

Wheelchairs for the needy, and a free portrait for you

NATALIE HANSON
NTW staff

Photographer and Ottawa Rotarian Robin Spencer would like you to give an unusual gift this Christmas. He'd like you to buy a wheelchair for someone you've never met.

Throughout the month of November, Spencer is offering a special. If customers agree to pay \$110 to buy a wheelchair for some-

one in need, he'll give them a photo session and an eight-by-ten, a \$125 value.

"I thought if I gave people the option of signing up for a wheelchair and I'd throw in a portrait," Spencer said. The session usually runs \$125. Through the Wheelchair Foundation, needy people all over the world can get a wheelchair for \$110 including shipping and delivery.

At a Rotary meeting, Richard King, the president of Rotary International, spoke about the program, and immediately Spencer took to the idea. For a set sum of money people can see a tangible result. They even receive a tax-receipt and certificate of thanks including a photo of the child, teen or adult.

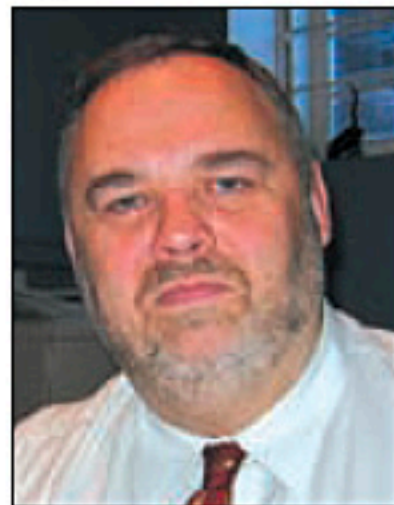
"It had to do with the fact that it was so cheap," he

said. The Wheelchair Foundation estimates 100 million people worldwide can use a wheelchair but cannot afford one.

"For \$110, you can change someone's life," Spencer said.

In developing countries, many people with amputations must crawl or be carried to where they need to go. It's even more common in war torn countries because of the prevalence of landmines. Their survival depends on the family support.

"It will take a lot of pres-



Robin Spencer

sure off families," he explained.

The wheelchairs are

designed for the rugged terrain where they'll be used. The front wheels are larger and the back are completely encased. The manufacturer also uses parts adapted from bicycles to make them easier to fix if they break down.

To date the organization has given out almost 312,000 wheelchairs across the world.

For more information on the Wheelchair Foundation visit www.wheelchairfoundation.ca. To book a session with Robin Spencer call 226-2079 or visit www.spencerstudio.com.

