

Mobility Matters



The Gift of Mobility, The Gift of Hope.



Former Style

Spring, 2014

The PET Count

As of May 1, 2014:

Made/Packed here: **461**

Shipped to Partners: **390**

Worldwide Need: **15 mil.**

Other Affiliates in US: **22**

New Style PET is Now in Production

Wheatfield, IN — The off-road wheelchair known as a PET cart (PET stands for Personal Energy Transportation) has undergone some major changes.

The idea of a cart that could be pedaled with your hands instead of your feet and also provide mobility through rocky or sandy terrain came about in 1994 when Larry Hills, a missionary to Zaire, witnessed a woman crawling on her belly through 5 foot tall grass with a little baby strapped to her back. He came upon her by surprise and almost stepped on her. Larry had seen other disabled people during his

time in Zaire, but often they were hidden away and said to be cursed.

Partnering with two other Christian men with vision and engineering abilities, the first vehicle known as a PET cart was born in 1996.

During the next 20 years, the vehicle now known as PET has seen multiple changes — always with the idea of becoming better suited to the recipient, more easily repaired if broken down, and with a better ability to go where wheelchairs are not able to go.

In the fall of 2013, the Board of PET International man-

dated that each PET affiliate follow the newest changes to the PET design. Besides removing the front sideboard so a person could easily crawl into the cart, the seats were redesigned to provide adjustability and cushioning that will help prevent pressure sores.

Field reports were coming back that often people who use PET carts were sitting in them from 6 to 16 hours a day. Since many have little feeling in their lower bodies, they would not reposition themselves and consequently pressure sores could easily develop. If those sores become infected, they could

lead to death.

So, our workshop began making the necessary changes and it has been a *challenging* few months! Templates and workstations have been re-tooled to produce this new style of PET cart. The shop volunteers have had to learn new procedures and have undergone some retraining. As of the end of April, the transition has been made and the new PETs are in production. If you or your organization would like a tour of our shop to see these changes, call us at

(219) 789-8617

We welcome your visit!



January Open House — on a cold but sunny afternoon, supporters from as far as Indianapolis came to tour the new facility, meet the many volunteers, and dedicate this ministry to God's glory. All were delighted to hear first hand accounts of some of the people who receive our PET carts.

Ted Hoekstra, as winner of the afternoon's drawing, received a cap with our PET logo. Despite reactions from the crowd, he proudly chose his favorite colors for the next assembled PET cart — red box, blue seatback, lavender seat, and green front fork!



Marv Van Schouwen and Marv Fase enjoy working in the packing area on Tuesday mornings as they prepare bags of hardware and clean various packing materials to accompany each boxed PET.



Volunteer Painter Sandy Morris: "I just love coming here every week. I have always wanted to be involved in missions and this is a good fit for me. It makes it all worth it when I see a picture of a smiling person sitting on their new PET."



Our Mission Statement

PET (Personal Energy Transportation) seeks to reflect the love of Jesus Christ by bringing the gift of mobility and dignity to those in developing countries who are unable to walk.

A Word about Finances

We continue to be thankful for the financial support of individuals, families, businesses, schools and churches who partner with us. In particular, our building is almost entirely paid for due to the generosity of many of our suppliers, contractors, and individuals who are committed to providing help to neglected and disadvantaged people in developing nations.

To provide *Sustainability*, we are introducing the **PET 300 Club**

with the hope that **300 donors** would each donate \$250 per year for 1 PET, so our workshop would be able to continue making 5 PET carts per week. This would allow this ministry to be sustainable—then any additional funding would allow us to produce even more PETs!

Contact Jay Bykerk at (219) 987-3999 or email the PET office at petdemotte@gmail.com for further details.

Thank you!
Thank you!!
Thank you!!!
This shop couldn't produce PETs
without all of you donors.
You are essential!!

PET Ministries, Inc.

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Phone: (219)789-8617 E-mail: petdemotte@gmail.com
Check us out at petdemotte.org

Special Visitors

- * Approx. 260 visitors to our January, 2014 Open House
- * Cub Scout Pack #3157 of DeMotte
- * 6th Grade Faithwalkers from Community Christian Reformed Church
- * Adult Sunday School Class from Nappanee, IN
- * Ed McDonald, Executive Director of PET International
- * Friends and family members of our Volunteers



Haiti — This PET cart is one of 10 of our carts delivered to Haiti in 2012. It has been modified by the *Medical Teams International* distribution partner to serve as a Snack Cart for its recipient. This person will be able to have employment as her or she can now add racks along the side rails to display items such as gum, candy, chips, and the like.

Another life changed!