



GIVE THE GIFT OF MOBILITY, DIGNITY, AND OPPORTUNITY

MAKER OF THE PET CART SINCE 1994.

HUNDREDS COME FOR MOBILITY

SHOP VOLUNTEER AND BOARD PRESIDENT FLY TO KENYA FOR DISTRIBUTION AND RECIPIENT FOLLOW UP



Far Right Picture Caption: This man is being assisted by Anthony, from Partners For Care, who has a deep passion to help the disabled.

Jeff Moran and I had the wonderful job of distributing Mobility Carts in Kenya last month. In our largest distribution day ever, we gave 154 carts to the leg-disabled through our partner, Kenya Relief. Hundreds of people gathered outside the gates on the morning of the distribution and when the gates were opened, it was like a scene out of the New Testament.

Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them.
Matthew 15:30

People poured through on crutches, crawling, carried on the backs of friends and in their arms – each coming to receive the gift of mobility. It was an honor to witness their struggle, their determination and their complete joy when they were placed in their very own cart. Most, for the first time in their life, had independence, freedom to go when and where they wished. In this newsletter we will share some of the stories of the people Jeff and I met in Kenya. Check out our website www.giftofmobility.org for a short video of our trip on our homepage. You will meet our Kenyan partners and many of the people whose lives have been transformed as a result of your generosity. Please let us know if you are interested in traveling to Africa. We are gauging interest for future distribution trips to Kenya.

- TERRY FURSTENAU, BOARD PRESIDENT

HUNDREDS COME FOR MOBILITY



Meet Kennedy! He's one of the 1,100 boys taking their final exams under the trees. He's 12 years old and in his first year of high school. His parents used to carry him to school for years. When they got a wheelchair, they pushed him to school. And when Kennedy got a Mobility Cart, he started taking HIMSELF to school. What pride we saw in this young man. Kennedy is the first disabled student to ever attend this high school and he wouldn't be here without the cart. His education would have ended. Meet Kennedy and his instructor on our video at giftofmobility.org.



This report is from Amy Montalvo, the producer of our Kenyan video. Check it out at giftofmobility.org

Barry is 12 years old - a wonderful, sweet, funny young man who I was fortunate enough to cross paths with last week. The difference between Barry and many other 12 year olds is that he has cerebral palsy, a debilitating disorder that has severely affected his body, but not his sharp and witty mind. Cerebral palsy is a challenge in a developed country... now imagine trying to overcome those difficulties while living in rural Kenya. Most likely, you can't.

Barry is the first born in his family, and it kills me to think that in many Kenyan families, he would be cast aside, thought to be cursed, thought to be worthless. It's simply a lack of education and understanding. But this family - this family is different.

As I've been learning through my work with Mobility Worldwide, disability is certainly not inability. Barry's dad Wycliff knows and truly believes that. He is clearly so proud of his son and the young man he's becoming, despite the struggles. He praised Barry's intelligence and bravery - I think he makes Barry feel loved, feel nurtured, feel the same as other children. You see, Barry has been rejected from every school he's tried to attend. Kenyan schools just have difficulty accommodating children with disabilities. So he spends much of his time on the couch watching TV. The benefit? That's where he learned all his English! Not to mention, he's fluent in 3 other languages.

It made me tear up to witness how dedicated Wycliff is to his son, despite what must be an incredibly difficult job. And how positive Barry is, despite a disorder no person should have to endure. It will all now be made a little easier through a Mobility Cart, something Wycliff told us he'll use to get Barry out of the house more often, to show him more of the world he's currently missing, to broaden his beautiful horizons even further.

He said, "I just want parents of other children like Barry to know that they are special. God can do something with them that he can't do with other children. They are not disabled... they are just abled differently."



GARY'S COLUMN:

"TO GIVE OR NOT TO GIVE"

When PET (Personal Energy Transportation) started years ago, Mel West never imagined that in just a few years that enough excitement would come with the mobility project that more shops would appear around the country. Hence a level of control and uniformity was needed to oversee all the Affiliates (21 now); so PET International was born. Now as we evolve into Mobility Worldwide, even more leadership is expected by us the Affiliates around the world.

So how does an International level get funded? Initially each Affiliate is asked to voluntarily give \$5.00 for each Mobility Cart built. At 6,000 carts per year that should bring in \$30,000. How do you fund salaries for two full time persons, market and fundraise for 21 shops, and provide design and standards control with such limited resources? Our own Kathy Maynard, Business Administrator, works about 7 hours per week for International doing accounting, admin, and promotional work.

Mobility Worldwide MO-Columbia as a board supported resolution in raising the bar to begin giving \$10.00 per cart built in Columbia and challenging other shops to follow suit. Why?

Scott Walters, MW Executive Director at the International level, is working full time to promote a mobility project among a wider funding base. He oversaw the name change and is key leader in reaching out to more stable funding sources, establishing a Foundation for larger more permanent gifts. He is leading the charge to roll out a new website that our Columbia shop is partially funding.

Von Driggs, Director of Operations, is constantly meeting with many NGOs to find more locations for mobility carts around the world. One way he does that is manning booths at medical or mission conferences to share our story – how Mobility Carts are available free to reliable distribution partners. Von is helping each shop to move their inventory of carts. A task very difficult for a shop even as involved as Columbia is with a strong donor base and connections widespread. Pictured here at a 2009 conference is Von (middle) with the VanderWals from The Luke Commission who serve in Swaziland, Africa. The VanderWals are a medical team (MD & PA) from Idaho. Since this picture was taken, their family has expanded, and they have distributed & reported on hundreds of our Columbia made carts.

- GARY MOREAU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Six thousand carts a year at \$10.00 each is still not raising enough to fully support the International level which has a current budget of \$266,043. It will need outside support. Columbia welcomes our donor base to provide any support for International up and beyond your continued generous support of our weekly needs of \$9,740. Our support will insure that we continue to march towards the goal of solving mobility for the estimated 70 million that have to crawl around.

Come join us for the Annual Conference in Huntsville, AL September 28th to 30th

“WHAT’S MEL UP TO THESE DAYS?”

It’s been several years since founder Mel West stepped down and Gary Moreau took over as Executive Director. So what does Mel do with his spare time at 93 years young? Well to start, he is still active with the 2 organizations under our 501c3:



- At Mobility Worldwide part-time about three days a week writing thank you letters, etc.
- Packing sewing machines and fabric for that project under The Container Project
- Still preaches or speaks to groups when invited

Other activities include:

- Spending more time with Barbara, spouse of 72 years
- Gardening - Ask him about his lettuce.
- 1 ½ mile walks around his retirement community daily
- Avid reader and writer of his personal daily Facebook blog
- Oh and one more thing he does for our mission site - landscaping!!



In this photo: Bishop Bob Farr, Mel West, and Gary Moreau

In April Mel and Barbara West were awarded the Robert and Martha Marble Mission Award. The MO Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church chose our Director Emeritus and his wife this year for their tireless efforts over decades to help persons around the world.

A TIRELESS DEDICATION TO HELP OTHERS



At the April Volunteer Recognition evening, Columbia recognized over 20 persons with 10 years or more of service to our mobility project. A few began with the project from almost its inception; many came on a few years later. Some worked in a garage, moved up to the one room shop and now a 9,000 sq. ft. warehouse. MW MO-Columbia says Thank You to the following persons on behalf of all those that do not have to crawl on the ground anymore: Steve Baima, Bob Orscheln (Orscheln Products), Roger Hofmeister, Larry Wilcox, Neil Richter (Barnes, KS), Kathy Maynard, Warren Zahler, Dick Hanson, Rob Fleming, Walt Hays (Wasilla, AK), Ray Speckhals, Quincy Parts Team (Jim Hall, Bob Buddemeyer, Leonard Gross), Harrold Ankeney, Ray McKenzie, Nancy Gentzsch, Jim Wall, Mike McMillen, Sass Tracy, Don O’Bannon, Ron Brookshire.

WELL DONE GOOD AND TRUSTED SERVANTS!!!

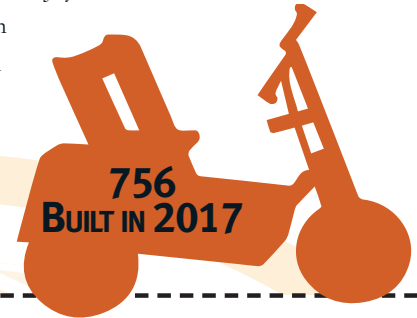
GIFTS GIVEN LAST QUARTER



We appreciate all the donors and families who have chosen to Mobility Worldwide to honor or remember someone. These gifts will be put to good use building and shipping mobility to others in need.

GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY:

- Major Lester Harper, USAF WWII by Rhydonia Harper Duggan
- Merlin Ackerson by Helen Ackerson
- Robert Clark by Mary Russell
- Mark Conard by Joyce Conard
- Aunt/Mrs. Darrell Ellis by Ray & Linda McKenzie
- Gilbert C. Felling by Mark Felling
- Richard Hauschild by Richard Baumann
- Ray Hawthorne Jr. by Kara Hawthorne
- Donna Hofmeister by John & Jacqueline Byland
- Ray Heft & Martha Mason by Austin & Tammie Keith
- Whitney Hicks by Richard Goodwin & John Doll
- Rev. Kenneth Hughes by Dorothy Dale Hughes
- Lee Don Jones by Dolores Swaney
- Michael Leed by Judy Leed
- Dereld Mc Lane by Ray & Linda McKenzie
- Jim Irby by Moberly Knights of Columbus #995
- Dan & Lindsey Korreect by Jeanette Korreect
- Frank & Martha Mason by Harold & Jan Beach
- Charles Millner by Naomi & Family
- Ramona Orr by Kris Laux
- Martha Philippi by Kathleen Perks
- Ivan Sander by Glenn & Carol Duermeyer
- Carol & Dale Sechler by Anonymous & Joyce Anderson
- Zack Stidmon by Catherine O'Brien
- Eugene Voga by Men of Immanuel
- Arthur Witt by Florence Swierk
- Carolyn Young by Shirley Bishop



GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR:

- John Davies by Mamie-Toy & Michael McGoon
- Matthew Futterer & Charles Scully by Bill & Lynda Ford
- Glensted United Methodist Church by Beverly Underwood
- Sons: Mark, David, Andrew, & Stephen by Jack & Dawn Harbison
- Heritage UMC Missions Team by Cynthia Svec
- Tom Long's birthday by Jan Long
- Elizabeth Ann Morgan, Elaine Thompson, & Kay Wallace by Anne Miller
- Don & Thelma Randall by Dennis Carter
- Mel West by Stephen & Joan Mudrick, John Muir
- Mel & Barbara West by Kathleen Miner, Steve & Helen Ware
- The Wests by Martin West

MOBILITY CART DONATION SLIP

Yes! I want to give the GIFT OF MOBILITY to a person whose legs do not function.

My check is enclosed for:

\$ _____ for _____ carts at \$300.00 each.

\$ _____ for _____ carts sent to Kenya at \$55 each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

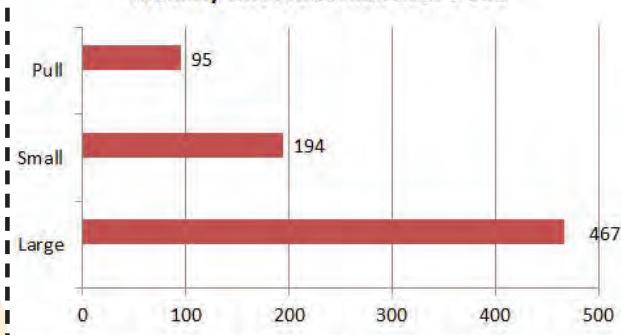
City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Organization, if any: _____

Make check payable to **Mobility Worldwide MO-Columbia** and mail to: 1908 Heriford Road, Columbia, MO 65202
Tel: 573-886-7877

Mobility Cart Production 2017 = 756



SPRING MATCH UPDATE: MORE CARTS SHIP OUT TO KENYA

A letter went out announcing our newest partner, Partners For Care, in Kenya had a donor willing to match 1/2 the cost of shipping 3 overseas containers with 700 total carts in 2017. The cost is about \$55 per cart from our Columbia warehouse to a Kenyan recipient. Our Executive Director asked if you could help with the other 1/2. You responded generously with gifts of \$10,955, and 205 Mobility Carts shipped out. We can still use your additional help to send 2 more loads. Thank you!

Our mission: Mobility Worldwide MO – Columbia's mission is to provide appropriate mobility for all of God's children in need. We seek to provide mobility first for those in greatest need and with the least resources in poor or underdeveloped countries.

OPPORTUNITY TO SEND 2 CARTS WITH 1 GIFT



Picture Caption: Her mother received a cart in Tanzania.

Rod & Diana Hanson are offering another \$15,000 gift match this summer to build more rugged carts: small & large crank and pull. Their wish is that their gift will match new donors' gifts and increases from our current & loyal supporters.

Examples:

1. Mary Smith is a new donor and gave \$100; her gift will be matched.
2. Larry Jones gave \$300 in 2016, but gave \$600 in 2017. \$300 would be matched for the increased amount.

The Hansons would like to see more persons in need of mobility receive it, like the persons they saw on a distribution in Guatemala. Will you please share our mission story with new folks? Can you help Give the Gift of Mobility, Dignity, and Opportunity? Thank you in advance for your help.

CONTACT Us    

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