

2026 – 27 US JCI Senate First Lady’s Initiative Program:

Wheelchairs 4 Kids

Promotional “Elevator Pitch” to Senators

Wheelchairs 4 Kids began 15 years ago when JCI Senators Madeline Robinson (#50844) and her husband Lonnie (#33437) wrote a CPG, with one simple but powerful goal: to improve the lives of children with physical disabilities. Since then, the organization has helped more than 2,300 children across 47 states; including (fill in the number for your state and/or region; see other side) by providing wheelchairs, home and vehicle modifications, and other essential assistive and therapeutic equipment—always at no cost to families. They even provide funeral assistance when needed!

But what truly sets Wheelchairs 4 Kids apart is their “Wheely Fun Days” - an inclusion program that builds community and creates unforgettable experiences for the “Wheel Kids” and their families. These days have featured adaptive water and snow skiing, weekend camps and holiday celebrations. The organization also started a Scholarship program in 2025, awarding 14 kids in seven states with \$2,500 Scholarships each.

Wheelchairs 4 Kids wants to grow its national footprint so it can help even more kids! That’s where your help is needed! Senate organizations and local Senators can provide support by:

- (1) Connecting the organization with potential local partners in your state (groups like United Cerebral Palsy, the Spina Bifida Association, or Muscular Dystrophy) who can refer kids in your area to Wheelchairs4Kids so they can get additional support. See the US JCI Senate Website, under Special Programs, for a different introduction to Wheelchairs 4 Kids to use when talking to these potential partners.
- (2) Host a social for the kids: who doesn’t like pizza or ice cream? This is easy to do and it helps the kids feel included and important; also, as they meet other kids with similar issues, they feel less alone.
- (3) Host a fundraiser since providing equipment and services to these kids is NOT cheap! Every dollar counts so do something as simple as a 50/50 raffle at a meeting or a “Pie in the Face Challenge” like North Carolina Senate did!
- (4) Join the “Guardians of the Wheel Kids Club” by donating only \$10 per month. That’s less than a cup of coffee with a pastry at Starbucks!

The Wheelchairs4Kids website will provide you with all the needed details on how YOU can give kids with physical disabilities a better quality of life. The URL is: wheelchairs4kids.org (note that is the number 4).

Thank you for helping these kids just be kids!!