

Request for Assistance For PROJIMO Duranguito's Children's Wheelchair Program.

The PROJIMO Children's Wheelchair Program has come a long way since it set up shop six years ago in the small village of Duranguito, Sinaloa, Mexico. This year (2008) the team of disabled workers has designed and built over 130 custom-made wheelchairs for disabled children throughout much of the state.

The leader of the program and master designer is Raymundo Hernandez, who first came to PROJIMO for rehabilitation, following the accident that left him paraplegic (paralyzed below the waist) nearly 20 years ago.



Raymundo evaluates a child for a wheelchair.

Each child's needs are first carefully evaluated. Then the team designs a personalized wheelchair, taking into account the child's wishes, as well as his or her limitations, and possibilities. Also the wheelchair is adapted to the environmental conditions where the child lives. For example, broad mountain-bike tires are used to better navigate rough terrain.

The chairs are made in a basic but well-designed workshop built by local villagers on a piece of land donated by the village. Stichting Liliane Fonds, a Dutch foundation, helps cover the costs of wheelchairs for



Disabled wheelchair builders in the new workshop in Duranguito



These wheelchairs have broad front tires to assist traveling over rough terrain.

children of poor families. Thanks to such generous donations, no child in need is turned away for lack of money.

For all that, PROJIMO operates on a shoestring, with very little margin for exceptional costs that arise.

The PROJIMO Duranguito team has also been training groups of disabled persons from other parts of the country to build wheelchairs and begin their own shops. Currently they are training a young wheelchair rider, Lupe Quintero, who will be leading a new wheelchair shop in Nogales, Sonora.

At this time we are asking you for donations to help cover the costs for renewal of equipment.

The most urgent needs are for:

1. New tools. Many of the old tools (welders, drill press, grinders, paint sprayers, etc.) are on their last legs and need replacement. The community-based program has been offered a donation of \$3,600 worth of much needed tools and equipment, but the program must come up with a third of the cost, or \$1,200. **If you can make a contribution to help meet this cost, effectively every \$1.00 you donate will buy the program \$3.00 worth of greatly needed tools and equipment.**

2. A safe reliable van. To evaluate children for wheelchairs, and to deliver the chairs and make final adjustments when finished, the team travels over a range of several hundred miles. The old van has broken down so often that repairing it is no longer economical. The cost of a replacement vehicle in reasonable condition is around \$3000. **If you can help toward meeting this expense it will help many disabled children receive hand-made low-cost, highly functional wheelchairs.**

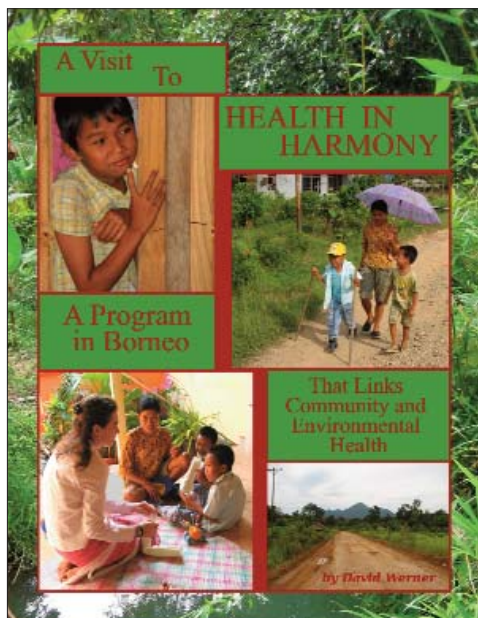


Tomas Magallanes first came to PROJIMO as a child. Here, years later, he builds a custom child's wheelchair.

To make a gift, please fill in the other flier included with this newsletter (both sides).

Books and Videos from David Werner and HealthWrights

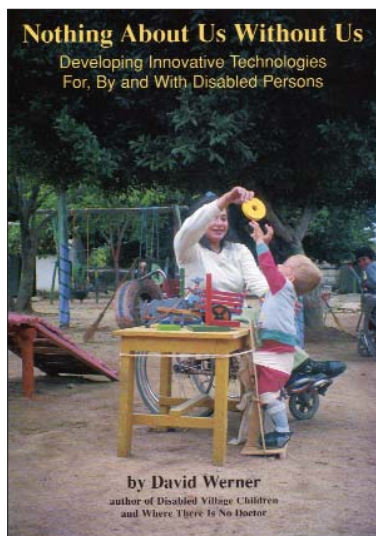
Health in Harmony is an exceptional program located in the rainforests of Borneo. This story is an inspiration for all who are concerned about the health of people and the health of our ecosystem. **This colorful new 30 page booklet**, written by David Werner and designed by Board member Jim Hunter expands on Newsletter #61. Only \$5.00



Nothing About Us Without Us Developing Innovative Technologies For, By and With Disabled Persons

This book differs from most manuals on disability aids and equipment in 3 basic ways:

- 1. We make an effort to put the person and the process before the product.** The book covers a wide selection of innovative equipment that is relatively easy to make at the village and community level. But in presenting each innovation, it places emphasis not so much on the end-product (however important) as on the collaborative process of discovery.
- 2. Our goal is not replicability but rather adaptability and shared creativity.** The prevailing emphasis on replicability of appropriate technologies can be counterproductive. This is especially so in the field of rehabilitation, where the needs, possibilities and dreams of each disabled person are different.
- 3. Many of the rehabilitation workers and technicians responsible for the innovations in this book are themselves disabled.** Because they too have a disability, they are more inclined to work with another disabled person as a partner and equal in the problem-solving process.



Available from Healthwrights for \$17.00

To place an order, please see the other flier.

Two Exciting Disability Workshop Videos From India and Colombia



In the last two years HealthWrights has created two new videos of David Werner's disability workshops. The first was based on his **2005 visit to India, where he conducted CBR workshops in three regions.** These workshops provided material for an extensive narrated slide show, detailing the interactive process of the workshop participants, the disabled individuals, and their families. The second, just recently released (and soon to be released in Spanish), is based on **workshops he led in Colombia in February, 2008.**

These heartwarming, yet pragmatic stories show how, by working together and putting the disabled person at the center of the process, assistive devices can be tailor made to better fit his or her needs.

Available for \$15.00 (poor country price: \$3)

