**Goal** To produce a good quality wheelchair to serve disabled people and encourage the wheelchair service and wheelchair provision within the region.

To establish a self-sustainable wheelchair production and repair workshop and wheelchair financing system capable of producing and distributing wheelchairs.

**Mission** To address the wheelchair needs of men, women and children with mobility disabilities within the Kilimanjaro region.

**Vision**

Durable

Easy to Transport

Spare parts are available

The Wheelchair Workshop is a proud part of the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (K.C.M.C), which is an institution of Good Samaritan Foundation of the Evangelic Lutheran Church of Tanzania. It is a consultant and referral medical centre for the Northern Zone of Tanzania.

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K.C.M.C
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Lasts Longer
KCMC
WHEELCHAIR WORKSHOP
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The workshop can provide an appropriately made wheelchair that suits and meets the local environment in Sub-Saharan countries, guaranteed to improve and change the quality of life for wheelchair users.

**Our Promise**

The workshop offers adjustments, maintenance and repairs of wheelchairs. Availability of such services is crucial to the hospital discharge and the process of reintegration in society.

The K.C.M.C. workshop has been made possible by the establishment of a wheelchair workshop at K.C.M.C and by the employment of wheelchair Technologists and Technicians. All thanks to the cooperation between MOTIVATION-TATCOT-K.C.M.C. and the K.C.M.C. Wheelchair Committee.

**Our Community**

To enable the repair work to be done by a person, preferably disabled, interested in acquiring new technical skills.

**1: Referral and Appointment**

**2: Assessment**

**3: Prescription**

**4: Ordering**

**5: Product Preparation**

**6: Fitting**

**7: Wheelchair User Instruction**

**8: Follow-Up Maintenance & Repairs**
It is extremely important to have a well-fitting chair that meets your needs.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF A QUALITY WHEELCHAIR:**

- The Wheelchair is fitted to my size and my shoulders are properly positioned for me to maneuver in the chair.
- There is a pressure relieving cushion in the seat.
- The chair is durable enough for the my uses and the environment I live in,
- I can find replacement parts and make repairs.
- The chair will last up to three years.

**VISIT A LOCAL WHEELCHAIR WORKSHOP:**

**YOUR GUIDE TO WHEELCHAIR PURCHASE AND USE**
Obtaining a wheelchair is the first step towards independence and an improved quality of life for a disabled person. Learning to properly use and maintain the wheelchair as well as maintaining proper health is also very important.

If you face any injuries from wheelchair use, please seek medical attention as soon as possible as infections and muscles injuries can pose serious health issues.

## Common Problems from Improper Wheelchairs

### Back Support
It is crucial to get a wheelchair that has been fitted to your size and provide adequate back support. Chairs that do not properly support the back and trunk back pain.

### Contractures
Keeping limbs immobile can cause a stiffness to develop in the joints and you will be unable to straighten the affected limb. To prevent this, make sure that your wheelchair is and fits your size and has proper support for the legs, trunk and feet.

### Shoulder Injuries
Improper positioning of the wheelchair wheels to your body and cause inflammation and pain in the muscles and tendons. This will severely damage the shoulder or make it useable. Again it is important to have a well fit chair that positions the shoulders over the axle.

### Pressure Sores
Pressure sores are opens wounds that develop near bones such as the hip and seat bones. In these areas where there is little mobility, pressure builds up and blood cannot flow. This causes tissue in the area to die. If left untreated this tissue becomes infected and may lead to death.

To prevent pressure sores, it is important to periodically change body position and use a pressure relieving cushion in your wheelchair. Cushions can collapse and leave you vulnerable to sores so it is crucial to maintain the wheelchair’s cushions. Well fitting chairs also help prevent pressure sore.

If you face any injuries from wheelchairs, please seek a medical attention as soon as possible to treat them. Infections and muscle injuries can pose serious health issues.

For more Information speak to your doctor, and visit a local wheel chair workshop.

### Questions to Ask Your Wheelchair Manufacturer

- **Will the wheelchair be adjusted to fit my body?**
- **Is there a pressure relieving cushion?**
- **Can I receive any training to learn how to use the wheelchair?**
- **Are spare parts and repairs available and what are their costs?**
- **How durable is this chair?**
- **How long will it last?**
- **How are the models different?**
- **Tell the manufacturers what you will be using the chair for and ask them what will be an appropriate purchase for those needs.**
- **Don’t be afraid to ask questions. The employees are there to serve you.**