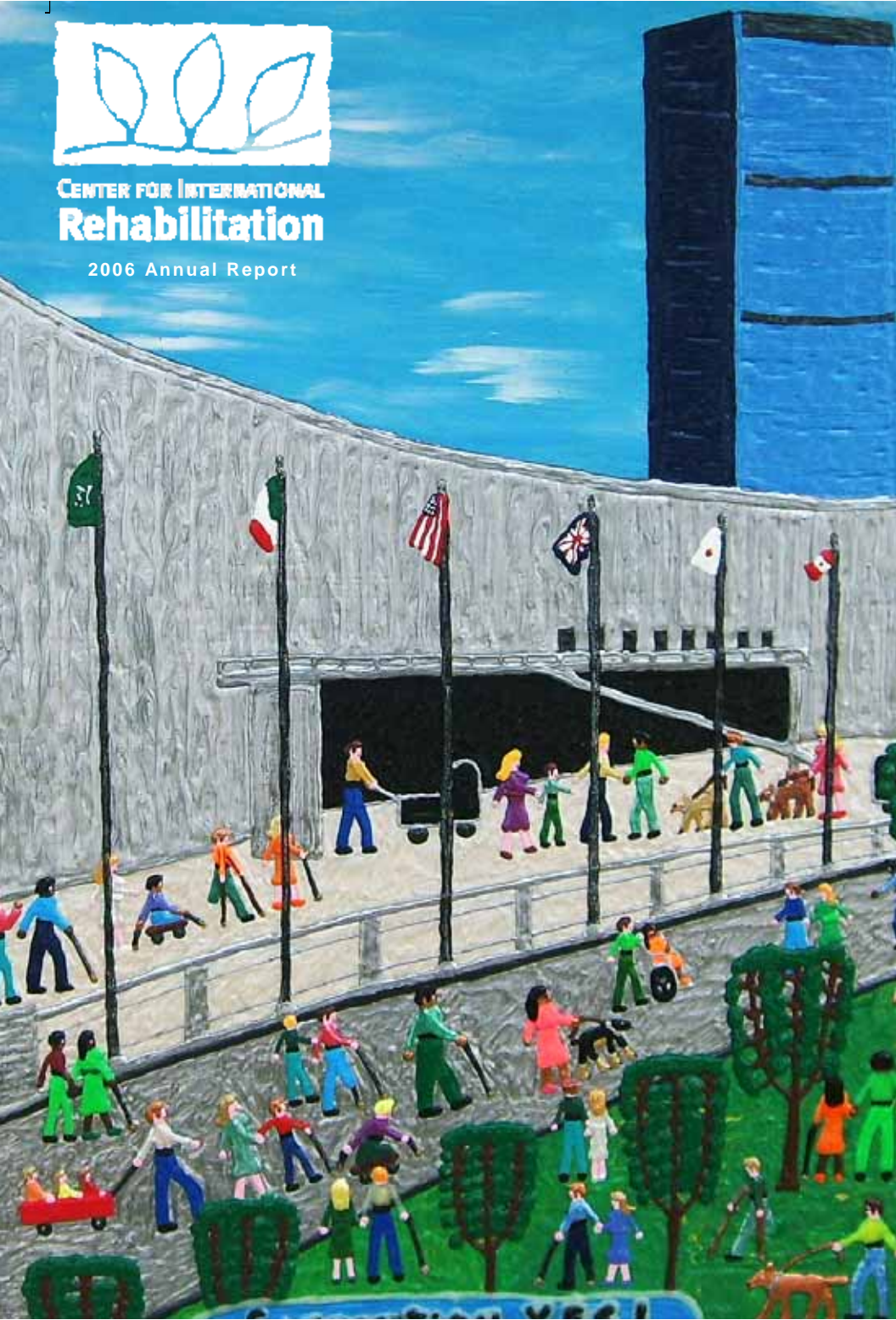




CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL  
**Rehabilitation**

2006 Annual Report





## About the cover

Jack Beverland (Mr. B) is a self-taught southern folk artist who finds peace of mind in his special kind of art. In 1987 he was diagnosed with uncinate seizures and spinal bifida. His art, which depicts a simple, carefree life, calms his spirit. The painting featured on the front cover is Mr. B's portrayal of the United Nations (UN) Passage of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

# Contents

- 3 Message from the President
- 5 About the CIR
- 7 The Passage
- 10 IDRМ: Impetus for Change
- 13 War Wounded Program
- 14 The CIR-Wu Casting System
- 16 Virtual Classrooms
- 20 The Perfect Fit
- 22 Meeting of the Minds
- 24 Wheelchairs for the World
- 25 Get a Grip
- 26 Conventions/Meetings
- 28 Our Donors
- 30 Board of Directors
- 31 Financials
- 32 Make a Difference



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## *A message from the president*



Dear Friends:

In 2006 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This landmark decision represented a number of firsts: the first human rights treaty of the 21st Century; the most rapidly negotiated human rights treaty ever; and the first time in UN history that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) were at the table with states parties for a treaty negotiation. The CIR remained steadfast in its active participation to see this effort come to fruition. Our contributions included being a founding member of the International Disability Caucus (the steering group for NGO involvement), helping to produce the draft that formed the basis for the negotiations and providing the International Disability Rights Monitoring Project (IDRM) to serve as a resource.

As you read about this and other CIR accomplishments reported here, it is important to remember that none of these successes would have been possible without the generous support of friends. We are grateful to all who have contributed and supported our efforts. And to those who have not yet had the opportunity, I hope that as you read the following pages, you too will join us in advancing our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Kennedy Smith M.D.".

**William Kennedy Smith M.D.**  
**Founder and President**



Our

# Mission

*To assist people with disabilities worldwide in achieving their full potential.*

## About the CIR

The Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) is a Chicago-based, not-for-profit organization that develops research, education and advocacy programs to improve the lives of people with disabilities internationally. Founded in 1996 by Dr. William Kennedy Smith, the CIR operates in collaboration with the renowned Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Northwestern University. Through innovative engineering projects, capacity-building education programs, interactive online tools, and disability rights advocacy, the CIR reaches out to individuals and communities across the globe.



# the Pa

Photo courtesy of UN Photo

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*A ground-breaking international convention that will give greater rights and freedoms to people with disabilities around the world.*

**O**n December 13, 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the first ever global treaty on the protection and promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This document formally establishes the rights of people with disabilities as human rights. Its intent is to end the discrimination that the estimated 650 million people with disabilities worldwide experience daily and to ensure that people with disabilities are fully contributing members of society.

- The Convention marked the **first** human rights treaty of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- It was the **first time** in UN history that NGOs sat at the table with States Parties during treaty negotiations.
- It was the **most rapidly negotiated** human rights treaty in the history of international law.

*"The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should serve as a much-needed impetus for greater inclusion of people with disabilities in all societies. The role the Center for International Rehabilitation played leading up to the Convention's passage was enormously constructive. The International Disability Rights Monitoring project served as an invaluable resource during deliberations and has the potential to aid treaty monitoring efforts greatly after passage."*



**Ambassador Don MacKay** of New Zealand, Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Committee and Chair of the Committee for the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



*“The Center for International Rehabilitation was an invaluable ally to States Parties during the three years leading up to the passage of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The information provided to the Ad Hoc Committee through the International Disability Rights Monitoring project and the support provided to civil society during the convention process were instrumental to the successful conclusion of the negotiations.”*



**Ambassador Luis Gallegos** of Ecuador, former Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral Internal Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.





# IDRM:

## Impetus for Change



"The IDRM reports are very important to global efforts to improve the lives of people with disabilities. These reports serve as a possible baseline for future monitoring efforts associated with the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to underline the most important

themes in a country ... This information is not available anywhere else."

**Roman Zhavoronkov** is the researcher and writer of the IDRM Russia Regional Report. In addition to serving as an attorney for Lawyers of Constitutional Rights and Freedoms, Mr. Zhavoronkov lobbies for anti-discrimination legislation before the Russian Parliament.

Policymakers, the human rights community, and global leaders have very little access to information about the extent or the nature of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. Without accurate information, effective advocacy for necessary change becomes even more challenging. The International Disability Rights Monitor (IDRM), created by the CIR, is the **world's only** systematic, international disability rights shadow monitoring project. These reports were instrumental to the Convention's passage.



*"The IDRM reports are important because they achieve awareness-raising through the research ... and they support disability advocates in their work by improving the quality of available information. The disability advocates can use the report as a very effective tool of advocacy, in order to*

*demonstrate how the state is either complying or not with the International Human Rights Law, what kind of policies and practices related to people with disabilities have been adopted and to lobby for changes in laws and policies."*

**Eirini-Maria Gounari** is the researcher and writer of the IDRM Greece Regional Report. She is an international attorney with a Master's degree in EU Law, specializing in human rights protection, access to justice, and election legislation.



# War W

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**D**isability is an especially pressing issue in countries that have experienced conflict. Landmines and unexploded ordnance remain the greatest causes of war-related disability worldwide. The CIR has extensive experience in providing technical assistance, education, and training to medical practitioners in medically underserved areas. Currently, the CIR is focusing on the Middle East and working with the Iraqi Ministry of Health to improve the lives of people in those regions.

## Key facts:

- **650 million** people worldwide are living with disabilities.
- The State Department estimates that **60 to 70 million** antipersonnel landmines are deployed in nearly **70** countries around the world.
- These landmines kill or maim **15,000 to 20,000 victims** per year, over **90 percent** of them are innocent civilians.

# The CIR-Wu Casting System: Making an Artificial Limb in One Hour

**M**illions of bags of vacuum-packed coffee beans and tea leaves are sold in supermarkets every day — a fact that, at first glance, may seem to have nothing to do with a procedure for making artificial limbs. The same vacuum-sealing concept, however, sparked the inspiration for the CIR's research team to develop a low-cost, reusable casting system for making artificial limbs. Placing the bead-filled pillow in a plastic bag and evacuating the air inside enable prosthetists to quickly and accurately replicate the residual limbs of amputees. This "better, cheaper and faster" technology is improving the productivity and quality of prosthetic services in developing countries.

*"The CIR-Wu System provides ease of use, reduces fabrication time and does not allow the prosthetist to keep the work pending ... This is very beneficial for the amputees who come from far-flung areas in terms of saving their money on traveling, boarding and lodging expenses. The response for this technology in India is very enthusiastic. It was evident in the Hands-on Workshops organized in March 2007. Six major institutes have initiated the process of setting up the system."*

**Tarun Kumar Kulshreshtha**

Bhagwan Maha Veer Viklang Saha Yata Samiti (BMVSS),  
New Delhi, India—Prosthetist & Orthotist

*“The CIR-Wu Casting System is one of the best present day options to address the pressing need for quality transtibial prostheses ... In our institution we extend rehabilitation services to more than 250 people in a month and amputees are more than one third of it. The CIR-Wu Casting System has helped us in delivering a fast, scientific and very affordable method of prosthetic management.”*

**Soikat Ghosh Moulic**

Mobility India, Bangalore, India —Assistant Director



# Virtual Classrooms

The CIR harnesses the power of the Internet to deliver world-class medical education to workers in clinics and hospitals in some of the poorest countries in the world. The CIR training materials range from workbooks to multimedia online materials incorporating videos and graphics. These educational programs and workshops promote the highest quality of care, and encourage professional development among local workers.

One program is the CIR's **Train-the-Trainer**. It is designed to provide educational materials and expertise to other non-profit organizations so that they can offer upgraded training to local prosthetic technicians who do not have the means to return to school for such training. This program helps meet the CIR's goal of delivering training to remote and underserved regions in a cost-effective manner. Two organizations, Healing Hands for Haiti and the Range of Motion Project, are now using the program to educate prosthetists in Central America and the Caribbean.

*"The program has been successful in that the technicians who have been involved now have a solid base of knowledge to back them up. These participants are also full-time technicians, working with patients and fabricating the devices, so they practice what they learn every day."*

**Al Ingersoll,**  
Winkley Orthotics & Prosthetics,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota—Certified Prosthetist

*“Haiti has never had an orthotics or prosthetics program. The Train-the-Trainer coursework allows students to use a CD-Rom, as well as Internet-based or printed text. A great help for us is the ability for the instructors to be remote, but still monitor progress and answer questions.”*

**Cate Braun**

Winkley Orthotics & Prosthetics,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota—Certified Prosthetist



# Virtual Classrooms (continued)

Another program is the CIR's **Distance Learning**. It is designed to train local prosthetic technicians in countries that are recovering from conflict. This program teaches practicing technicians sound fundamentals for manufacturing and fitting artificial limbs. Since 2001, this program has been delivered to over 70 students from 30 rehabilitation centers in six countries. These centers treat an estimated 8,600 war wounded and other amputees each year.

- In January of 2006, the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO), a leading certification body, recognized the CIR Distance Education program in the area of prosthetics.
- **17** Bosnian graduates of the program were awarded Prosthetic Technology Category II certification.
- This marked the **first time** that students in Bosnia have received ISPO certification.

*"The CIR's Distance Learning Program is very much needed and important in order to provide complete and quality care to patients with amputations. It would be great for the region if this kind of education would be continued for the next generation of students."*

**Ivica Livancic**  
Prosthetic Technician

*"The CIR's Distance Learning Program is the only educational program in the Balkans that allows students to improve theoretical and practical knowledge in prosthetics while still working in clinics ... Since completion of CIR training, I have been able to work with transfemoral amputees more efficiently, as well as meet more of my patients' needs."*

**Nedžad Sofić**

The Prosthetic Center of the University  
Clinical Center, Tuzla (UKC)  
—Ortho/Prosthetic Technologist



# The Perfect Fit

**H**aving a prosthetic limb that fits comfortably is critical to leading a productive life. Unfortunately, people living in geographically remote and medically underserved regions typically do not have the money or ability to travel to ensure their new limb has the proper alignment. The alignment of a prosthesis refers to how the socket (the part of the prosthesis into which the limb fits) is positioned and oriented relative to the prosthetic foot.

The CIR's research department works to discover ways that doctors can find a person's alignment in an inexpensive and practical way. In 2006, the CIR successfully completed a six-month field study in Nicaragua where three new ways to align a CIR-designed monolimb were tested. By the end of the study, the vast majority of the patients involved said that they preferred to use the CIR monolimb, aligned using one of the three methods, over the prosthesis they were originally using.



## Meeting of the Minds: Partnerships in Prosthetics

In the summer of 2006, the CIR held a conference to review the state of prosthetic technologies for the developing world. The conference, aptly titled “State-of-the-Science” (SoS), brought together 33 researchers and prosthetists — representing 19 international organizations — to discuss the appropriateness of current prosthetic technologies. Too often, humanitarian efforts don’t take into account the technical capabilities or cultural context of the areas in which they are based, and so the CIR asked conference participants to report on current issues and future research needs in various areas of prosthetics.

The agenda for this two-day conference included: an opening plenary session with presentations by conference attendees; discussion groups; an open house and reception at the CIR office; and a closing plenary session where recommendations from each round-table group were summarized and presented.



*“Our goal is to obtain consensus from rehabilitation experts and consumers on the future needs and direction of the RERC on Improved Technology Access for Landmine Survivors.”*



*Hector Casanova,  
CIR Executive Director/  
VP of Innovation,  
Rehabilitation &  
Technology*



Kim Reisinger, PhD  
CIR Director of  
Engineering Research



Yeongchi Wu, MD,  
CIR Research Director

# Wheelchairs for the World

In 2005, the CIR paired up with Whirlwind Wheelchair International to build a wheelchair appropriate for the rugged landscapes of developing and war-torn areas. Today, the CIR continues to study, build and distribute the CIR-Whirlwind Wheelchair, which features a durable design capable of withstanding difficult outdoor travel.

Many wheelchair distribution programs fail to consider the environment in which the recipients of their products live. They also fail to properly fit the wheelchairs to individual users, and do not provide user training or ongoing service provision. In the fall of 2006, the CIR helped create a set of international guidelines for wheelchair provisions to help combat these challenges. The guidelines will help to ensure that wheelchair users everywhere receive the most appropriate wheelchair, along with services that include ongoing follow up.

They are expected to be published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in early 2008.



# Get a Grip!

In 2006, the CIR teamed up with the Get a Grip! program, an educational unit that challenges students to design and construct a prosthetic arm for a fictional Afghan girl who has been injured in a landmine explosion. The CIR helped develop the 2006 unit, which provides eight lessons that incorporate instruction in science, math, reading and social studies. The curriculum aims to teach students about the field of engineering while deepening their cultural knowledge and increasing their understanding of disability. The program has reached over 1,000 students — ranging from middle school to undergraduate levels — since 2001.

*“Get a Grip! is great. The unit engages all learning levels of middle school students with hands-on and electronic media. It takes my classroom to the 21st century.”*

**Michael Valente**  
Walt Disney Magnet  
School, Chicago—  
Teacher



# Conventions, Meetings & Workshops 2006

## **Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center Project Director's Meeting**

Washington, DC, April 2006

## **Rotary District 7330 Conference**

Seven Springs, PA, May 2006

## **American Telemedicine Association 2006 Eleventh Annual Meeting & Exposition**

San Diego, CA, May 2006

## **Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America 2006 Annual Conference**

Atlanta, GA, June 2006

## **Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center State-of-the-Science Conference on Appropriate Technology for Developing Countries**

Chicago, IL, August 2006

## **World Health Organization meeting on the "Guidelines for Provision of Manual Wheelchairs in Less-Resourced Settings"**

Geneva, Switzerland, August 2006

**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center  
Year 2 Annual Meeting**

Chicago, IL, October 2005

**The Center for International Rehabilitation  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute Meeting**

Worcester, MA, November 2005

**Consortium meeting for “Guidelines for Provision of  
Manual Wheelchairs in Less-Resourced Settings”**

Bristol, England, December 2005

**American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists  
Annual Meeting**

Chicago, IL, March 2006

**International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics  
Consensus Conference on Lower Limb Orthotics  
for Developing Countries**

Hanoi, Vietnam, March 2006

**Organizing committee meeting for First International  
Consensus Conference on Wheelchairs  
for Developing Countries**

Copenhagen, Denmark, March 2006

# Our

Kennedy Smith Foundation

Carlson Family Foundation

Combined Federal Campaign

Jackie A. Bremer & Thomas M. Bremer

Ken & Lucy Lehman

Robert W. Clarke

Grace Barry

Richard M. Morrow

Wolfensohn Family Foundation

Mann, Weitz & Associates

Ameen Ghannam

Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.

Torsten A. Muehl

Bloomingtondale's

James L. Perkins

# Donors

Our deepest gratitude goes out to the donors listed here, as well as to the dozens of anonymous donors who have helped make CIR programming possible.

William L. Hood Jr. and Vicki Vallen Hood

Edwardine M. Baker

World Resources Chicago

Terrence Karpowicz

The Sloan Foundation

Jeanne L. Keeshin

Donald F. Staley

Marshall Segal

Frank A. Gomez

Valerie Lim

Nancy Arthur

Judith Johns

Susanne Richter

George E. Clark

Alan Parker on behalf of Gretchen Berland

# Board of Directors 2007

Grace Barry, *Secretary*

Charles Bennett, MD

Beth Calhoun, PhD

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Charles Kwon, *Treasurer*

Carolyn Phillips

Jean Kennedy Smith

William K. Smith, MD, *Chairman*

Peter Thomas

Tommy Thompson

Donovan Webster, *Vice Chairman*

# Financials

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### Revenues and Support

1. Fundraising and Contributions	\$175,153
2. Grants	\$2,832,361
3. Donated Services and Facilities	\$113,157
4. Other	\$15,719

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Total Revenues and Support	\$3,136,390
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### Expenses

1. Program Services	\$2,632,834
2. Support Services	\$252,144

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Total Expenses	\$2,884,978
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Change in Net Assets	\$251,412
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## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### Current Assets and equipment

1. Cash and Investments	\$387,928
2. Accounts	\$302,381
3. Equipment and Organizational Costs	\$25,743

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TOTAL ASSETS	\$716,052
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### Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$219,748
Non-Current Liabilities	\$23,075
Net Assets: Unrestricted	\$371,882
Net Assets: Temporarily Restricted	\$101,347

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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$716,052
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# Make a difference

With your help, the Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) will continue to assist people with disabilities worldwide in achieving their full potential. Please help support the CIR's research, training and education programs in some of the poorest nations on earth.

You can donate online or mail your donation to:

**The Center for International Rehabilitation**  
**Attn: Development Office**  
**211 East Ontario, Suite 300**  
**Chicago, IL 60611**

Your support is greatly appreciated.

In addition to giving by check or credit card, the CIR can also receive gifts of stock.

For more information,  
or for any questions, please:  
email: [donate@ideanet.org](mailto:donate@ideanet.org) or contact  
The Development Office at  
(312) 289-4970 X 247





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