

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN GIVE THE GIFT OF MOBILITY



Meet Ssentongo:

While visiting our ministry partner in Uganda last month, we were privileged to meet Ssentongo, a man disabled by cerebral malaria and no longer able to walk or stand. For the past several years, he got around by crawling, using discarded shoes to protect his hands.

Thankfully, our GAIN International shipment contained several P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transportation) Carts, designed to help disabled people traverse the rugged pathways so common in developing countries. After a few minutes of instruction, Ssentongo was pedaling around and smiling, "Before, I used to crawl on my hands and when it rained, I would be stained with mud. Sometimes, I would be injured but now, I will be able to work more vigorously!"

Blessings,

JOHNNIE HARGROVE | GAIN GLOBAL AID NETWORK



DIRECTOR'S DESK:

"PRODUCTION AND SHIPPING COSTS INCREASE, BUT NEED IS STABLE"

As the first 5 months end, Columbia has built 594 PETs and shipped 760. More and more before each load ships we think first: Do we need to send repair parts to this country? As an aging business we are repairing carts as well as sending new ones. More funds are demanded for this endeavor. PET International heard this need and after much thought decided to increase the requested donation for one PET to \$300.00. From the beginning our founders set the price at \$250.00 and it has sufficed until now. For instance, trucking costs are taking a bigger share of the pie, we recently sent 132 PETs to San Diego for Vietnam for \$3,950 or \$29.92 per PET.

Columbia strives to gain more and more donated parts to help out. EXLTUBE Steel Company in Kansas City is donating steel tubing to help build frames. Hubbell Power Systems build and galvanizes steel brackets. Our long time frame makers, Tom and Dallas Andrew brothers in Ohio, are stepping away after building 20,963 frames for six PET affiliates. Columbia will begin making frames locally this summer.

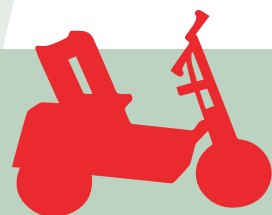
Building PETs continues to evolve but one item is stable. Many persons crawling around still need mobility. We need your help and by the grace of God we are making an impact one person at a time.

96 YEAR OLD HELPS HIS BROTHER IN NEED

ANYBODY AT ANY AGE CAN RAISE FUNDS FOR A PET.

A \$250 check arrived from an estate with this note from South Carolina. This is just one way of many that our supporters are coming up with to provide another needed PET. We are grateful for all of your ideas and generosity.

"Men on Missions have been collecting aluminum cans and recycling them and collecting pocket change and donations to get this amount. The man who was in charge of this project in our church, Dallas Simmons Cone, Jr., age 96, passed away January 18, 2015. He was so interested in trying to get enough money for a cart."

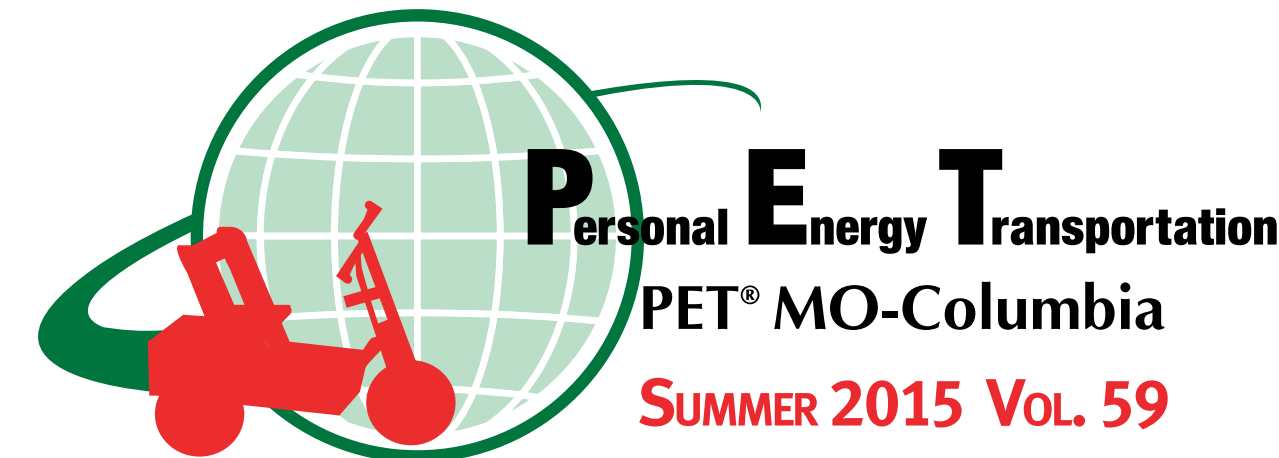


"The beauty of a person's life is only an activity done with an unselfish intention for anyone in his life."

- Anuj Somany



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EXCITED KOMBO EXCHANGES BROKEN WHEELCHAIR FOR A PET.

"THE NORMAL WHEELCHAIR THAT WE'RE USED TO IS QUITE INADEQUATE IN THE ROUGH TERRAIN WHERE WE LIVE."

Mr. Lenz is a new distribution partner. He works with New Tribes Mission based in PA. We are so grateful to Levi for his efforts & report and your donations to change Kombo's life. Let's partner together to assist the Levi's of the world.



"Dear Gift of Mobility,

I want to thank you for your ministry. This week I was able to give Kombo a PET device to help him gain some long-lost independence. Kombo, now in his late 40s, has been paralyzed most of his life. When he was a young boy he lost the use of his legs due to some kind of illness and has been highly reliant on people to push him around from place to place. The normal wheelchair that we're used to is quite inadequate in the rough terrain where we live. Every morning someone from Kombo's family will push him out to the village market near his house where he spends most of his day. Until now, if he desired to go any further, he would have to pay someone to push him as nothing is done for free or out of sheer compassion. The seat of his current wheel chair having worn out a long time ago has been improvised by fastening plastic stock feed type bags to the frame and replacing them as they wear out. The rubber on the wheels having been worn out for a couple of years now, have been filled with branches off coffee trees to fill in the space and then wrapped tightly with strips of rubber inner tube to secure them to the rims.

Kombo was very excited to receive his new PET and the community gathered to see him give it a try. Kombo's house is located a short distance away from where we live, but some of his family members have invited us to come and teach them God's Word. Our prayer is that this PET will be a tool that will draw Kombo, his family, and many others from the community to come and hear the teaching when we are able to do it. Thank you again for your part.

At His Service and For His Glory,

Levi Lenz, New Tribes Mission, Papua New Guinea"

"Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver."

- Barbara de Angelis

CELEBRATION OF 50,000 PET PRODUCED SINCE 1994

COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND OTHER PET FRIENDS JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION



The celebration event was well attended by Columbia Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors (in the gold jackets) and PET MO-Columbia volunteers (many in blue PET 20th Anniversary shirts), as well as three broadcast media personalities. At the ceremony Gary Moreau, Executive Director, and Mel West, PET Founder, cut the ribbon while onlookers said "Let's build 50,000 more!" People took tours, some rode PETs, a volunteer played music, and many enjoyed refreshments provided by volunteers. The three media celebrities raced PETs. One gave a report at the end of his news broadcast that evening. We include some event pictures here to also give you a peek at the shop and warehouse if you have not made it here yet.

Come visit us. The shop is generally open Monday to Friday 8 am to 3 pm. Or call ahead.



THANKS TO YOU, SAN RAMÓN IS DECLARED 100% MOBILE!

RAINBOW NETWORK IN NICARAGUA SENDS MOBILITY UPDATE ON ONE OF THEIR NETWORKS.



"Imagine the only way you could get from one place to another was to crawl along the dirt floor or have someone carry you. Your legs would not move or support you. You could only go a short distance and never see much beyond your small mud and stick hut. That is exactly some people's lives in rural Nicaragua.

Now with donations from PET and many other partners, Rainbow Network shipped 250 wheelchairs, 200 canes and 25 PETs to Nicaragua. After the distribution by our staff, the first of the seven networks, San Ramón, is declared 100% mobile! Whether the people are walking using a cane for support, using a PET or a wheelchair to maneuver themselves around, every individual in that network that was recently unable to get around by themselves, now can." April 2015

HONDURAN CHILDREN ARE RESTORED

FUNDACIÓN RUTH PAZ HANDS OUT CHILD PETs TO THOSE IN NEED.



MedShare has been a distribution partner for several years now and we have shipped them many loads to either GA or CA warehouses. They gather medical supplies and send around the world to partner agencies. Here is their latest report coming from Honduras this time.

April 2015 "Hi Von, attached are two photos we just received from our partners in Honduras, Fundación Ruth Paz, which is a children's charity that runs a hospital, a clinic, and other health related projects in San Pedro Sula. These children and their parents are so happy with their child PETs that they received from the container shipped by MedShare in January from our San Leandro, CA facility! Can you please share these materials with your affiliates, especially those who donate PETs to MedShare's Western Regional Distribution Center?"

AMANDA PANIAGUA, SHIPMENTS MANAGER | MEDSHARE

ANOTHER PET CART DELIVERED BY ROTARY IN PANAMA



I am happy to report the donation of another PET in Panama City. The beneficiary was 72 years old Jorge Sernam, who was disabled due to a malpractice operation. He works in the streets of Panama by providing shoe shining services. Now with his new found mobility, he is able to travel easier from his modest home to the locations where people know him and request his services.

We are very glad to help people like Jorge have a better and more dignified life, thanks to these PET chairs.

Regards from Panama,

VICENTE A PASCUAL | ROTARY CLUB OF PANAMA

(PETs provided by the Rotary Clubs of Central Missouri in 2013)



MEL'S COLUMN:

"THE PAIN, THE PASSION, THE PURPOSE!"

Representative Elijah Cummings, during the recent burning of his hometown, Baltimore, made a statement of which I took note. "First, we must feel the pain," he said, "then we find a passion, and then we discover our purpose." Simple, yet profound.

It must start by feeling the pain. Empathy it is called. "The ability to share in another's emotions or feelings," according to Webster. Some people seem to be born with it, or into a family that communicates empathy. The book, "A Path Appears," by Kirstof and WuDunn, tells of nine year old Rachael Beckwith who heard at church about people lacking clean water. She immediately turned her next birthday party into a fund raiser for a water project instead of gifts for herself. That project grew into one that had a \$1,265,000 budget. Rachael felt a pain, had a passion, and found her purpose.

Some have life experiences that enable them to easily understand the pain of others. One of the first passionate supporters of PET was a man in Ohio who himself was a polio victim. Other such supporters of PET have a leg-handicapped person in their family.

Some are like Steve Baima, a long-time supporter and volunteer who went on one PET distribution trip and came back with a passion and a purpose. Almost everyone who goes on a distribution follows that process.

PET is a success because many hear folks like Steve tell the story, or read about it, or see our video, feel the pain, and find a passion and their purpose.

Day by day our world is made into a better place to live because of individuals who follow the process outlined by Rep. Cummings. They see or hear about the pain of persons who are hungry, homeless, ill, poverty-stricken, lonely, in prison, or otherwise disenfranchised. They have empathy, passion, and find a purpose for their lives which is greater than they.

Our scriptures tell of a fellow name Jesus who saw people in pain, and "had compassion for them," and acted. It cost Him His life, and some of us are His followers.

- MEL WEST, DIRECTOR EMERITUS



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

SARAH HILL MAKES TIME TO VOLUNTEER

Long time PET advocate, Sarah Hill, makes time to post Facebook and Twitter news to benefit PET. She has traveled to video PET events and is planning another trip most likely to Africa. Sarah serves on our Board and pedals PETs in parades. As a past news anchor she brings media experience to all aspects of PET life. Her presence with Veterans United Mortgage Co opens and brings other helpers to load trucks and overseas shipping containers. PET Columbia is fortunate to have her as a volunteer.

PET IS PLANNING A VOLUNTEER TRIP TO GUATEMALA

Jeff and Barbara Moran will be leading another PET cart distributon trip to Guatemala, Feb 27-March 6, 2016. If interested in this wonderful experience contact Jeff/Barbara at scimusic@tranquility.net.

GIFTS GIVEN LAST QUARTER



We appreciate all the donors and families who have chosen PET 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:

- Bill Bass by Ernest & Patricia Hilderbrand, Mike Gentzsh, Joseph & Kim Gorman, Larry & Aileen Garvin, Midwest Woodworkers Association
- Caroline Smith, Annie Lopez, Ed Martian, Biddo & Helen Cosner by Donna Wagner
- Jean Jones by First United Methodist Presbyterian Church & Pairs and Spares Class
- Merlin Ackerson by Helen Ackerson
- Aunt Charlene Brownwood by Christine & Ron Houser
- Mary Beales by James Beales
- Shirley Clark by Mel & Barbara West, Mary Russell
- Kathryn Erisman by Weldon & Edra Beach
- Dr. John Ed Harris & Dr. Donald Kreutzer by James Taylor
- Colin Gulsby by Frank & Betsy Pratt
- Rev. Kenneth Hughes by Mrs. Dorothy Dale Hughes
- Lee Don Jones by Dolores Swaney
- Steven E. Simon by Patricia Simon
- Jennie Pearl Sims by Marylin Sudbrock
- K K Young by Carolyn Young

GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR

- Ruthie & Chris Holloway, Sandy Dolezal, Mary Jo Doores, Sandy McKim, Ed & Karen Price, Steve & Beverly Sage, Ken Kimminau, Nancy Deutch, Carroll
- Rinker, Renee Williams, Janet Wilson, Joan Martin, and Frank & Marion Montesano by Patricia Simon
- Grace Elliott's birthday by Lois & C. R. Elliott
- Wanda Evans by John Evans
- Rev. Cliff Furness and Family by Leanne Trebilcock
- Dan Korreect, Lindsey Korreect & Cameron Korreect birthdays by Jeanette Korreect
- John & Peggy Endley by The Matlocks
- Mike & Terin Forsee by Joseph & Oleta Forsee
- Tina Graue by Bellflower United Methodist Church
- Jim Lacker by Pete Lacker
- Elizabeth Marshall by Hye Jong Song
- Bob McConnell by Deborah Ann Sanders
- Pauline Rueter by Tom & Mary Buhkuhl
- Shirley Russo birthday by Charlotte Carey
- Jim Sandfry and Crew by Pairs & Spares Sunday School class @ First United Methodist Presbyterian Church
- Mel & Barbara West by Sass & Yvonne Tracy
- Susan West by Mike & Kate Blain



CONTACT US



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