



Brazos Valley P. E. T. News



Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2012

From the January 2012 Ship (Shelter the Homeless International Project) Newsletter

There are various ways you might get from one place to another if you couldn't walk – have someone carry you, crawl, use crutches or a wheelchair – or you could get a P.E.T.! And that's just what two boys at the orphanage received in December – their own P.E.T., or personal energy transportation vehicle.

The **Brazos Valley P.E.T. Project** (<http://petbrazosvalley.org/>) built and donated two P.E.T. vehicles for Tomás and Manuel, who have muscular dystrophy and have been wheelchair bound for a long time. According to its website, this worldwide organization “seeks to reflect the love of Jesus Christ by bringing mobility and dignity to those in developing countries who are unable to walk” – and they certainly have done that with this donation! They began producing these vehicles in Bryan in 2009.

These sturdy vehicles are hand-cranked and have proven to be successful in most conditions. They use wheelbarrow wheels and solid rubber tires so there are no flat tires. They also have a front wheel brake that can be used for parking or slowing down when going downhill.



Manuel and Tomás were delighted when they received this gift and learned how it worked. The P.E.T. allows them not only to get from one place to another with their own upper body strength, but it provides them with needed exercise and increases their flexibility and stabilization. As you can see in the pictures, there is a place behind the seat where they can carry things – and sometimes, those “things” are little kids who live at the orphanage! The boys are certainly enjoying this new mode of transportation.

Thank you to the **Brazos Valley P.E.T. Project**. You've given these boys a gift that is making such a difference in their day-to-day living, and we are grateful for your generosity.

Lions International

The support of the Lions Clubs in Central Texas has been instrumental in keeping our operation moving forward. Various Lions Clubs have not only supported our local affiliate with financial contributions, but they have also assisted the shop with time and talents.

The "Tail Twister" made by Chester Jones-Bryan, Texas.



The Lion Tail Twister have become popular among the Various Lions Clubs throughout the United States. Interest has come from not only Texas, but from as far away as Oregon and Alaska. Information on the building a Tail Twister Lion may be obtained from Chester Jones at the P.E.T. shop in Bryan.



Dick Witherite is a frequent volunteer at the shop. He is a member of the Brazos Valley P.E.T. Board of Directors, and is a past Director of the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville, Tx.

Veterans at work

In January, members of the BV P.E.T. made a presentation to the Military Officers Association of America in Bryan, Tx. This was the result of several retired military officers that volunteer their time at the shop. Joe Schuster, a frequent volunteer and Retired Colonel, arranged to have this presentation done.



Tom Mosley (retired Navy) is also a frequent shop worker.

Any group, church, or organization that would like to have a presentation done, please contact us and let us tell you of the fulfilling experience to give the gift of mobility to those in third world countries that presently are incapacitated.

P.E.T.s At Work

In 2011 we were able to ship 307 units to various countries. In some instances pictures have been sent to PET International by the recipients. Please visit the PET International site at: petinternational.org or our local site at: [HTTP://:petbrazosvalley.org](http://petbrazosvalley.org) to see these updates.

P.E.T.'s Spotted

The Rock Center with Brian Williams on NBC did a story of lobster divers in Central America that had lost the use of their legs due to divers disease (the bends). In the piece there were several PETs being driven by some of these men.



Help Wanted

We are always looking for volunteers to work In the shop. Presently, we are in need of an interested volunteer to assist with Administrative duties, such as helping with the production of Newsletters , Web site design, and communications with donors.

On the Horizon

April 3 will be a big day for the BV P.E.T. shop. We are scheduled to ship 84 units that day. They will become part of a larger shipment that is being done in conjunction with Operation Handclasp with the US Navy and will be sent to Nigeria.



Notes from the Board of Directors

The board of directors for the Brazos Valley P.E.T. Project, Inc. now includes members from, FUMC Bryan, St. Luke's UMC Bryan, TA&M UMC College Station, Christ UMC College Station, Aldersgate UMC College Station and 1st Presbyterian of Bryan.

We are enthusiastic that this board will be able to expand the goals of BV P.E.T. by providing more materials and support to our volunteers working at the shop.

A second grant from the Moody Methodist Foundation of Galveston, Tx. was applied for and granted this spring. The grant for \$25,000 was the second and final grant that will be awarded by this foundation to assist our organization. This has been accomplished in part by bringing together churches and individuals from the community that realize the importance of giving people the gift of mobility.

The new Board of Directors will be making more frequent contacts with various churches, organizations, and individuals sponsoring us, by use of newsletters, presentations, plus having an active e-mail address for communications – petbrazosvalley@petbrazosvalley.org, and our website www.petbrazosvalley.org

Visit us as we will make a valiant attempt to keep you informed.

If you wish to donate please fill out the form below. We encourage you to add your address / e-mail address so we may keep you informed through newsletters, e-mails and our website www.petbrazosvalley.org

Yes, I want to help!!!

\$ _____ for _____ P.E.T.'s @ \$250.00

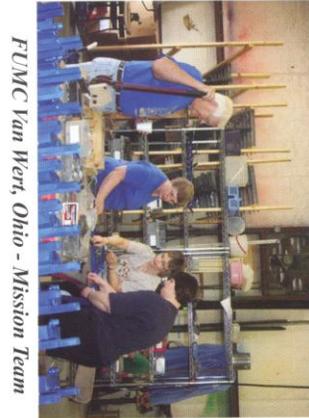
\$ _____ toward purchase of a P.E.T.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____



FUMC Van Wert, Ohio - Mission Team

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Bryan, TX 77803

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