



# Mobility Ministries, Inc.

— an Indiana Affiliate of Mobility Worldwide

SUMMER 2017

## YOUR Commitment Brings HOPE!

Wilson Tembo of the **Malawi Project** tells government officials in Malawi:

*"We have vowed to help disabled children with mobility support so they can have access to Education and become Productive members of our community. The partnership between the Malawi Project and Mobility Ministries in Demotte, IN is good for so many people."*

**Matowe Village, Malawi** — Ibrahima has never traveled more than 2 km from his home, except when going to school or a nearby medical facility. His only means of mobility through the dust, stones and mud has been crawling, or being carried by his brother. It's not surprising that his knees have sores on them. When others went to



Sporting or community events, he was glued to his house, always missing out on the fun.

Unlike so many who give up because they feel they can do nothing in life, Ibrahima followed a different course; he managed to struggle his way up the ladder of education, finishing his final class at the Danga private school.

Several months ago Wilson Tembo of the **Malawi Project** brought him a new Mobility Cart to help him complete his schooling and to ease his brother's work load.

*"Next time you come, I will be at the football game cheering!" Ibrahima promised.*

Now as Ibrahima faces the challenge of moving beyond his tiny village to get a job and start supporting himself, he has a lighter heart and excitement about the future.



*"I will be able to start a small business," he beamed, because of this gift of mobility.*

[This is the first Cart of 400 Mobility Carts made and shipped to Malawi since September, 2016 through a co-operative program between **Mobility Ministries** and the **Malawi Project**.]

### Our Mission Statement

*To reflect the love of Jesus Christ by bringing MOBILITY and DIGNITY to those in developing countries who are unable to walk.*

## REVERSIBLE CRANKS = MORE POWER!



### *“How can we make our carts better for the Recipient?”*

This question is always driving our local ministry. Over the past year, there have been several minor and major changes made to the basic Mobility Cart. Through research and hands-on experience it was discovered that having the crank arms together (*synchronous*) rather than opposite each other (*asynchronous*) provided the rider with **more power** to go up inclines and through rocky or muddy terrain. But with this new configuration the rider does use more back muscles, and for some recipients this might be too strenuous. So the concept of a **reversible crank** was devised—allowing the Recipient to make a choice for what will help them the most!

As we look forward to the future, we know we need to make the Mobility Carts lighter, so we are working on a prototype that may be 25 lbs. lighter and more durable, by using plastics to replace wood. That is in the future, but we are heading in that direction. This will make every pedal stroke for every rider much easier!

### ***Our Connection with the African Country of Malawi is Growing!***

In Sept. 2016 we sent our first Container of Mobility Carts to Malawi for distribution by the **Malawi Project**, a Christian ministry headquartered in Indianapolis. In May 2017, a second Container was loaded and shipped—it is scheduled to arrive in Malawi the first week of August; **this will total more than 400 Carts** that Wilson Tembo will be distributing to the leg-disabled in one of the poorest countries in Eastern Africa. It is exciting to be a part of this very experienced organization having a history of more than 20 years in Malawi — an organization that does not allow the government to exercise its influence in the aid being distributed, and an organization that has a highly trained Malawi citizen as manager working full time in Malawi to assist with education, hospital supplies, agricultural programs, and much more! They have requested a third Container in November!

**Now mobility aid for the disabled is becoming an even higher priority for the Malawi Project.** We are encouraging them to become the coordinating organization to unite many disability outreaches all across Malawi and to develop a strong distribution network to provide for Cart repairs and servicing. Dick & Suzie Stephens are the Executive Directors, and our relationship is growing significantly—**they are excited, and so are we!**



Suzie & Dick Stephens

How about you putting these pallets by the steel workers instead of by us packers?

HEY, I CAN HARDLY GET MY JOB DONE WITH ALL THESE BOXES—

YEAH, WE NEED MORE SPACE!

# Expansion?

Even a large manufacturing facility can be short of space. With 140 boxed Mobility Carts already on 23 pallets, and an additional 50 more Carts to be completed for the next container shipment (7 more pallets), the Workshop becomes a bit crowded! Our Volunteers get a little cranky—in a *friendly* sort of way—because they want to do their job well!

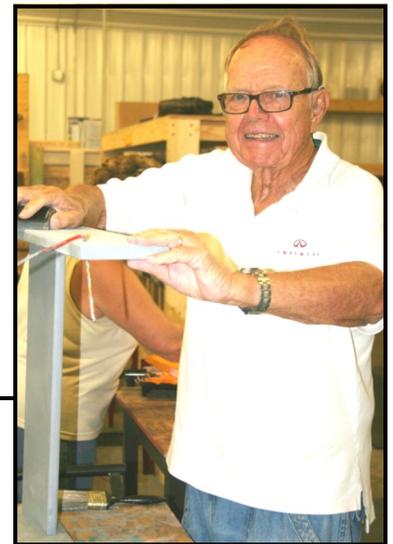
The solution: purchase two 20 ft. shipping containers for storage (each will hold 66 carts) and ask the professionals (*and good friends*) at **CheEVERS Towing** to set the containers in place for us. Now when the next empty 40 ft. shipping container arrives, the Carts are at the loading dock, ready to be fork-lifted into the container.



## Volunteers Now with Jesus



A sander and painter, **Ted Hathaway** started back in 2012 and was always a talkative bright spot in the Painting Crew and much appreciated by his Thursday crew because he tackled all the sanding that needed to be done. Due to a fall at his home a few years ago, he was disappointed he was not able to return to his duties at the Shop. On May 10, 2017 God took him home.



**Wally Wyman** started packing Carts in early 2012 when we opened our doors! In February, Wally turned 95 and his Packing Crew told him they were going to celebrate his birthday with or without him! Even though he was still recovering from hip surgery, Wally made sure he was there to eat the goodies and give his encouragement: "Keep making the Carts better!" Wally entered heaven on May 20, 2017.

*We received many wonderful donations to honor Ted and Wally's lives. Thank you!*

## Mutual Encouragement



**DeMotte, IN** — This past year the children of Bethel Church were challenged to raise money for Mobility Ministries. They rode Mobility Carts and watched videos of people who were crawling, or struggling to walk, being given a cart. It made an impact on the kids—they wanted to help! At the end of their season, the Counselors of the GEMS and Cadet Clubs surprised them with fieldtrips to our Workshop to learn how the carts were made. They learned that several of the volunteer workers at the Shop were people who go to their church (a few of them even had grandparents there). At the end of their visits, the kids presented the Volunteers with checks and cards thanking the Shop workers for helping the disabled. The Volunteers in turn encouraged the kids to continue caring about others and making a difference! They raised money to build and ship **4 Carts to 4 people** in Malawi!



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**Swaziland** — She arrived at sunset, slowly and painfully pushing her wheelchair, her legs injured from an auto accident. She patiently waited for someone to notice her and hopefully give her a Mobility Cart. Her patience and gratefulness were rewarded. ***Because of donors like you, this determined woman will be able to return to her job and support herself and her family!***

*Mobility Ministries, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.  
All gifts to Mobility Ministries, Inc. are tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.*