

Dear friend,

I will never forget what it was like growing up with disability in Nigeria.

My parents and siblings always treated me with love and respect. But sadly, this wasn't the case for many others in my community.

At school, the teachers would ignore me. They'd tell the other students not to speak to me because I was different. My own uncle tried to kill me by putting me in a drain when I was a baby.

But my family protected me. They encouraged me. And I became determined to do something with my life.

Sport was the big difference.

I remember the day my friend invited me to come lift weights at the gym. At first I thought, I can't do that. But I went along and tried it... and I loved it!

When I started doing bench press regularly at the gym, I'll tell you, I was feeling strong... and that helped me to forget about my disability.

It was one of the best days of my life when I found out I qualified as a Paralympian powerlifter at the 2000 Olympics. My dad came home and said, "What is this about you going to Sydney?"

I was scared he'd be angry that I was leaving. But when I told him, he walked over with tears in his eyes and he held his arm out to shake my hand.

Sport changed my life more than once.

And this is why I want to grow WheelTalk, so more kids with disability can be encouraged through sport like I have been.



Sport gave me hope that I can be whatever I want to be!



I discovered I could achieve my dreams and be part of something that matters.

When I visit schools, I meet some kids who think they are a forgotten part of the community. But I tell students that if I don't make it in life, it's not my disability, **it's what I do with my disability that matters.**

I am so grateful to be able to encourage kids with disability and get them out on the court to play sport, maybe for the first time in their lives.

Let me tell you, it's so wonderful to see students with and without disability all playing together on the same court.

WheelTalk is so important to change attitudes about inclusion and disability amongst these students, their families, and the whole community.

We've come so far but we need to do so much more. And to do that we desperately need your help to grow the program and reach more students next year.

Most of all we need a new custom van to carry more students and equipment around the state. We need more staff, team uniforms, accessibility ramps, and help to complete work on an amazing new Interactive Inclusivity App for students to take away.

I know WheelTalk is only possible because of generous people like you. Thank you so much for your help. And I promise you, any gift you make today will be life-changing for kids with disability.

With my deep thanks and respect,



I want to see WheelTalk in 250 schools across Victoria so we can reach more than 10,000 students!



Peter