



WALKABOUT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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WHO WE ARE

OUR STORY



On June 23, 1994 our family changed forever when Luis sustained a spinal cord injury in a car accident, leaving him paralysed from the chest down. It devastated us all, but in 2009 we found a way to channel our pain into something positive. A visit to our local YMCA in Connecticut led us to discover that Luis could not enter the building because it lacked a ramp and elevator.

Together, we took action and started Walkabout Foundation.

What started as our family's courageous battle to change a town has turned into a global mission to help people with disabilities around the world, donating thousands of wheelchairs, while in tandem funding research to find a cure for paralysis. We have also begun providing much needed rehabilitation services and support to our wheelchair recipients, their families and communities.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors. Your contribution has enabled us to get one step closer to our vision of a world free from paralysis, and a society where mobility is a right, not a privilege.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Luis and Carolina Gonzalez-Bunster
Co-Founders of Walkabout Foundation



OUR MISSION



Our mission is to restore dignity, freedom and independence by providing wheelchairs in the developing world and funding research to find a cure for paralysis.

“Until you have seen a person trying to maintain dignity while crawling along the ground by his knuckles, you can’t imagine what this little chair would do.”

President Bill Clinton



THE NEED

100 million

PEOPLE IN THE WORLD NEED A WHEELCHAIR.

65 million

PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD ONE.

EVERY 45 minutes

SOMEONE IS SPINAL CORD INJURED IN THE UNITED STATES,

IN INDIA EVERY

15 minutes.

2%

OF THE U.S. POPULATION IS PARALYSED.

THAT IS 1 OUT OF 50 PEOPLE.

IN UGANDA 6% OF THE POPULATION
NEEDS A WHEELCHAIR.

WE ARE ALL 1 degree
OF SEPARATION AWAY FROM PARALYSIS.

OUR IMPACT



10,000

WHEELCHAIRS DISTRIBUTED



20

COUNTRIES REACHED



30,000

LIVES IMPACTED

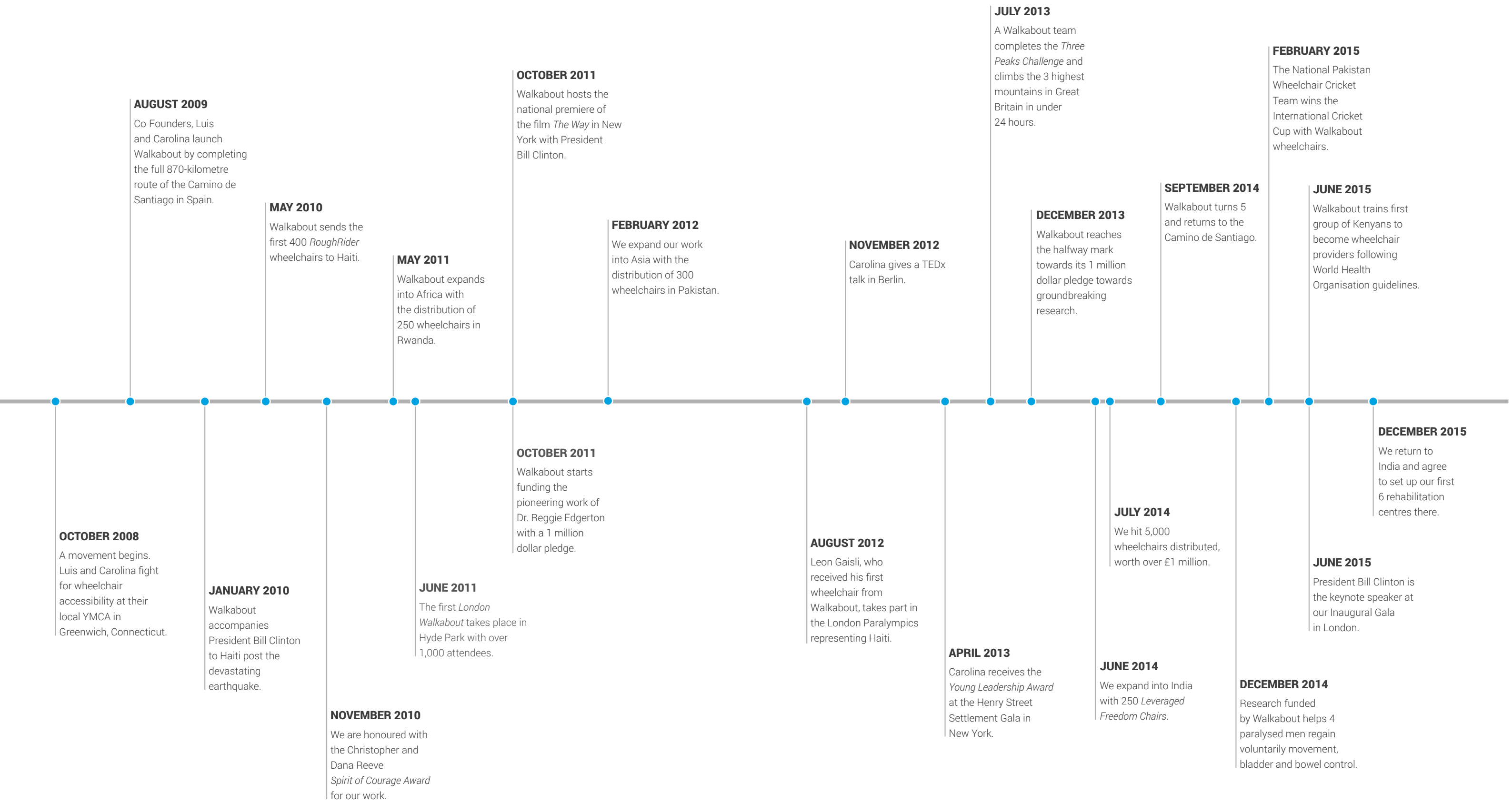


£700,000

GIVEN TO GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH



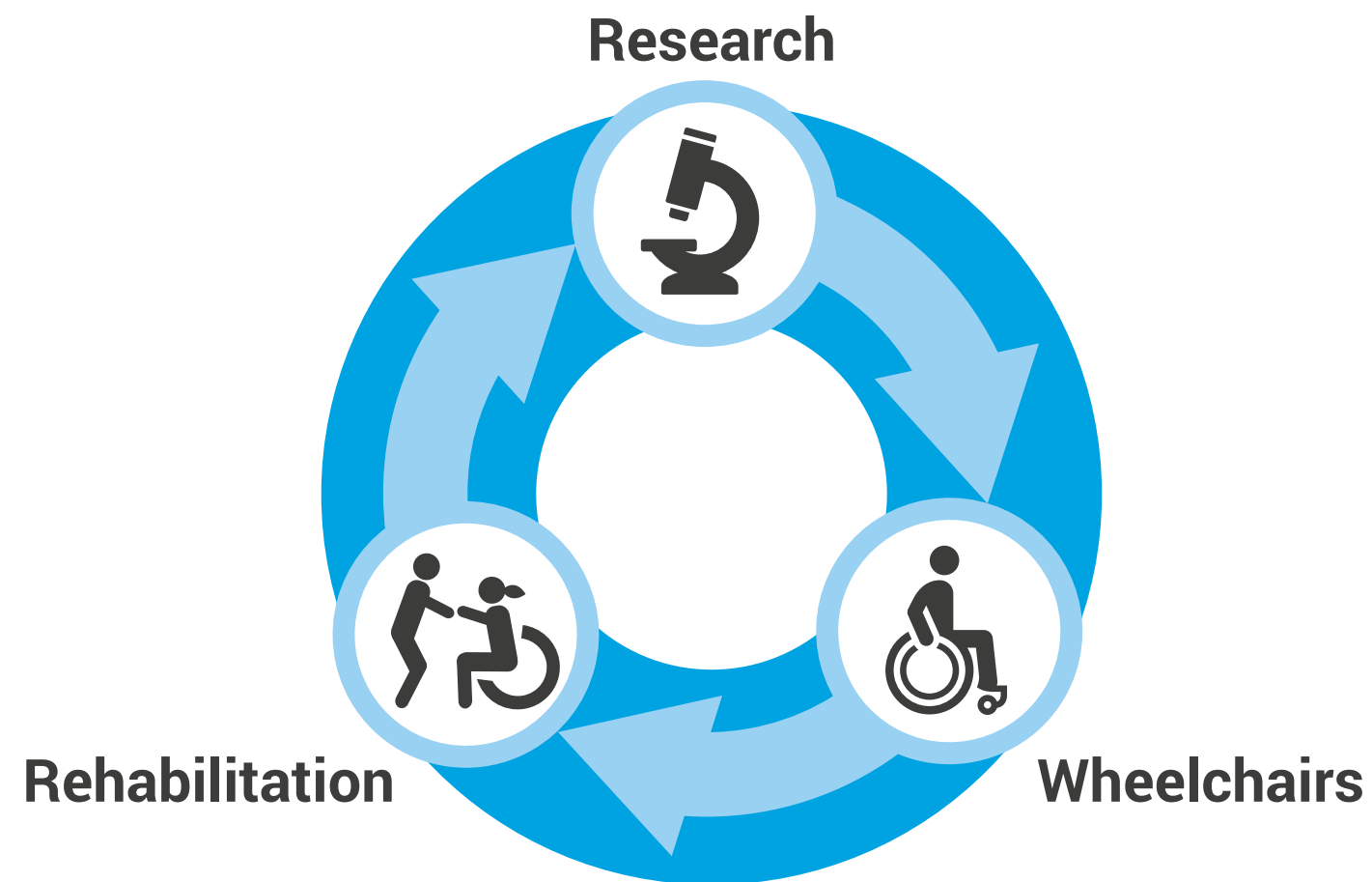
OUR HISTORY





WHAT WE DO

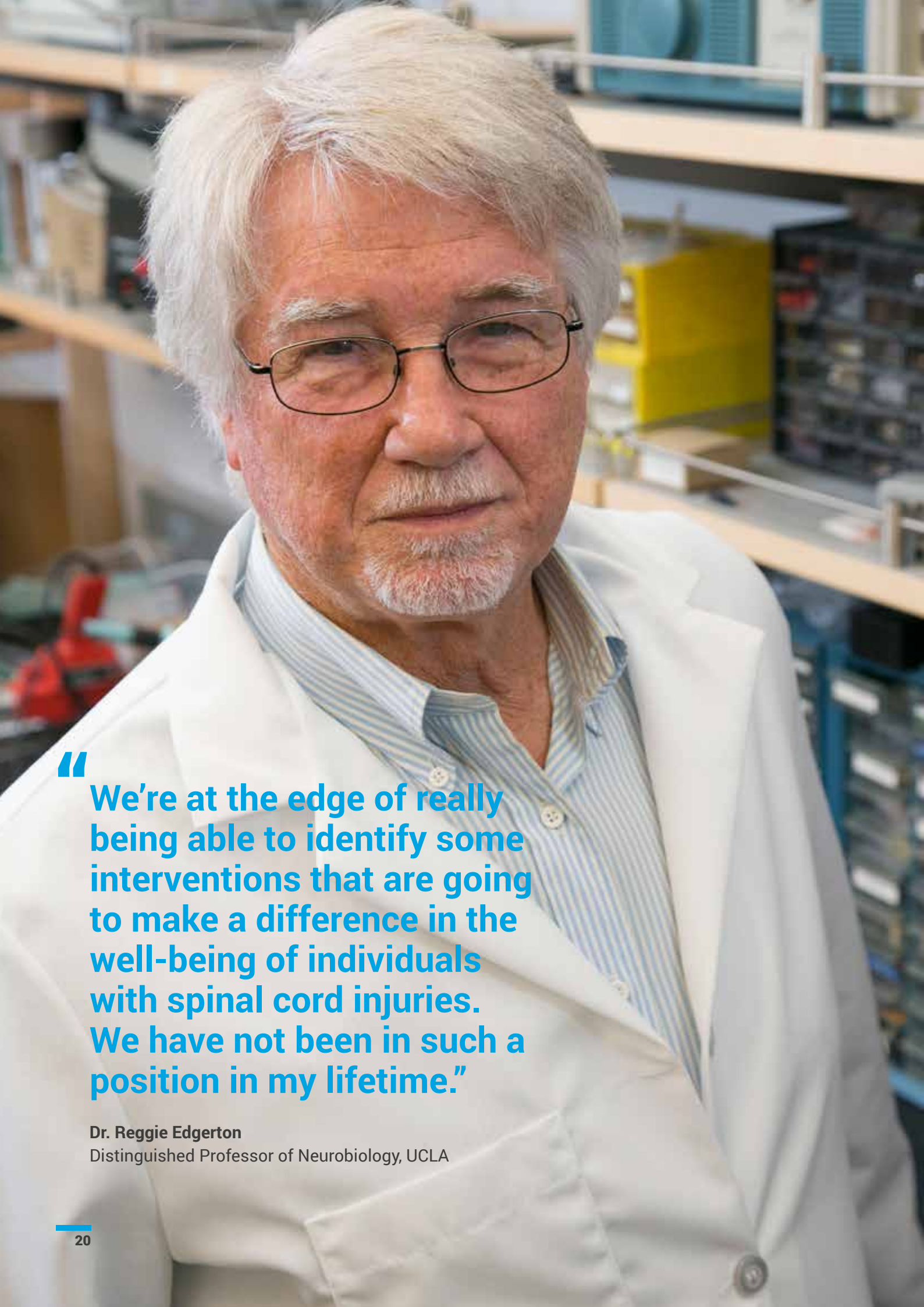
OUR 3-PRONGED APPROACH



Whilst our scientists work incessantly to find a cure for paralysis, we have made it our mission to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities through the provision of wheelchairs and rehabilitation. This 3-pronged approach means that we tackle the issue from all angles, ensuring that we create a sustainable model that provides short as well as long term solutions.

In collaboration with our local partners, we are establishing a number of centres around the world to provide rehabilitation services and vocational training to adults and children with physical disabilities, with the hope that they will acquire the tools needed to fully integrate into their communities.

**All of this because...
it's not just mobility, it's possibility.**



“We’re at the edge of really being able to identify some interventions that are going to make a difference in the well-being of individuals with spinal cord injuries. We have not been in such a position in my lifetime.”

Dr. Reggie Edgerton
Distinguished Professor of Neurobiology, UCLA

The spinal cord is made up of millions of nerve cells that carry electrical signals from the brain to other parts of the body. When a spinal cord injury occurs, the connection between the brain and the spinal cord is severed resulting in what is presumed a lifelong loss of feeling and function below the site of injury.

We’ve made it our mission to find a way to bridge the gap between the brain and spinal cord. Dr. Reggie Edgerton from the University of California, Los Angeles has also made this his lifelong work, specialising in a groundbreaking and globally acclaimed treatment known as *epidural stimulation*. To date, Walkabout has invested £700,000 in Dr. Edgerton’s pioneering research.

Put simply, *epidural stimulation* involves implanting a medical device about the size of a french fry near the spinal cord. This device emits an electrical current, that when combined with physical therapy, the impossible is able to happen: the dormant spinal cord is jolted back to life.

Thanks to this research, nearly a dozen paralysed men have gained the ability to voluntarily move their own limbs. And what’s more, something totally unexpected happened; these individuals have regained their bladder and bowel control, sexual function, and the ability to sweat, which is typically lost with paralysis. These outcomes are without a doubt cures in and of themselves.

WORKING TOWARDS A CURE

Rob Summers is one of the 12 paralysed individuals who has undergone Dr. Edgerton's treatment thanks to Walkabout's support.

In 2006, a hit-and-run accident left Rob paralysed from the chest down at 20 years old. Well on his way to becoming a professional baseball player, Rob's hopes and dreams were shattered. He then met Dr. Edgerton and his team in 2009 and was the first person to be implanted with the *epidural stimulator*. Rob achieved and continues to realise amazing progress. He has regained his bowel and bladder control, sexual function and can now regulate his body's temperature. After his accident, Rob was unable to sweat, which meant he could easily overheat. Now, thanks to Dr. Edgerton's treatment, Rob can sit under the sun all day and coach youth baseball.

"Paralysis is not just about movement," Dr. Susan Harkema, who works with Dr. Edgerton, has said. "Everything in your life is harder, you can't go outside because you can't regulate your temperature. You can't go to a restaurant because you can't go to the bathroom. It takes 2 to 3 hours to get up and out of your house, so anything that alleviates any of those complications makes people's lives so much better."

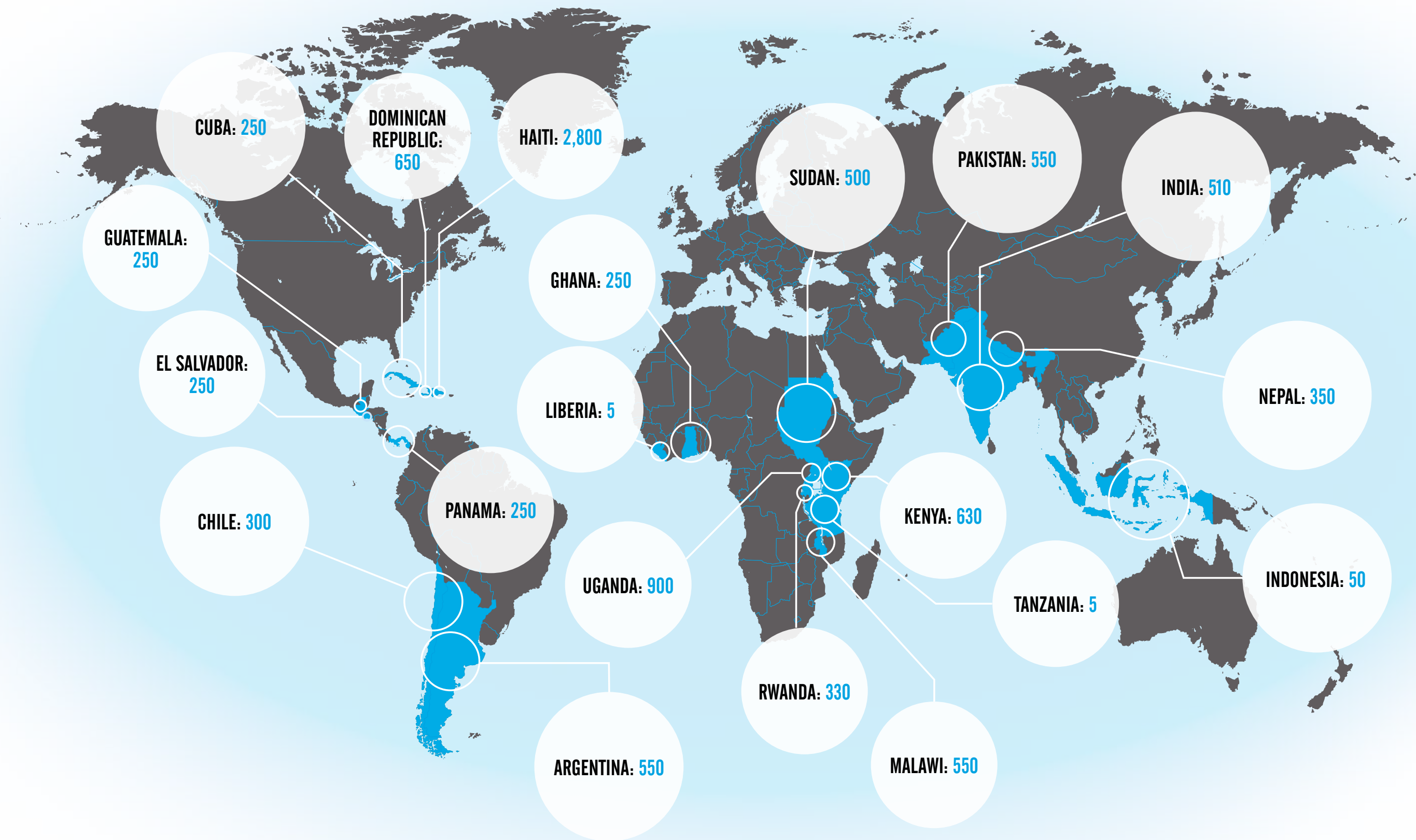
The research we are funding is dramatically improving the quality of life for these individuals who have been implanted with the *epidural stimulator*, and is giving hope to the millions of people who live with the devastating reality of paralysis on a daily basis.

"It has changed my life on a day-to-day basis. Not only has this benefited me with the confidence to go out and do what I want to do, I can continue to live my life as I choose. I truly believe this is the greatest thing out there."

Rob Summers
First patient to undergo
epidural stimulation



OUR WHEELCHAIR FOOTPRINT



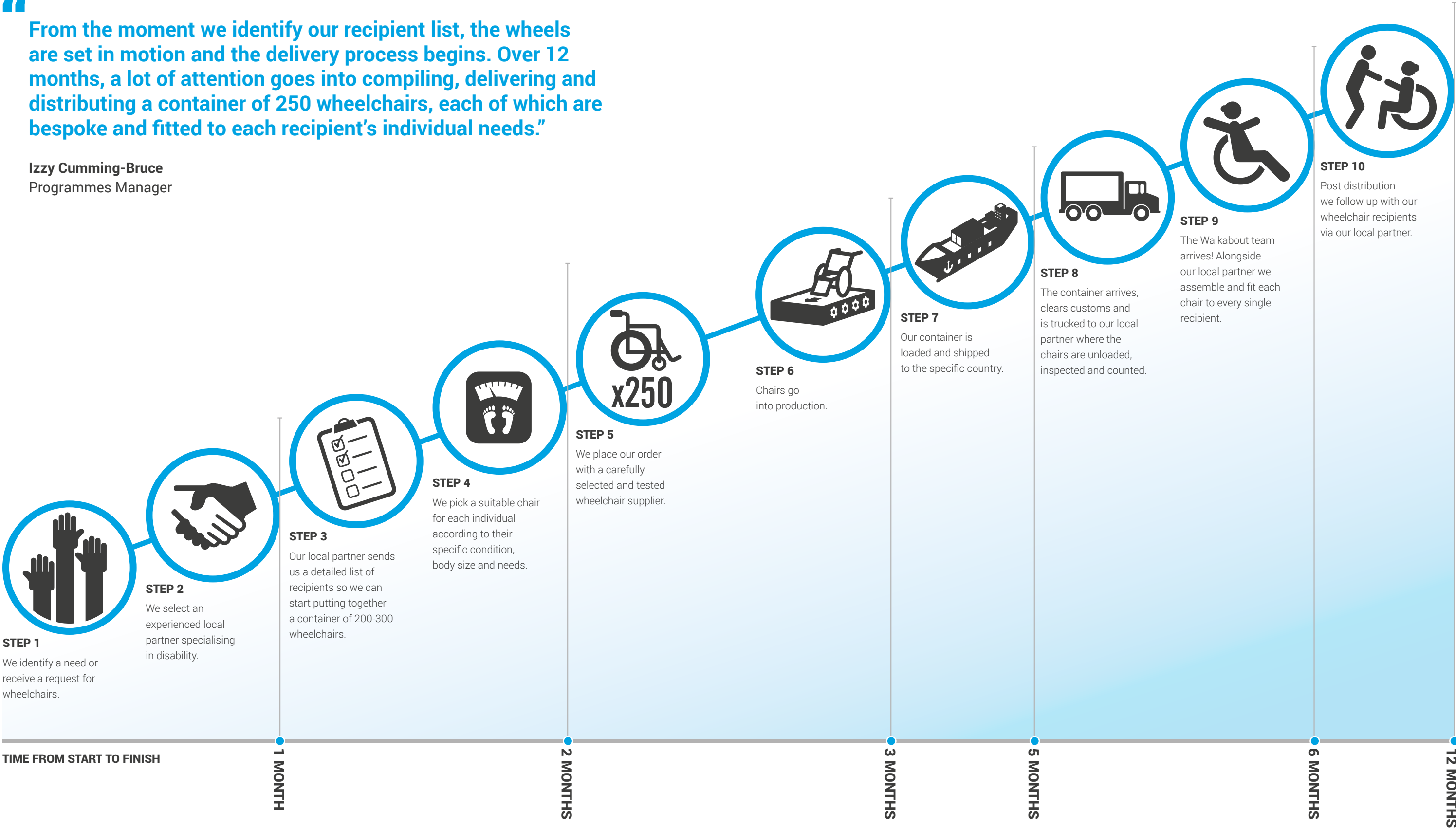
10,000 wheelchairs distributed...

30,000 lives impacted.

THE WHEELCHAIR DELIVERY PROCESS

“From the moment we identify our recipient list, the wheels are set in motion and the delivery process begins. Over 12 months, a lot of attention goes into compiling, delivering and distributing a container of 250 wheelchairs, each of which are bespoke and fitted to each recipient’s individual needs.”

Izzy Cumming-Bruce
Programmes Manager



INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

Leon's Story

Haiti



When the earthquake hit Haiti in 2010, Leon Gaisli lost everything. His home was flattened, his wife and all eight of his children were killed and when he was pulled from the rubble, he was paralysed from the waist down. For Leon, his *RoughRider* wheelchair represented a means to regain his physical strength and sense of purpose in life.

Two years later, not even Leon could have imagined where that chair would take him. In 2012, he became just one of three Haitians ever to represent his nation at the London Paralympics.

Shifan's Story

Uganda



Seven-year-old Shifan was left paralysed when she was struck by cerebral malaria as a small child. Her mother carried her everywhere until she became too heavy and had no choice but to leave Shifan at home while she went to work.

In 2015, Walkabout gave Shifan her very first *ToughRider* wheelchair. Having a wheelchair means Shifan can now go to school, play, learn, and make friends. The happiest of students, Shifan is the pride and joy of her class. This wheelchair has given her freedom, independence and access to education.

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

Charity Nana Laikipia, Kenya

Our Impact in Laikipia

- 600 wheelchairs distributed since 2014.
- 30 tricycles donated to enable people to travel long distances to get to work and school.
- 12 locals trained to the World Health Organisation's Intermediate Level.
- Created a network of committed volunteers who devote their time to seeking out and identifying recipients over a 500km radius.
- Now all requests are coming from counties outside Laikipia and even as far as Somalia.



Walkabout has eradicated the need for wheelchairs in the county of Laikipia.

Charity Nana (yes, her first name is Charity!) experienced a lifetime of isolation and continually struggled to gain acceptance in her community. Since receiving one of our *ToughRider* wheelchairs in 2014, she has devoted her life to supporting the disabled. She visits parents and guardians of children with disabilities, bringing practical help, encouragement and fresh hope to those who are so often ignored.



OUR REHABILITATION CENTRES

India



Together with selected local partners, we have established 6 rehabilitation centres in India. One of our centres, located in Visakhapatnam, is the first and only rehabilitation centre on a coastline of 2,000 kilometres. Our four centres in Bangalore provide much needed in-and-out patient rehabilitation services for those who are spinal cord injured, including vocational training programmes, such as gardening, to bring a number of these individuals into the workforce. Our sixth centre in Varanasi provides daycare to children with severe disabilities and training to parents on how to best look after their little ones.

Kenya



In Laikipia, Kenya, alongside our experienced partner, UDPL, we are setting up a day care centre for children with disabilities. Here, children will receive daily care, therapy and education at a critical stage in their development with the aim of integrating the children into mainstream education or special schools after 1 to 2 years. The centre will also provide critical relief to single mothers who often are stuck with the desperate choice of looking after their disabled child or earning a living, by allowing them the opportunity to go to work and provide for their families.

Haiti



We are returning to Haiti, where it all began 6 years ago, 6 days after the devastating 2010 earthquake when we donated our first container of wheelchairs. We are going back to build our first Walkabout centre at Hospital Mirebalais in Central Plateau in partnership with Partners in Health. The *Walkabout Haiti Centre* will not only be a rehabilitation centre, but also a place that embodies social and economic empowerment, by providing wheelchair riders with vocational training and a community hub for educational and personal development.



HOW WE FUNDRAISE

THE WALKABOUT INAUGURAL GALA

£1,600,000 raised

THE WALKABOUT INAUGURAL GALA

On June 27, 2015 we hosted our Inaugural Gala at the Natural History Museum in London with President Bill Clinton and 400 attendees. An extraordinary success, our very first gala raised over £1,600,000.

Underneath the 84 foot long dinosaur, our guests were moved to tears by heartfelt speeches from our co-founders, Luis and Carolina, and you could hear a pin drop when our keynote speaker President Bill Clinton took to the stage to give a moving speech on the work we do.

Tania Bryer was our Master of Ceremonies and with auctioneer Simon de Pury, the live auction alone raised over £450,000 with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to have lunch with Damien Hirst and go race car driving with Jenson Button. With cocktails sponsored by Boujis, the magical evening culminated in a performance by Nile Rodgers, who invited guests up on stage to dance and sing along with him.



NILE RODGERS



THE GONZALEZ-BUNSTER FAMILY



JENSON BUTTON



CAROLINA GONZALEZ-BUNSTER



SIMON DE PURY



PRINCESS TATIANA
AND PRINCE NIKOLAOS
OF GREECE



NATALIA VODIANOVA
& ANTOINE ARNAULT



PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON



NAOMIE HARRIS

LONDON WALKABOUT

London Walkabout is our annual flagship event and London's only truly inclusive 5k charity walk, which brings together walkers and wheelchair users alike to raise awareness about disability, acceptance and inclusion.

The walk takes place in iconic Hyde Park, where we challenge participants to be a #WalkaboutHero and walk for those who can't. The event includes live entertainment, lots of fun and games for children as well as adults, and is followed by a picnic lunch. Over 1,000 people attended our walk last year, accompanied by their parents, siblings, dogs, friends and extended family members.

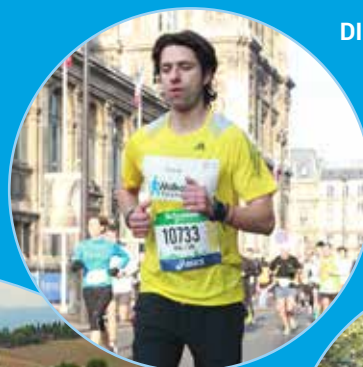
SPORTING EVENTS



Walkabout relies on enthusiastic athletes who dare to challenge themselves to cycle 100 miles, climb the three highest peaks in Great Britain, run 50 marathons in a year, and walk across Spain. Each one of these individuals not only raises awareness of our cause, but also fundraises on our behalf. Prudential RideLondon-100, the Paris Marathon, and the Camino de Santiago are just a few of the sporting events we participate in each year.



DIEGO GONZALEZ-BUNSTER
AT RIDELONDON



ILIAS MALETIOU AT
PARIS MARATHON



LAURA PORCELLA MAYOL
AT NEW YORK MARATHON

ALONG THE
VIA FRANCIGENA
IN ITALY



BRAND PARTNERSHIPS



Agent Provocateur

AMANDA WAKELEY

bamford

BOTTEGA VENETA

J. CREW



KX



LILLY & VIOLETTA

MARY KATRANTZOU

meli melo

MODA OPERANDI

NET-A-PORTER

NINE IN THE MIRROR



When we were introduced to the idea of cause marketing over 7 years ago, we couldn't help but get excited about for-profits collaborating with non-profits.

At Walkabout, we partner with different brands to create exclusive merchandise that elevates awareness and shopping days that donate a percentage of sales to our cause.

Since inception, we have partnered with multiple brands, both big and small. With e-commerce fashion sites such as Nine In The Mirror and Moda Operandi, we have raised over £50,000, and with the Italian luxury brand Tod's, we have created a long-lasting partnership with events all over the world including Amsterdam, Miami and London.

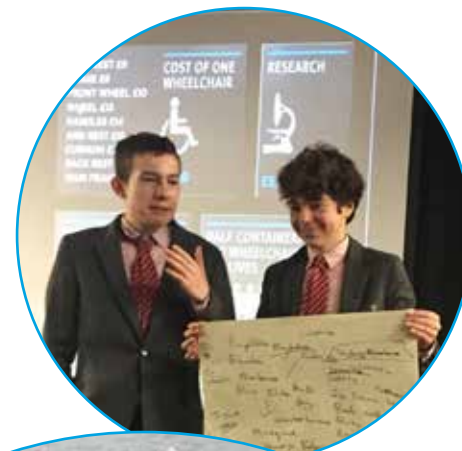
SCHOOLS ON BOARD



GREENWICH COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Not surprisingly, students are becoming our biggest advocates and the voices of our cause. We've been fortunate enough to be the sponsored charity of the year at different schools on different sides of the Atlantic.

From Georgetown University to Greenwich Country Day School to Miss Daisy's Nursery and Wetherby Senior School, students have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for us all over the world.



WETHERBY
SENIOR
SCHOOL

MARYMOUNT
SCHOOL OF
NEW YORK



MISS DAISY'S
NURSERY



ONE CONTAINER CAMPAIGN



At Walkabout, we've broken down a wheelchair into its separate parts and asked our supporters to donate anywhere from £13 for a wheel to £200 for an entire chair. By understanding just how tangible each donation is, our supporters have contributed to funding an entire container of 250 wheelchairs. For £50,000, 250 wheelchairs can be built, delivered and personally fitted to each beneficiary, providing hope and possibility for hundreds of people and their families.

Over the years, we have had several individuals and companies who have funded country-specific containers. One such donor, Laura Porcella Mayol, ran the New York Marathon and raised over £50,000 for a container for her native Dominican Republic, whilst the generous support of BTIG, LLC funded an entire container to Nepal shortly after last year's devastating earthquake.



IN THE PRESS

PRESS COVERAGE

The New York Times

WALKING CITY

"Call it top billing. Bill Clinton is set to appear at the New York premiere for Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez's film 'The Way,' with proceeds benefitting the Walkabout Foundation."

TEDx

FROM GOLDMAN SACHS TO WALKABOUT: FORGING MY OWN WAY

"What limits and borders are we faced with as individuals, as a society? Who or what defines these boundaries? Carolina Gonzalez-Bunster shares her story."

TATLER

OFF THE WALL

"Forget Banksy. It was all about street artists like Mudwig and Vinnie Nylon at the Art of Love party at the Village Underground of Shoreditch held in aid of disability charity Walkabout Foundation."

London Evening Standard

MY MISSION TO CURE PARALYSIS

"I am optimistic that a cure can be found for paralysis. The research scientists I meet say it is no longer if but when."

VOGUE

THE GOOD GIRLS

"Luis is the only person ever to have crossed Spain through the power of his arms and the power of his heart", said Bill Clinton.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

AFTER ACCIDENT, A NON-PROFIT IS BORN

"Ms. Gonzalez-Bunster's 31-year-old brother Luis, with whom she founded Walkabout, is paralyzed from the waist down from a car accident he suffered at 18. What began as his sister's (successful) campaign to have a wheelchair-accessible ramp installed at the Greenwich YMCA became the foundation."

HELLO!

THE CHIEF HAILS A GOOD CAUSE

"Bill Clinton was among VIPs giving their support to the inaugural Walkabout Foundation gala night last week, helping to raise vital funds for the charity which donates wheelchairs to people in need and finances research into finding a cure for paralysis."

TOWN&COUNTRY

UNDER 40 AND SAVING THE WORLD

"Devoted to people with physical disabilities, the foundation kicked off its efforts two years ago with a nearly 600 hundred/mile walk-ride (in Luis's case, in a low-to-the-ground-hand propelled tricycle) along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, in Spain."

YOU MAGAZINE

MEET THE BANKER TURNED FUNDRAISER WHO IS HELPING OTHERS TO GET MOVING

"Inspired by the determination of her elder brother, who'd been paralysed in a car accident, former high-flying banker Carolina Gonzalez-Bunster used her skills to set up a charity to provide wheelchairs for spinal-injury victims in Haiti."

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



2009: Luis becomes the first person in the history of Spain to cross the entire country using just the strength of his arms.



2010: Luis and Carolina are awarded the Christopher and Dana Reeve *Spirit of Courage Award*.

2010: Carolina wins the Rosewood Hotel 30th Anniversary *Top 30 Under 30 Award*.



2010: Carolina wins *Woman of the Future Award* in London.

2011: Evening Standard ranks Carolina as one of London's *1,000 Most Influential People in Philanthropy*.

2011: Carolina is named *Top 35 Women Under 35* in the United Kingdom by The Sunday Times.



2012: Carolina gives her first TEDx talk in Berlin.



2012: Luis and Carolina are awarded *The Humanitarian Award* by President Michelle Bachelet of Chile.

2013: Carolina is awarded the *Young Leadership Award* at the Henry Street Settlement Gala in New York.



2015: In her book *It's Your World*, Chelsea Clinton publicly acknowledges Walkabout Foundation's work "in helping kids in the developing world get wheelchairs to go to school and be able to get around."



OUR FAMILY

OUR FAMILY

Our Board



**CAROLINA
GONZALEZ-BUNSTER**
CO-FOUNDER



**LUIS
GONZALEZ-BUNSTER**
CO-FOUNDER



FADI ABUALI



STEFANO BONFIGLIO



**ADRIANA
CHRYSSICOPOULOS**



**ROLANDO
GONZALEZ-BUNSTER**



JHUMAR JHONSON



**ALEXANDER
VAN HOLK**

Our Team



ISABEL FALKENBERG
CEO



MARINA NAKANO
CFO/COO



ZEINA NASSIF
HEAD OF FUNDRAISING



IZZY CUMMING-BRUCE
PROGRAMMES
MANAGER



MERREN WALLACE
PROGRAMMES
ASSOCIATE



CAMILLA FITZGERALD
EVENTS MANAGER

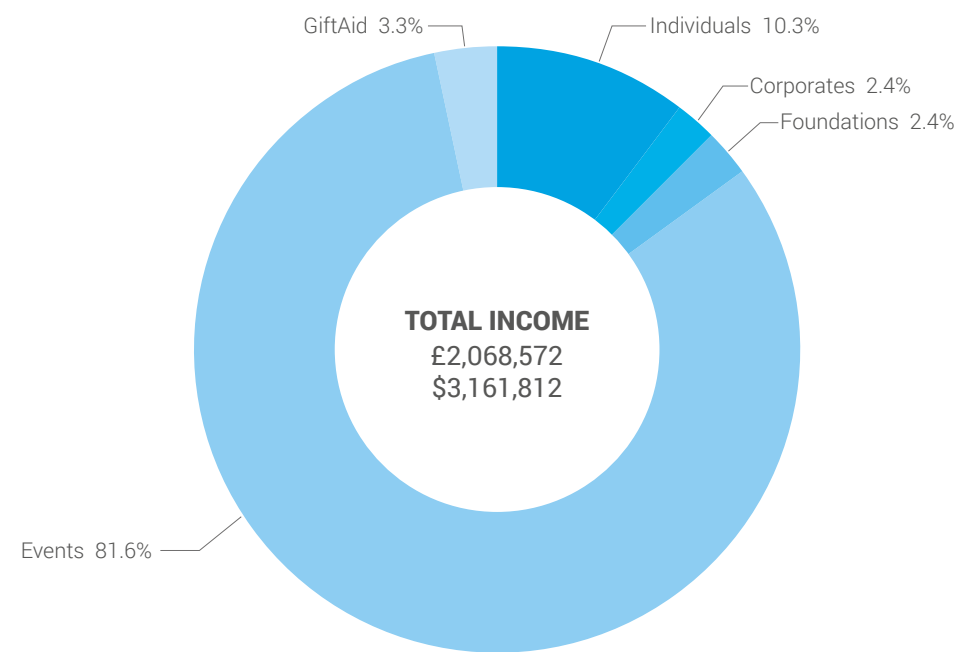


TOM WILLIAMS
PHOTOGRAPHY
& VIDEO

FINANCIALS

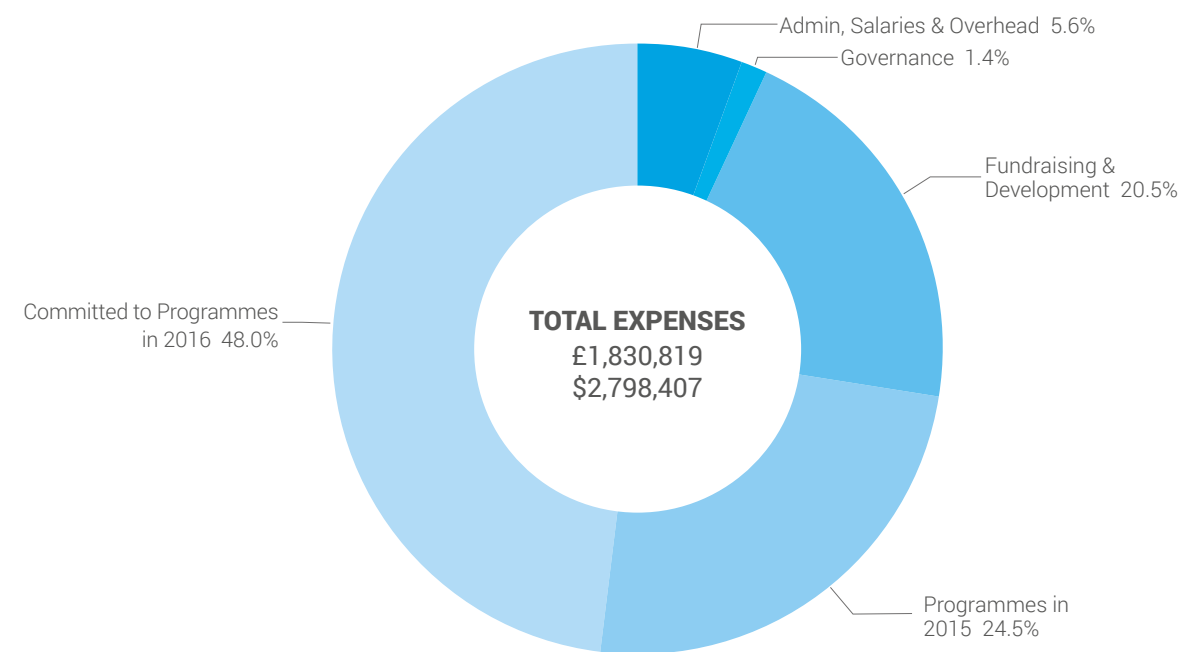


Income



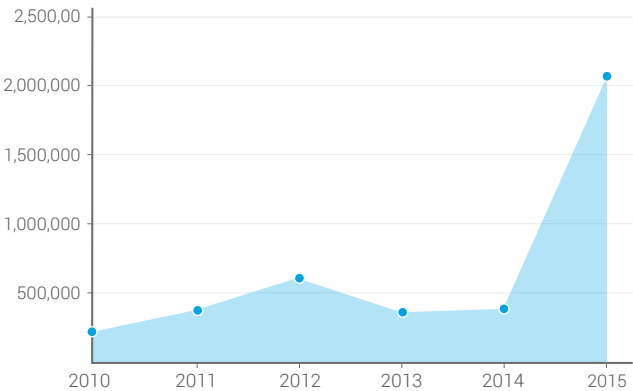
TOTAL INCOME			
● Individuals	£213,310	\$326,044	10.3%
● Corporates	£48,829	\$74,636	2.4%
● Foundations	£50,619	\$77,370	2.4%
● Events	£1,687,810	\$2,579,818	81.6%
● GiftAid	£68,004	\$103,944	3.3%
○ TOTAL	£2,068,572	\$3,161,812	100.0%

Expenses



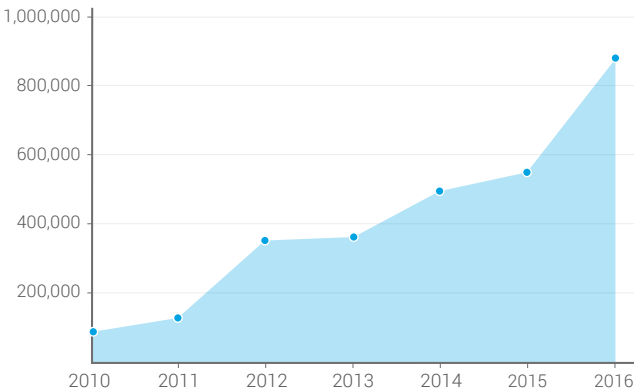
TOTAL EXPENSES			
● Admin, Salaries & Overhead	£103,217	\$157,767	5.6%
● Governance	£25,854	\$39,518	1.4%
● Fundraising & Development	£375,116	\$573,365	20.5%
● Programmes in 2015	£448,340	\$685,288	24.5%
● Committed to Programmes in 2016	£878,292	\$1,342,469	48.0%
○ TOTAL	£1,830,819	\$2,798,407	100.0%

FUNDS RAISED SINCE INCEPTION (€)



FUNDS RAISED SINCE INCEPTION		
● 2010	£226,169	\$349,635
● 2011	£408,760	\$655,692
● 2012	£600,987	\$952,504
● 2013	£392,956	\$614,898
● 2014	£440,514	\$725,835
● 2015	£2,068,572	\$3,161,812
● TOTAL	£4,137,958	\$6,460,376

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED SINCE INCEPTION (€)



FUNDS DISTRIBUTED SINCE INCEPTION		
● 2010	£95,304	\$147,330
● 2011	£124,796	\$200,186
● 2012	£493,185	\$781,649
● 2013	£608,911	\$952,824
● 2014	£419,566	\$691,319
● 2015	£448,340	\$685,288
● 2016	£878,292	\$1,342,469
● TOTAL	£3,068,394	\$4,801,065



GET INVOLVED

GET INVOLVED WITH WALKABOUT

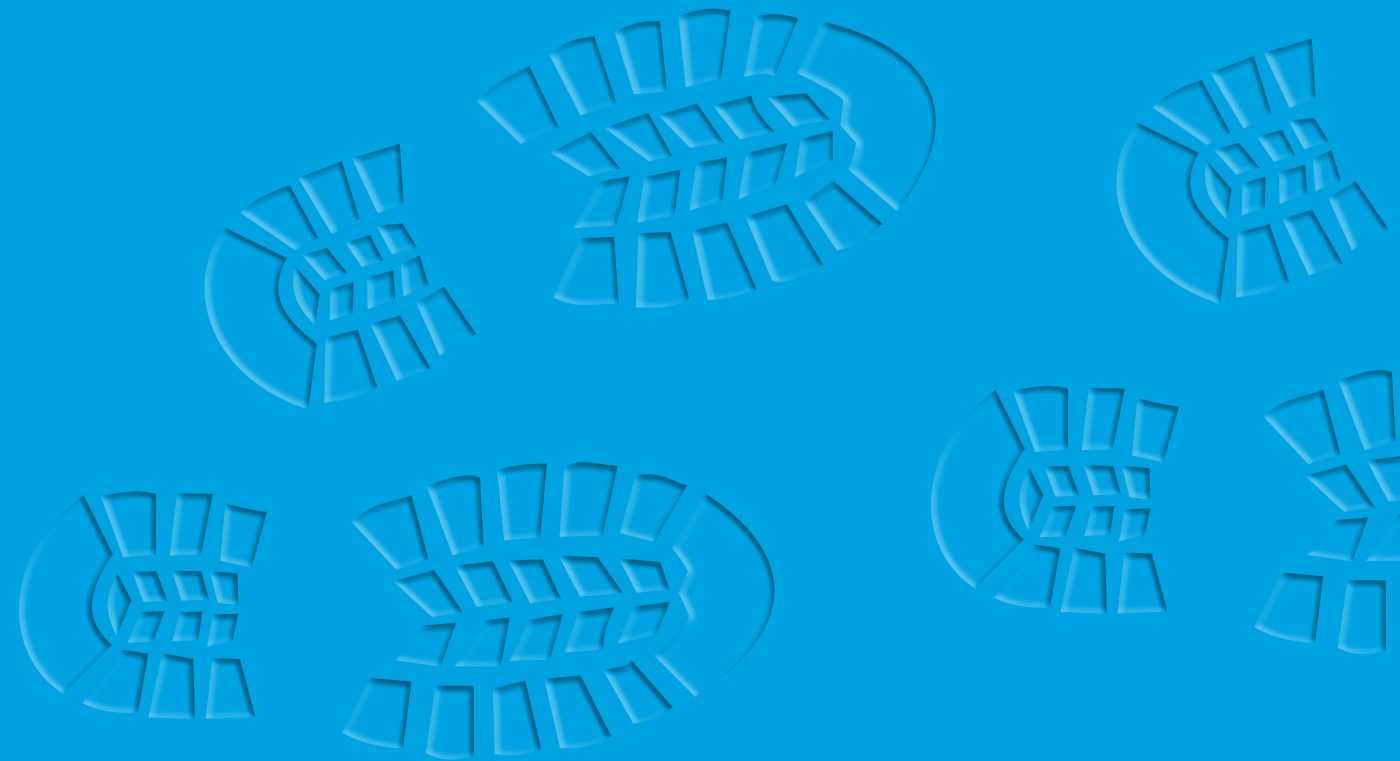


Get the Wheels in Motion

Your support is vital and makes the Walkabout mission come to life. Please give generously so we can bring dignity, freedom and independence to thousands more.

Look how far your money can go:

BUY WHEELCHAIR COMPONENTS		
Footrest (x2)	£9	\$14
Brake (x2)	£9	\$14
Front Wheel (x2)	£10	\$15
Wheel (x2)	£13	\$19
Handles	£14	\$21
Arm Rest (x2)	£15	\$22
Cushion	£21	\$31
Back Rest	£22	\$33
Main Frame	£31	\$47
DONATE A WHOLE WHEELCHAIR		
	£200	\$300
TRAIN A LOCAL HEALTHCARE TEAM		
	£2,000	\$3,000
PAY FOR SHIPPING & DISTRIBUTION		
	£5,000	\$7,500
FUND A RESEARCH PROJECT		
	£10,000	\$15,000
BUY A WHOLE CONTAINER OF 250 CHAIRS		
	£50,000	\$75,000



Go a Step Further

We're a global community of supporters here at Walkabout and it would be great to have you join us. Here are just a few ways you can spread the word about what we do and help raise awareness and vital funds to make a real difference.



Get Walking

From London to New York, the Dominican Republic to Pakistan, join one of our fundraising walks, or set up your own.



Get Fundraising

Do something you love and create a fundraising page on our website to get your friends and family involved.



Get Social

Tell your friends, share our stories and raise awareness of our cause through:



@WalkaboutOrg



Walkabout Foundation



Walkabout Foundation



@WalkaboutOrg



Walkabout UK
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Stamford, Connecticut 06901
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UK Registered Charity: 1140850
US Registered 501(c)(3): 37-1582823

