walk – and as the Magills were underinsured, they weren’t able to afford a wheelchair. Dorothy was moved into a nursing home.

Without her ability to move around their home, farm or the community, Walter and Dorothy were separated for the first time in nearly 70 years – leaving them devastated.

Maria Sanchez is a 19-year-old single mother in a resource-poor neighborhood of Santiago de Cuba. Her son Francisco was born autistic and with a type of epilepsy called West syndrome, which left him unable to move around by himself. By two years old, he had outgrown the baby stroller Maria used for a wheelchair.

As his seizures began requiring a safer, sturdier wheelchair to help support his head and body, a larger stroller wasn’t an option for Francisco. In a place where even basic wheelchairs are a luxury, finding Francisco a specialized chair that met his needs would be nearly impossible.

As neither of Cuba’s two main modes of transportation – motorcycles and buses – were stroller-accessible, Maria had to walk to get Francisco to his many doctor appointments. As he outgrew his stroller and became too heavy to carry, Maria was running out of options to safely get her son to important medical appointments.

Dancing is more than just performing. Mobility means ability, both at home and abroad.
Your gift allows a neighbor, here or abroad, to reclaim mobility and improve their quality of life.

The staff and volunteers at Pennsylvania’s Medical Equipment Recycling Program, a Global Links Community Partner, learned of Dorothy’s lack of mobility through communications with her nursing home. Working with the staff at Global Links and the local hospital, the team soon found her a like-new wheelchair that would allow Dorothy to move around their house and farm. Walter was able to get his wife back out of the nursing home and back to their home of 68 years.

In short, Walter and Dorothy got their lives back.

During one of her frequent trips to Cuba, Global Links’ Program Officer, Marisol Wandiga Valentin, learned of Maria and Francisco’s mobility issues. She met the Sanchez family at their home to assess its accessibility and determine Francisco’s specific needs. Then, Marisol came back to Pittsburgh and worked to secure a surplus pediatric wheelchair from an area physician’s office. Global Links staff and volunteers worked for two months to renovate the specialized chair so it would safely support Francisco.

When the Global Links team delivered the specialized wheelchair to Maria and Francisco, their lives were changed for the better. Now, Maria could get Francisco to his doctor appointments and out in their community, safely and regularly.

And they could do so because of donors like you.

When you give to the people helped by Global Links and its partners, you’re giving families like the Magills and Sanchezes their lives back through the ability to be mobile again. Your support gives underserved people in Pennsylvania, across the United States and throughout the Western Hemisphere their lives back through improved access to care and vital mobility devices — through materials that would otherwise end up in landfills.

Your gift allows a neighbor, here and abroad, to reclaim mobility and improve their quality of life.

Every person deserves access to basic, affordable healthcare. Giving now means the next child, senior, family or individual who needs a mobility device or medical supplies will receive like-new materials they need to improve their health and quality of life.

With appreciation,

Kathleen Hower
CEO & Co-Founder

P.S. Every person deserves access to healthcare — not just those who can afford it. Give today.