



# GIVE THE GIFT OF MOBILITY, DIGNITY, AND OPPORTUNITY

MAKER OF THE MOBILITY CART SINCE 1994.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

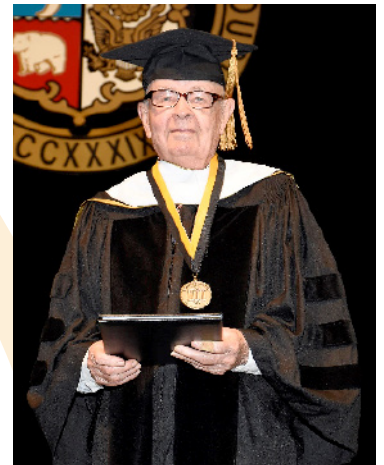


### WHAT DOES A CENTURY AND OUR FOUNDER HAVE IN COMMON?

Rev. Mel West, our founder, turns 100 in May. It all started on a dairy farm in MO where he grew up milking Jersey cows and learning about what was important and how to treat others. He graduated from University of MO in Columbia / Mizzou where he met his wife,



Barbara. He was a Marine. He started or was a part of many non-profits helping people around the globe through organizations like Heifer & Habitat for Humanity.



Doctorate at 95 years old.

In his retirement at age 70, he began our Mobility Cart mission. Pictured is a little girl in Kenya who needed mobility assistance. Her right leg has a brace and her left foot a cast. (Photo courtesy of Partners for Care.) She is one example of the need around the globe that Mel worked to help with your generous assistance. At 95 years old in 2019, he received an honorary doctorate from Mizzou for his decades of humanitarian work. Former President Jimmy Carter was one of six notable people who nominated West for the honorary degree. This is only a tiny portion of the stories that could be told about his

accomplishments and recognitions.

“So, I have ended up with farming background, and as an ecumenical, liberal, progressive Christian. For me that is a great mixture, though it troubles some.” (Page 10 of his book ‘One Damned Good Horse – Stories, Wit and Wisdom’. If you would like to hear more stories, signed copies are available for \$20 or \$50 for hardback when picked up in person.)



Our mission turns 30 years old in 2024. Mobility Carts were started in 1994 in response to Missionary Larry Hill’s request for ‘one more thing’. Mel was already sending supplies to Larry in Africa, but Larry wanted to also help those with leg handicaps. In rural areas, where standard wheelchairs will not work. Many were affected by landmines and polio. Mel got help from Earl Miner, product designer, and shipped the first four to Larry to test. A lever handled model was first made, but soon changed to the crank cart we have today.

(continued on next page)

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

(Continued)

As the years passed, improvements were made to make the cart more durable and last for years like hardened sprockets and solid tires. They will not last forever; but with some replacement parts like new tires or minor repair, they can last 5 to 10 years. We have had reports of some over 10 years old. This is why we also ship supplies for maintenance when our Distribution Partners have an ongoing presence.



Lady on Small Crank Cart in Kenya.

The Small Crank Cart was developed next to help children. But that also helped adults with drawfism or other difficulties. See picture from Partners for Care; this woman was given our smaller cart to better suit her stature. Next a Pull Cart was developed for those without upper body strength or mental ability to coordinate cranking. Pictured is a daughter transporting her mother or aunt home from a distribution in El Salvador by ADHU in 2009 - Association for Human Development. (Photo courtesy of Tony Gasbarro.)



Some of the first crank carts ever distributed.



2009 Mother is taken home on a Pull Cart.

In 2004, a team in Columbia answered Mel's call to create a governing body that would oversee and assist the growing number of production shops. Currently, there are 19 US and 2 African shops. In 2015, our mission family celebrated the 50,000<sup>th</sup> cart. July 2020, we moved into our new and first owned building; fully paid for. February 2023, our Columbia shop reached 30,000 carts built by our volunteers alone. Last fall, we all began celebrating the 100,000<sup>th</sup> Mobility Cart built and distributed in El Salvador (pictured in the last newsletter). That was 14 years after the report from ADHU above in 2009. The need is still there. The international level of our mission family has more orders than all our shops can fill at the moment. So we look to you, our wonderful supporters, to team up with us to help even more. **Thank YOU for 30 years of changing the world one life at a time.**



We are excited to share Mel's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with all of you. **We are having a special Birthday Party Open House on Thursday, May 9 at the Mobility Cart shop from 3 pm to 7 pm. Bring your birthday wishes to Mel, tour the shop, and have a birthday treat.** My husband and I will be giving a cart in his honor. Please join us. Others may give \$100 for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Or a legacy gift would help us continue our work for decades to come. Hope to see you on May 9. Kathy Maynard, Business Administrator (My 25th anniversary is this June.)

**“ALL LABOR THAT UPLIFTS HUMANITY HAS DIGNITY AND IMPORTANCE AND SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITH PAINSTAKING EXCELLENCE.”**

**- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

# GIFTS GIVEN LAST QUARTER:

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



Advance 982665



ID 515873317



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## GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY:

- Patricia Agamalian by Martha Baylor
- Jerry Albrecht by Cornerstone UMC Men's Club
- Dave Andrews by Jim & Barbie Pemberton
- Megan Ankeney by Harrold & Nancy Ankeney
- Thomas Brown by Mildred Brown
- Frank Conley and in honor of Layton Conley by Carla Conley
- Irene Dugger by Ellen Dugger
- Dave Dunafon by Lynn Barnett
- Howard Fox by Shirley Ryan
- Charles Fulhage by Jane Fulhage
- JoAnn Hays by Elizabeth Ripley
- Anita and Howard Heidbrink by Richard Baumann
- Melvin Jacobson by Mark & Leigh Kottwitz
- Loren Jung by Jess & Doris Lyons
- Clancy Karst by Barbara Karst, Larry Karst, Kristi Holta, Mary Ann Guenther

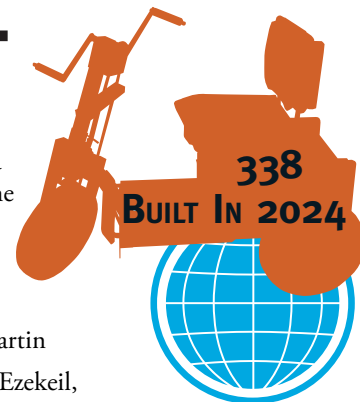
- Gene Koepke by Deb Koepke
- Gary Krause by Janet Krause
- Sue Lofgren by Christine & Ron Houser, Sue & Rodney Lilly
- Bob and Barbara March by Alicia Hagan
- David Mars by Dell & Janet Epperson, Elsie Heller
- Earl Miner by Diane Huneke
- Richard Myers by Joan Myers
- Lawrence Oliver by Virginia Oliver
- Bill and Shirlee Poore by Karla Malaney
- Jim Powell by Myra & Kim Evans
- Don and Thelma Randall by Dennis Carter
- Rev. Robert Smyres by Franklyn & Rosalie Amos
- Betty Thomas by Rex Thomas
- Barbara Doak West by Thomas Doak & Jennifer Florence
- Madeline Wilcox by Larry Wilcox

Gold  
Transparency  
2024

**Candid.**

## GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR:

- 59th wedding anniversary by Elmer & Marjorie Bigham
- Andrew Adams & Jacilyn Watts by Carol Royer
- Harrold & Nancy Ankeney by David & Chris Ankeney
- Steve and John Baurichter, Jane Howland, and Lynn Wilson by Steve & Julia Baurichter
- Martha Baile by Sandra & Mark Irl
- Carla Conley by Allison Farnen
- Gaston de la Torre by John & Carla Powderly
- Jerry Doyle, Jr. by Sally Doyle, Joan Doyle
- Greiner and Fletcher Families at Christmas by Linda Rowe
- Laurie Hines & Ted by Sandy Matsuda
- Roger, Marge, and the entire Hofmeister Family by Reginald Dusing
- Bruce Intveldt by Julia & Rev. Michael Will
- Lisa Irl and Jeff & Melody Irl by Martha Louise Baile
- Ron & Jessica Jenks by Bradley Jenks
- Cleo Kottwitz & Judy Parsons by Mark & Leigh Kottwitz
- Jim Lee by Christina Dolan
- Paul and Shirley Lindquist by Michael & Annette Joneson
- Francine McGuire-Popeck by Karen & Charlie Popeck
- Shirley Meinert by Matt Meinert, Sandra Basu, Rosemary McLaren, Betty Jen, Mary Potzmann, Joan Kuntz, Mary & Melvin Platt
- Jeff Moran by Courtney Moran
- Elizabeth Ann Morgan, Bonita Baer, Elaine Thompson & Anne Miller by Kay Wallace
- Richard Ohr's birthday by Cheryl Greiman
- Joe Powell by Turf & Joann Martin
- Makenzie, Lonnie, Nathaniel, Ezekeil, Nuziah and Vaylona Rogers by Barb & Gene De Kruif
- Susan Schmidy by Mary Cracraft
- David Steinhauer by Esther Steinhauer
- John and Dorothy Tomlin by James & Rebecca Hottel
- Mary Tribble by Gloria Young
- Luke Troyer by John & Joni Troyer
- Kay Wallace by Elaine & John Thompson
- Mel West by Ed & Myra Kail, Robert Gerety, Robert & Carol Cannon, Rich & Carol Oliver, James Hankins, First Christian Church, David & Judy Moose,
- Roger Wooden by Mark & Deborah Schrader



## 2024 Challenge

Donate a Mobility Cart for Mel's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

# MISSIONARY NURSE DISTRIBUTED CARTS IN SIERRA LEONE

Beth Ferrell, United Methodist Medical Missionary, worked in Sierra Leone from 2001 to 2005. Part of her work there was distributing our Mobility Carts. Pictured is one of the cart recipients.



He has strong upper body and skinny legs. Thin legs most times reflect polio. Once back in the states, she shared our story and her work in Africa at various United Methodist events. She is now retired. I recently spoke with her. She said, **“Tell everyone there ‘I appreciate what you do’. It was the most rewarding thing I ever did.”**

**-Report by Kathy Maynard, Staff**

## REMEMBERING OUR PROMISES

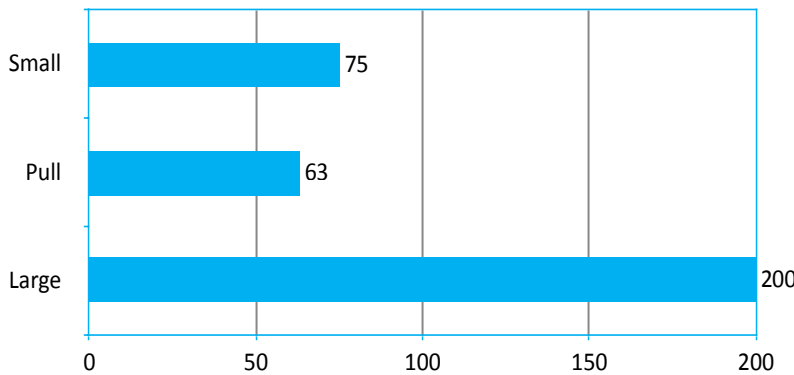
*(Located on our website under “About”)*

**We promise** to seek out God’s “least of these” persons and direct your resources to changing their lives.

**“WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS.”**

**- ROBERT INGERSOLL**

**February 28, 2024 YTD Cart Production = 338**



FUNDRAISER FOR MOBILITY WORLDWIDE MO - COLUMBIA

## CRAFT BEER & CARTS

**FOOD TRUCKS**

LEFTY'S KETTLE CORN  
ZYDECO'S CAJUN  
GINA'S VEGAN A GO GO  
MIA TACO

**ADULTS  
TICKET \$20**

**STUDENTS  
TICKET \$10**

**KIDS UNDER  
10 FREE**

**\$2,000**  
MAIN EVENT SPONSOR

**\$800**  
BAND SPONSOR

**\$425**  
CART SPONSOR

**LIVE MUSIC**

C. ROCK CITY  
&  
KENYAN MUSICIANS

**BROADWAY  
BREWERY**

**SUNDAY  
JULY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOON-4 PM**

FARMERS MARKET:  
**MU HEALTH CARE PAVILION**  
1701 W. ASH ST. COLUMBIA, MO 65203

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT DOOR INCLUDING SPONSOR TICKETS  
EACH SPONSOR GETS 2 TICKETS & A CART TO DECORATE

DONATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO:  
MOBILITY WORLDWIDE MO-COLUMBIA  
4825 E MEYER INDUSTRIAL DRIVE  
COLUMBIA, MO 65201

**GIFT OF MOBILITY.ORG**

FOR MORE INFO: GARY MOREAU, 573-886-7877

## 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 \$425.00 each.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ set of tires. Set of 3 tires & wheels at \$80 for each cart.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **Mobility Worldwide MO-Columbia** and mail to:  
4825 E Meyer Industrial Dr  
Columbia, MO 65201-8296



573-886-7877

## CONTACT Us



4825 E Meyer Industrial Dr, Columbia, MO 65201-8296 • Shop Hours: M – F 8 am to 3 pm  
Telephone: 573-886-7877 Email: [info@giftofmobility.org](mailto:info@giftofmobility.org) Web: [www.giftofmobility.org](http://www.giftofmobility.org)



# SPRING BRINGS SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS



The spring season seems to be coming early. That means that Mel West, our mission founder, is turning 100 on May 21. Let's celebrate all together. Come visit him and tour our shop during an Open House on May 9, 3-7 pm. We want you to Honor Mel by purchasing a Mobility Cart, \$425.00, in his honor for starting a Mobility Project at the age of 70 that has turned into a factory of shops. Columbia helped 2,220 persons off the ground in 2023.

A few years ago at our Annual Conference in Austin, TX, Mel challenged all of us to make one country mobile. (Mel is pictured on the cart with MW international leadership in 2019: John Rudd, Scott Walters, and Jim Conn.) **Connie Cheren from Partners for Care took that challenge on in Kenya. They are going to do it county by county, and this Spring they expect to have made one county in Kenya completely mobile.** That means, they supplied all the Mobility Carts, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes that they need to give everyone needing a lift up off the ground. Earlier, Rainbow Network working in Nicaragua, sent this report, "*...in December 2015, we announced each of our 112 communities to be "100% mobile" through a large distribution of canes, wheelchairs, and Mobility Carts...*" What challenges have you made in your retirement years?

Mobility Worldwide MO-Columbia started this effort and now 19 locations are helping to make the World Mobile. How can you help? Volunteer here and bring your friends along. Give some of your finances to help us. Support us by giving your RMD from your IRA directly to us and save some taxes.

Include us in your will and help make a Mel West Legacy. The Mel and Barbara West Cart Center is in place to build more carts. Your dollars will make it a reality each week.

What can you do this Spring 2024 to put smiles on all those crawling on the ground?

- GARY



2019 Founder challenges volunteers to make a country mobile.

## GRATITUDE

We are grateful for your response to these fall drives.

- Fall \$40,000 MATCH drive made possible through our sponsors: Thanks to your quick response, 124 gifts were deposited within several weeks totaling \$54,896. They came from several states. 2 families signed up for auto monthly gifts, and 4 more increased their monthly giving. Plus \$40,000 MATCH=\$94,896 or 223 Mobility Carts.
- MSECC (MO State Employee Charitable Campaign) - \$1,714 pledged through your 2024 pay or pension checks.
- Community Foundation of Central MO - 87 families (18 new) gave \$18,915 for Mobility Carts.

Your new, continued, and increasing support is always appreciated. We are putting your gifts to work producing and shipping Mobility Carts. A full shipping container for Kenya loaded out February 26. Thank YOU

 CoMoGives.com



**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.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Mizzou Wheelchair Basketball Team has visited our shop twice in 2023. Coach Lykins encourages the young men to come in their wheelchairs and volunteer. Our planning crew had them test out some new seats and suggest changes. They actually did some assembly work and gained the satisfaction of helping others that crawl on the ground. Way to go Tigers!!!! MIZ---ZOU.



Mizzou Wheelchair Basketball Team visits and works.