

## Greetings from Laurie's Scholars (LS)

We grant scholarships to wheelchair bound individuals in developing countries. For someone lacking mobility, a wheelchair is a life-changing gift. LS believes the next step is a career. We collaborate with Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) to identify wheelchair users who, if given a modest scholarship, can earn a career. This career will bring financial independence to them and their families. In this newsletter, we provide three examples of how this works. First, we want to share some other exciting news.

In November 2022, we told you we supported 16 scholars. Six had already graduated and are gainfully employed. Ten were active scholars. At the time of this writing, we have 11 employed graduates and 11 active scholars. LS is proud of this growth, and we feel you, our supporters, should share this pride.

A few weeks ago we sent you an invitation to receive Don Schoendorfer's book, *Miracle Wheels*. Our offer still holds. The book contains a good depiction of life in developing countries for those who cannot walk. We believe it will help you understand the importance of providing the next step, a career.

Please enjoy the following three stories.

**-Don Schoendorfer**

LSEE Co-founder & Board Member

In November we wrote about 22 year old Nathaly in Peru. She was diagnosed with severe scoliosis at age 7. A long series of surgeries put her into a four-year world of pain and her family deep into poverty. At age 17, with more borrowed money, she had titanium bars and 23 long screws added to straighten her spine. She gained self-confidence after LS granted her a \$600 scholarship to learn digital marketing. She started fixing and selling used bicycles, which led to importing containers of new bicycles from China and selling them in Lima. Last year we granted her a 2nd scholarship to take "Wall Street English". Just last week we granted her a 3rd scholarship for a five year bachelor's degree in business administration.

Here is what Nathaly says: *"To me, I am shocked. I never thought I would meet people like you in this life, people who give without expecting to get something back. For four years after my surgery, I distanced myself from God. I laid in bed with depression, with no hope of reaching my life's goals. I now attend the university, have friends and am getting back into sports. You changed my life. Words are not enough to thank you. My goal is to be a successful business person!"*



**Nathanly, Peru**



In September's newsletter we wrote about Phuoc. He is 24 years old and lives in Vietnam. Twelve years ago a traffic accident paralyzed his legs. He often considered committing suicide. His family looked down on him. Phuoc taught himself basic computer skills. Our Vietnam partner (Giving It Back To Kids) encouraged him to apply to LS for a scholarship – which we granted. He took a 6 month course in website programming. Phuoc says: *"I work for Vinacom. My monthly salary is \$220. I also have more time to care for my epileptic wife. I am grateful to LS for sponsoring my education. I earn money to cover my family and my parent's everyday expenses."*

Phuoc, Vietnam

In May we wrote about Juan Jose in Lima. His life was forever changed when as a bystander a stray bullet from a gang fight made him a quadriplegic. He had to drop out of school. He modified his car so he could drive it and use it as a taxi to make money. We granted him a scholarship to take a course in operating automobile diagnostic instruments. In June 2020 we granted him a second scholarship to attend the Technological University of Peru for a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Automotive Engineering. Juan Jose's goal is to design cars for people in Peru with disabilities.

Here is what Juan Jose says: *"Hello LS! I write this email with great confidence and respect, confidence in myself and respect for you and your generosity. I want to thank you infinitely for giving me the opportunity to study and thus be able to improve my life."*



Juan Jose, Lima

We hope you are happy and excited about these three scholars, and the progress they made in just a few months. Their success is all because of you and your generosity. Together, we help men and women reach their potential.

## Donate to LS

You can learn more about us and donate on our website at:

[www.lsendowment.org](http://www.lsendowment.org)

or send your donation to:

**Laurie's Scholars**

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