**Mel’s Column:**

**“PEts Create Personality”**

As Seun Oke’s visit ended here I wrote: “Thanks to those who worked so hard and did such a good job of making Seun’s visit and tour to the USA such a meaningful and memorable experience for PET. I am highly pleased. We got to know rather well a PET recipient as a human being with the same kinds of dreams, hopes, problems and joys as the rest of us. We saw a wonderful African lady who is determined to make her mark in the world despite a physical problem (that) would have many of us reeling. And we see the role of PET in making it possible for her to achieve that.”

“Now, as we roll PETs off the assembly line we can realize that they are going to the “Seuns” of the world – to those who cannot walk.”

**Personal Energy Transportation**

**PET® MO-Columbia**

**Winter 2015 Vol. 57**

PET International arranged for her trip to coincide with the PI tenth anniversary. The annual conference recognized Larry Hill, Mel West, and the family of Earl Miner. Seun charmed many crowds as she shared her determination story about independence.

Seun Oke has great plans to help more Seuns of this world. Thanks so much to everyone that made this little girl’s miracle possible.

**YOUR gifts made it possible for a little girl to receive a Pull PET**

Karen,

“Remember OGT (Orphan Grain Train) sent us the PULL-PET and I was not sure what to do with it! We visited to a new location last week in Haiti. At the school there was the little girl who could not walk but had to be carried everywhere. Her legs never developed probably due to malnourishment of the mother while carrying her. Well, we brought school supplies and Mercy Meals to the school and also the PULL-PET. Now the little girl is like a little princess on the throne. They love it and it helps the mother so much as to not to have to carry her but pull her in the PET. The man pulling her in the below photo is Pastor Bruno, Director of the school.”

**A PET to Nigeria: 10 Years Ago, Revisited**

PET® MO-Columbia went a PET Home with Nigerian Seun Oke over 10 years ago after she had surgery in Chicago. Through the special efforts of PET International Seun spent 5 weeks in Missouri, Texas, and Florida from September 29 to November 3 to tell her life story.

Seun revealed her determination to live an active life. She overcame paralysis from polio to gain her education. Her grandmother used to “pack” Seun to school on her back. Once the PET came available she became independent. She made it through 3 levels of Nigerian education over 16 years.

With help of friends she used determination to land work in the city offices of OgbeMedo. She takes the PET to the bus stop and to the front door of her office. She made a wheelchair to navigate her office space.

While in the Columbia shop, Seun learned how to drill and screw together wood parts so she could improve her old PET. She took home a box of parts. Quickly after returning home she fixed the old PET and gave it away. She had a new style seat PET to take home and the airline checked it for free.

**CoMoGives.com**

**PET Participates in Community Foundation in December**

CoMoGives Community Foundation of Central Missouri is just another way to donate to PET MO-Columbia. The CoMoGives campaign has a primary goal to facilitate year-end giving to a cross-section of Columbia/Bates County nonprofit organizations. This campaign includes a publication which will be mailed in the Columbia Daily Tribune in mid November 2014 and a website describing how to make a donation.

PET MO-Columbia is one of 12 nonprofits operated by the Community Foundation of Central Missouri which you can choose to make an easy credit card donation of $10 or more. Gifts can be made between December 1 and December 31, 2014.

This year a total of $8,000 is available for challenge grants. Each organization is eligible to win one of eight grants ranging from $100 to $5,000. Categories include agencies with: 1) highest total of donations, 2) highest number of donors under age thirty-five, 4) most donations of $250 or more, and 5) a second place finish for each of the above categories.

Please watch for this campaign and let your friends know about supporting PET during December with a donation.

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**Why PETs are Needed:**

**LOCAL ROTARY CLUBS PROVIDE MOBILITY IN PANAMA**

“The man with disabled legs pictured (left) is from Colon Province, Panama. He earns his income by selling newspapers from his Personal Energy Transportation cart.”

Local Rotary members help distribute the PET carts at no cost to those who cannot walk.”

**Your personal truth is your gift to the world.”**

-Jennifer Elisabeth

**Presented by **

**PET® MO-Columbia**

1508 Hartford Rd

Columbia, MO 65202

United States of America
Your Gift of Independence & Mobility:

Volunteer Spotlight:

“WHEN ALONE, SERVE OTHERS FOR COMFORT”

Friday morning in the shop is filled by two persons each who lost spouses and find helping to comfort to be fulfilling. Lorraine Penman, 84, lost her husband 14 years ago after supporting him during his ministry. She has traveled in guatemala, New Zealand, Hawaii, and Morocco.

Carl Springer, 78 years young, found himself alone 3.5 years ago. Carl brings his mechanical engineering experience as a tool engineer from Honduras and Kentucky.

Director’s Desk:

“Giving Season is Upon Us!”

At year’s end begins to wind down, let us review the PET progress for the year. The shop is on track to assemble 1,350 PETs by March 31st. That is a miracle gift for all those who will receive that gift of mobility around the world. A recent shipment of 135 PETs to Tanzania costs $37.00 per PET. Shipping has become a larger expense for each PET. We would consider adding the shipping charge at our cost to keep the cost lowered. The suggested donation of $250.00 has not changed since PET began. We will be able to hold the line in 2015.

Dumsani Dlamini came to a Luke Commission mobile hospital outreach to see the doctor and hopefully to receive some medications for his aches and pains.

He came “driving” his PET car, though the road was especially muddy that day. “Long as the chain is ground, I’m fine,” he laughed.

The 40-year-old Swazi has not been able to walk since birth. Last year when TLC came to his community, he was given a PET so he could be a little more independent and move around on his own.

He did not go to school. He is not married. “I’ve retired cars for him, but one is not well itself. One has a hole.”

Dumsani travels 3 kilometers a day in his PET car.

“This trip is good for me,” he said. “I have another type of wheelchair that has small wheels and is not so good on my homestead.”

Dumsani also has learned to use crutches to go over-shoesteps. He “pedals” his PET with his hands and arms.

“Thank you for helping me,” he repeated several times, after Dr. Harry treated his “pedals” his PET with his hands and arms.

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