



PET FLORIDA REPORT

from Penney Farms

The Gift of Mobility — The Gift of Hope

Volume 51 — Fall — September 2016

The handcranked “wheelchair” that goes where ordinary wheelchairs can’t go.

PET Florida Has Grown Because of You!

Growth Over the Years

When PET Florida began in 2001, only three PETs were produced in its first year, all going to just one country.

By 2006, partnering with Mobility Worldwide, formerly PET International, and the 23 other PET sites across the United States, shipments went to 58 countries, including Uzbekistan. (See story at the top of page 2.)

By the summer of 2016, the number of countries receiving PET shipments reached an impressive 103. Three new countries added in 2016 were Burkina Faso and Mauritius in Africa and in Asia, Myanmar, formerly Burma. (See the other story on page 2.)

News Flash

Mobility Worldwide is the new name for PET International. Presently it is still accessed online through petinternational.org.

Come help us celebrate the opening of the new Metal Shop.

Open House at PET Florida
Saturday, October 8, 2016
9:00 a.m. until Noon



Look How We've Grown

Vision: 2006–2008

In 2006, the PET Penney Farms Board of Directors authorized the construction of a new facility, and Penney Retirement Community trustees offered land for \$10 a year. By 2008 PET Florida was enjoying the completed building with its increased space and efficiency.



The PET Florida building, new in 2008.

Progress: 2012

A warehouse was added to accommodate PETs produced at PET Florida as well as those ready for shipment from other PET sites. Immediately it was one-third full! We also celebrated the gift of an electric forklift from the Rotary Club of Orange Park that allowed for shipping in containers rather than individually.



2012: With the electric forklift, shipments from the new warehouse could be made in containers.

Celebration: 2016

In August 2016 a major expansion to the new Metal Shop was completed. Important for the eye safety of all, welders work in their own room, separate from the machinists. Don't forget to come to the Metal Shop Open House October 8!



2016: Welding in the new Metal Shop.

A Lesson Learned Ten Years Ago in Uzbekistan

Trip to Uzbekistan

In 2006 Ray and Shirley Truhn from Galien, Michigan, helped distribute a shipment of PETs in Uzbekistan. This was especially meaningful to the Truhns because Ray was one of several men scattered throughout the United States who made metal parts for PETs.

As the PETs were being assembled in Uzbekistan, some key nuts and bolts were found missing. Even with Ray's skill as a master craftsman, the PETs remained unusable. You can imagine the disappointment the prospective recipients and their families experienced.

The result, however, is that thereafter the assembly hardware was counted twice. Currently, fewer parts need to be packed, but, even so, the assembly hardware bag is not packed until "RECOUNTED" is marked on it. Lesson learned!



Islombek riding his "free gift of mobility," his own PET.

Islombek's Story

The Truhns not only brought home a lesson to be learned, but they also brought home the story of Islombek, a 10-year-old PET recipient from Uzbekistan. Islombek was born with an open area on his leg that kept him from walking. His parents' best efforts proved futile. As Islombek grew and watched other children play, he realized he couldn't join them and became increasingly depressed.

Both Islombek and his parents were overjoyed when he finally received a PET. He took off riding it in no time. No more depression for Islombek or frustration for his parents. Once again a PET has made all the difference.



We are thankful for the Truhns and others like them who help us learn from onsite visits and share wonderful stories of PET recipients. Do you have a story to share?

PET's Outreach Is Expanding

Three countries received PETs this year for the first time. Can you find them on a map?



Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa that has known great poverty, political upheaval, and widespread emigration. Look for more information in future newsletters about PET distribution there.



Mauritius

Mauritius is an island that lies east of Madagascar in the western Indian Ocean some 1,250 miles off the southwest coast of Africa. When a Special Olympics participant was identified as a potential PET recipient, an international Lion's Club responded to the need, providing the first PET to be used in Mauritius.



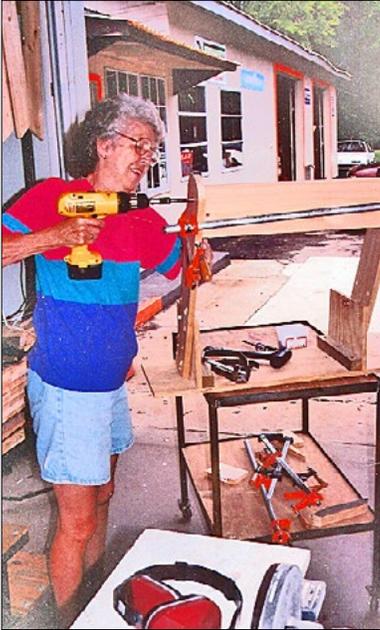
Myanmar

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, is located in a river delta ringed by a horseshoe of high mountains that isolates the country from India, China and Thailand. The economy is rich in natural resources, but wealth is limited to a few. Myanmar has known little peace since 1942. This year a few PETs found their way to Myanmar via Thailand through new partners, the Foundation to Encourage Potential of Disabled Persons and a local association for the disabled. We look forward to gathering more information to share with you at a later date.

Thanks to Everyone Who Makes PETs Possible

PET Florida continues to grow because of the efforts of many. As you continue to support PET through prayer, volunteering, telling the story of PET to others, and through monetary gifts, we are able to meet our yearly goal. In the year 2015–2016, PET Florida was able

to provide the gift of mobility to 800 handicapped people worldwide. We are also thankful to be in partnership with other PET sites, as well as Mobility Worldwide. Below are pictures of a few who make PETs possible.



Mary Beth Hunt, who has worked at PET from the beginning, represents shop volunteers who give of their time and talent. At age 92, Mary Beth continues to work weekly. For years she volunteered on Thursdays and said she thought PET meant "Party Every Thursday"!



Jim Kaelin, left, shop coordinator, with some Ridgeview High School Baccalaureate Program student volunteers. Yearly, 60–80 Ridgeview students come to PET Florida and share their talents.



Working from Fernandino Beach, these long-time partners provide PET Florida with about 400 metal parts monthly ready for assembly.



Von Driggs, left, Mobility Worldwide director of operations, who formerly worked with Mercy Ships, has assisted in distributing PETs in Sierra Leone and Swaziland. He finds committed, overseas partners who identify needy candidates for PETs.

PET DONATION FORM

NAME _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

If you prefer the newsletter via email, please request it by emailing your address to petflorida@bellsouth.net.

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GIFT OF: \$ _____ Operating Fund Special Events Memorial

In Honor of Birthday Anniversary Thanks Holidays

Please include name and address of honoree when special greetings should be sent.

SEND THE GIFT OF MOBILITY TO HONOR SOMEONE ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS!

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New Metal Shop Expansion Gifts

All gifts for the Metal Shop will be printed in the program
at the official opening on October 8, 2016.

In Memory of:

(Beginning May 1, 2016, through August 17, 2016)

Ruth Allman

from George Lutz

Claude Corbett

from Carl & Vivian Penno

John Dyke

from Janis Dyke

Topsy Ebling

from Warren Ebling

Edward Emack

from Jeannie Emack

Charlene Hall

from Hurston & Billie Sue Hall

John Heins

from Edith Heins

Marge Kary

from Paul & Nancy Elmore

Neil Koos

from Anne Koos

Sue McManus

from Wilma David; Barbara Chase

Ro Townsend

from Ted Townsend

In Honor of:

(Beginning May 1, 2016, through August 17, 2016)

Barbara Bull, Happy Birthday

from Nancy Moore

Shirley Edmondson

from Deloris Swift

Shirley Edmondson, Happy Birthday

from Judy Phillips

Ted Emack

from Jeannie Emack

Ted Emack, Happy Father's Day

from Brian & April Jourdan;

Mark Burnsed

Ted & Jeannie Emack

from Don & Lela Lohr

Dolly Hillman, Happy Birthday

from Bernice Daniel

Dick & Marge Hollowell,

50th Anniversary

from Meredith & Judith Ann Wilson

George Lutz, Happy Birthday

from Sherl Lynn Garrett

Gwenn McCormack

from Hiawatha Cook

Bob Rigel, Happy Birthday

from Karen Rigel

Jack Rumohr

Happy Birthday, Dad,

from David Rumohr

PET REPORT—
PENNEY FARMS, FL
is published four
times a year. PET
stands for Personal
Energy Transporta-
tion and provides
the gift of mobility to
people worldwide
who are leg disabled.
Our mission is to
reflect the love of
God by bringing
dignity to those in
developing countries
who are unable
to walk. For more
information see
www.petflorida.org.



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