



April 2006

Dear Friend,

Your prayers and support are making a difference! In the enclosed *Annual Report*, you'll see the results of a record year of evangelism and hope in Jesus Christ, all made possible by God's provision through people like you.

And there's another exciting year of ministry ahead of us! The Gospel of Jesus Christ is being preached throughout every program of Joni and Friends, and the Bible delivered. Thousands of wheelchairs are being restored to like-new condition, ready to change the lives of people with disabilities; teams of dedicated volunteers are equipping churches across the country for disability ministry, or sharing the Gospel with disabled people themselves. Families affected by disability are being strengthened and restored by *Family Retreats* held from coast to coast. Everywhere we look, we see signs of hope.

But there is so much more to be done. Despite the great blessings of the past year, if all people with a disability were brought together they would represent the third largest country in the world. Sadly, they would also be a country that was the world's poorest, least educated, and least evangelized.

Will you join us as we continue providing the Gospel of hope to people living with disabilities, and their loved ones? Will you help us ease the suffering? Will you send another gift of support for the ministry outreaches of Joni and Friends today? Together, as the body of Christ, we will bring the light of God's love into lives darkened by the hardships of disability. And may God bless you as you do!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Mazza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doug" being more prominent than the last name "Mazza".

Doug Mazza  
President & COO

For more than a quarter of a century, Joni and Friends has been dedicated to extending the love and message of Christ to people who are affected by disability, whether it is the disabled person, a family member, or friend. Our objective is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of this group of people in practical ways.

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I will make you  
FISHERS  
OF MEN...

*2005 Annual Report*





When I learned I would spend the rest of my life as a quadriplegic, I thought my life might as well be over. If it weren't for the love of my family and a caring community of Christian friends, I would have been in complete despair.

I started Joni and Friends when I realized that millions of people

with disabilities were living without the support and Christian hope I had. I wanted urgently to reach out to them with God's love, answering the heart-cries that kept arriving in the mail once people heard my story.

I'm giving you this *Annual Report* today because you share that vision. Through your partnership in this worldwide ministry, we touched more lives in 2005 than ever before! In fact, you may have noticed we've changed our logo recently to "Joni and Friends International Disability Center," to better reflect the growing scope of our ministry.

Because we share the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ along with practical aid, what we do makes an eternal difference as well as meeting hands-on needs.

When you have a disability, it becomes very clear that any strength we have comes directly from God. And I think that ministry partners like you come directly from God, too, lending your strength to the task of sharing God's love with disabled people around the world. Thank you, a thousand times, for everything you do to help rescue disabled people and their families from obscurity, despair, and the darkness of life without Christ!

Sharing God's love with you,

*Joni Eareckson Tada*  
*Founder & CEO*



There was a time, not so long ago, when no one wanted to get involved with disabled people.

It was too scary, too strange — and what could they possibly have to offer? Generations of precious souls were institutionalized and all but forgotten.

That's why the founding of Joni and

Friends in 1979 was so pivotal. Joni's courage and bright spirit showed millions of people that it isn't too scary or too strange — and many, like you, chose to get involved.

People with disabilities are, first and foremost, people. As they struggle with limitations, they urgently need the healing message of God's steadfast love.

I'm so grateful for the thousands of friends who support us financially. As you'll see in this *Annual Report*, your generosity is changing lives in so many ways. Our volunteers, too, are special to us, giving the gift of time and love. The genuine caring our donors and volunteers show is a source of great joy to disabled people and their families.

There's so much to learn, and so much love to share. I hope you feel blessed today, knowing that you are God's hands and feet of love to people who might otherwise feel confined by physical or mental limitations.

Nothing we do in this ministry would be possible without the Lord's provision through you. As you read the following pages, rejoice with us in God's abundant love and His concern for all people!

In Christ,

*Doug Mazza*  
*President & COO*

# Wheels for the World



The World Health Organization estimates that there is a need of over 18 million wheelchairs around the world. In some countries, the cost of a wheelchair can equal a year's wages, resulting in the impossibility for people affected by disability to ever receive one.

Without mobility, millions of people with disabilities are also tragically cut off from the local church. As a result, many have never heard the Gospel message or experienced the love of Christ.

But your generosity is changing all that! Since 1994, *Wheels for the World* has delivered 31,900 wheelchairs to developing countries such as Ghana, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Honduras, Cuba, Peru, China, India, and Thailand, to name a few.

Also, we offer a Bible, where appropriate, to every disabled person and their family, plus the Good News of Jesus' love.

In 2005 alone:

- 1 4,246 wheelchairs were distributed in 10 countries
- 2 604 Chair Corps volunteers collected used wheelchairs
- 3 10,000+ wheelchairs were collected
- 4 Inmates at 17 correctional facilities restored wheelchairs

# International Partners

Joni and Friends expands its involvement in international ministry by affiliating with like-minded, Christ-centered ministries abroad. Your contributions help us to serve alongside of churches and ministries who are committed to the disability community.

In 2005, we had nine chartered ministries in seven countries, and nine affiliated ministries in eight countries. The disability movement continues to expand!

# Family Retreats



The stress and strain of life with a disability is often exceedingly high. The daily challenges of living with a disability impact the entire family. With the support of friends like you, our *Family Retreats*, held at accessible conference centers across the United States during the summer months, provide dynamic five-day programs that refresh and strengthen the whole family.

Short Term Missionary volunteers play a vital role in *Family Retreats*, serving as the hands and feet of Jesus and offering practical help and assistance to each family. Churches who have sent volunteers from their congregation find that they return energized, equipped, and eager to engage in ongoing disability ministry within the church body.

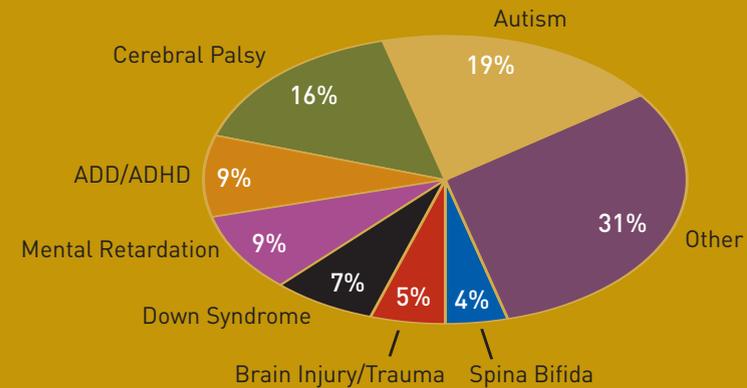
“Thank you so very much for supporting Joni and Friends,” one attendee wrote to us. “This camp gave me a chance to rest with my family and also to heal and to learn so many different things personally.”

In 2005, your support helped create:

- 1 15 *Family Retreats* around the country
- 2 Outreach to 2,368 people from 592 families (an increase of 16% over 2004)
- 3 Scholarships for 164 families who otherwise couldn't have attended

## *Disability at-a-glance*

The population of families we serve at *Family Retreats* is growing in diversity each year.



# Field Ministries



Through outreach to churches across the country and individuals in local communities, *Field Ministry* is reaching thousands of people with practical help and the Gospel of Christ.

Their primary work includes assisting churches in ministering to individuals and families affected by disability, evangelizing and discipling people affected by disability, and mobilizing volunteers and churches to participate in rewarding ministries such as *Family Retreat*, *Wheels for the World*, and *Special Delivery*.

In 2005, our nationwide *Field Ministries* teams provided resources to:

- 1 More than 110,000 people ministered to in person
- 2 22,000 people called for disability ministry assistance
- 3 7,700 *Special Delivery* packages distributed to disabled people who were homebound, in rehabilitation or residential care facilities
- 4 57 *Field Ministry* locations throughout the United States

For more information about resources available to you from our *Field Ministries*, or to find the *Field Ministry* closest to you, please visit [www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org).

# Volunteering

There are thousands of volunteer opportunities at Joni and Friends, for every kind of person! We need:

Administrative Support

Mechanics

Seating Specialists

Translators

Sports Coaches

Family Retreat Assistants

Prayer Supporters

And many more you can find on our website!



Volunteers play a vital role in the ministry of Joni and Friends. From those who travel overseas with *Wheels for the World*, to those who become advocates for disability ministry in their own communities, our volunteers truly show their heart for disabled people and their families.

We're so grateful to those who served last year:

- 1 604 Chair Corps volunteers who collected used wheelchairs to be restored for *Wheels for the World*
- 2 194 Short Term Missionaries who ministered on *Wheels for the World* trips
- 3 1,181 Short Term Missionaries and leaders who served the families at *Family Retreats*
- 4 6,240 volunteers who kept our *Field Ministries* outreach strong
- 5 10,800 kids at *Vacation Bible School* who sponsored 510 wheelchairs and 8,426 Gospel bracelets



## *Joni Invited to Serve the State Department*

In 2005 the State Department asked Joni Eareckson Tada to be a member of the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, because of her first hand experience with the links between poverty and disability in the developing world. The Administrator of USAID recently reported to the State Department that, "Eighty percent of disabled people live in the developing world. Also, one-sixth of the people living on less than \$1 per day are people with disabilities."

Now, Joni can lend her voice to the team that supports Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other decision-makers as they craft America's response to the global needs of disabled people. Please join us in thanking God for this opportunity to bring Christ's compassion to this important issue at a policy-making level!

## *The Joni and Friends International Disability Center*

As you may know, Joni and Friends has been housed in rented facilities since it was founded in 1979. Now due to the generosity of friends like you, our first permanent home is becoming a reality!

With 33,700 square feet, the International Disability Center will have expanded space for growing programs such as *Family Retreat*, *Wheels for the World*, *Field Ministries*, and *Special Delivery*. Our new building will also house The Christian Institute on Disability, offering a biblical response on critical issues that impact the disability community. The Institute will develop curriculum on disability-related topics as well as offer internships, fellowships, and scholarships to students at Christian institutions of higher learning. In addition, the Institute will offer training to Joni and Friends staff, missionaries, and volunteers throughout the world.

We feel incredibly blessed by God for how He's expanding the Joni and Friends ministry through the International Disability Center, and we're grateful that He chose to do it through giving friends like you!



# Radio Ministry



“My husband has MS and finds it very difficult to deal with his limitations. I appreciate your program and your obvious godly spirit.”

These words from a listener underscore the importance of Joni’s daily radio broadcasts. “If I were able,” Joni explains, “I’d love to visit every disabled person in countless hospitals, rehab centers, and nursing homes across the country. Yet even though I can’t, radio can!”

In 2005, Joni’s 5-minute daily radio broadcasts reached out:

- 1 On over 1,450 radio stations and outlets worldwide
- 2 In 1,200 radio broadcasts every day
- 3 To touch more than 1,000,000 people per week

Thanks to the Lord’s provision through you, and the generous cooperation of many media partners, Joni’s voice can reach into the homes of people around the world, bringing comfort, healing, and evangelism.

The financial and prayer support of members of our *Joy for the Journey* Radio Club have been an important part of our radio ministry’s growth. If you’d like to become a member, please call (818) 707-5664 ext. 1776 or email [radioclub@joniandfriends.org](mailto:radioclub@joniandfriends.org).

# Correspondence & Resource Outreach



The Correspondence and Resource Department dates back to the beginning of Joni and Friends, when Joni, her mom, and friends

sat around the kitchen table answering letters from individuals affected by disability. Correspondence comes from a variety of people touched by our ministry; children to prisoners, national to international, from the parents looking for information regarding their son who was recently diagnosed with Autism, to the lonely widow who is struggling with depression and looking for encouragement.

The goal of the department is to answer each one on a personal level. This is done by offering encouraging booklets, Scripture verses, and materials.

One caller later wrote to us, “Many months ago someone at Joni and Friends answered the phone and sent me a packet with Joni’s life story for a paralyzed man I know. She also sent along a number of booklets, all for free. Your love and ministry really touched me.”

Supported by your prayers and gifts, in 2005 our small staff:

- 1 Answered approximately 1,000 phone calls, e-mails, and letters every month
- 2 Made 40 Resource Lists available on a wide variety of disability services

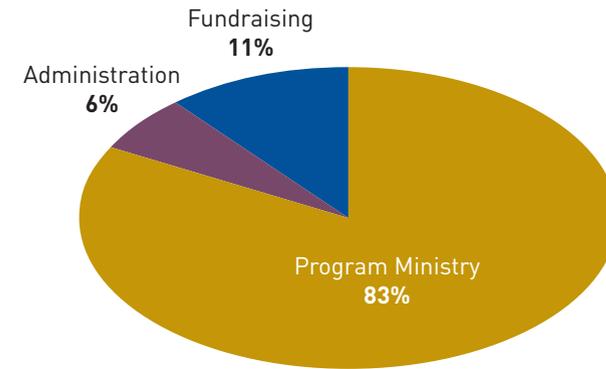
We’re able to provide all of these materials for free to people struggling to find answers, because of your gracious support. Thank you!

# Financial Information

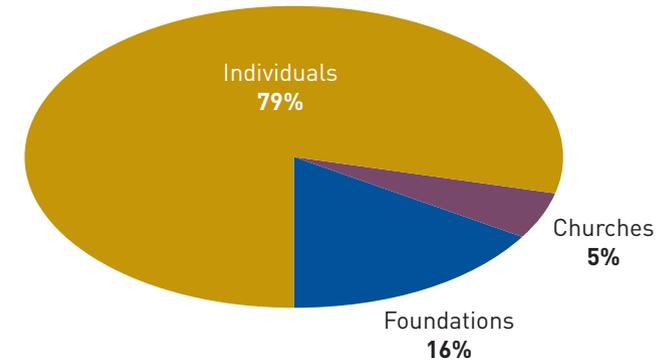
Joni and Friends is a non-profit organization supported by friends like you who want to reach out to people affected by disability around the world. We are grateful for those who support this work through generous gifts, both large and small.

As a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability we are committed to handle your gifts with the highest standards of integrity.

*Where Does Your Support Go?*

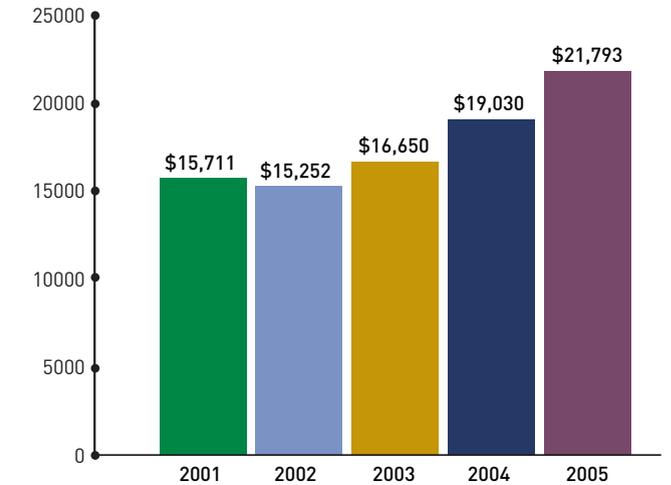


*Who Supports Us?*



*Our Annual Income*

Including cash and gifts-in-kind  
In thousands (000)



*\*A complete audited financial statement is available on request.*