



MOBILITY WORLDWIDE

Penney Farms, Florida

Providing Personal Energy Transportation (PET) carts that go where ordinary wheelchairs can't go.

Remembering

By Barbara Chase

While working on the PET archives this summer, I found a treasure chest full of stories of hope. Since receiving a PET, thousands of mobility impaired individuals have found hope *and* a new lease on life. These archived stories revealed Larry and Laura Hills' three-fold dream involving hand-cranked carts (see page 2):

1. to provide PET carts to those outside the U.S. in need of mobility because of illness, disease, birth defects, or landmines.
2. to provide meaningful volunteer work for senior citizens.
3. to develop a training center for those who wanted to start new affiliate shops across the United States.

This issue of Mobility Worldwide, Penney Farms, Florida, highlights how each of these goals have been met.

CELEBRATING MEANINGFUL WORK

Once a month, volunteers, mostly retired folks, who are involved in producing PET carts, meet for lunch in the dining room at Penney Retirement Community. It's a time to learn about recent Mobility Worldwide happenings and get better acquainted with each other.



Barbara Chase sharing at a monthly meeting of PET volunteers

Hearty laughter and pleasant conversation flow among the workers. Dessert and coffee signal a transition to business as Administrative Coordinator Barbara Chase begins her informative remarks.

Photos with stories of recipients are passed around; the volunteers hear about interaction with groups who are working with us; news and concerns about others may be shared; board news is reviewed.

Dave Quirk, purchasing coordinator, gives encouraging reports. Most recently, he related that our goal to produce 800 carts in the last fiscal year was met—and exceeded by 101 carts! He figured an average of 15.5 hours went into producing one cart, based on 13,965 total volunteer hours over 11 months.

As pleased as everyone is at successfully building carts, where they go and whom they impact

provides the motivation to keep on producing more. Dave reported that 400 carts were shipped out from Penney Farms in August. Carts going to Honduras numbered 160; the rest went to other parts of Central and South America. The shipping this time was handled by MedShare in Georgia and Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach in Springfield, Illinois. In September, 181 more went to Thailand.

Mobility Worldwide International and its affiliates have shipped carts to 104 countries. Penney Farms has sent carts to 47 of these countries.

Much is being accomplished for the mobility impaired in developing countries, and volunteers at Penney Farms rejoice that they are a part of this effort. The sense of unity, of pulling together to meet a common goal, is extremely gratifying.

THE BEGINNING OF PETS

Enjoy the following story gleaned from Mobility Worldwide's Penney Farms archives. It was a pivotal event for the development of Personal Energy Transportation carts in 1995 by Larry Hills and Mel West, co-founders, and Earl Minor, designer/engineer. Mama Kazeme's "cart" was the precursor to the carts we know today.

Mama Kazeme

Excerpts from a 2002 speech by Larry Hills

After my wife Laura and I completed 23 years as missionaries in Zambia, we were reassigned to the area around Lake Mweru in Zaire. One day I was wading through the 12-foot-high elephant grass when, to my surprise, I almost stepped on the head of a woman! She was sliding on her stomach in the grass, soaking wet from the morning dew. On her back rode a baby, a few months old. Two other children followed behind, about three and five years old.

Recovering from our mutual surprise, she introduced herself as Mama Kazeme. She explained polio had left her crippled at age 12. Did I know where she could get a hand-pedaled tricycle to help her get up out of the dirt?

She explained her husband, a Christian, had recently died and neither her family nor his were willing to aid her. She needed the tricycle to help care for her family. I told her we had them and asked her to wait where she was until I could return.

Thankfully, we had just received two. The tricycles were made with bicycle wheels appropriate for city streets, not rough country paths. When they broke, welding was required but was not readily available. I knew the tricycle would help, but it was not enough.



This tricycle is similar to the one Mama Kazeme received.

Larry Hills' personal belief that "no one is entitled to luxuries so long as anyone lacks necessities," reflects why he's devoted these many years to the development and promotion of PETs. He challenges everyone to multiply efforts until each person who needs a mobility cart has one.

THE HILLS' DREAM OF DEVELOPING AFFILIATES

The PET Project at Penney Farms, Florida, started in 2001: First in Larry Hills' garage, then in a corner area of a rented auto repair shop and, in 2008, on the campus of Penney Retirement Community (PRC) in a large, new warehouse.

Very soon after starting in 2001, a visitor of a PRC resident was introduced to the shop and immediately asked to be trained to open a shop in Luling, Texas. This marked the beginning of Larry and Laura Hills' ministry of training others to set up shops.

By 2004 there were five shops: Columbia, MO; Penney Farms, FL; Luling, TX; Tampa, FL; and Southwest, MO. It became evident that some kind of umbrella organization was needed because the Hills were spending their days at the Penney Farms shop



When the new warehouse opened at Penney Farms in 2008, this sign was on the building.

and evenings communicating with the developing shops.

In 2004, five directors of the existing shops and others, gathered to form an incorporated organization. Their goal was to establish standards, assist with transportation and distribution of carts, and help purchase materials more economically. They divided up the many organizational tasks and in 2005 PET International, Inc. was formed!

When Larry and Laura retired in 2010, they traveled the U.S. to visit more than 20 affiliates and to help establish more sites. Several years later, after many fruitful years of seeing their dream being realized, they "retired" again—but continue to tell the story, inspiring many to become faithful participants.

GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

“Make sure everyone who needs a cart has one!”

...Larry Hills

Producing mobility carts involves donors, volunteers, those who tell the story, and those who pray. Together we all have a significant role in producing them—but many more are still needed! Approximately 21 million individuals worldwide could use a cart like we produce. Here are some ideas how you can be involved:

- ✓ **Tell the story.**
All of our newsletters are on our website to help you gather stories. (www.mobilityworldwide.org/affiliates/florida-penney-farms/)
- ✓ **Share the need for mobility carts with your prayer or service groups.**
- ✓ **Make a donation.**
(See form below)
- ✓ **Volunteer at a shop near you.**
- ✓ **Challenge a group to donate \$300 for one cart (or maybe more than one).**
- ✓ **For current donors: Consider adding \$5, \$10, \$15, \$25 or more to what you are currently giving.**
Increasing the amount a little can make a significant difference!



The happy faces of mobility cart recipients—children, families, individuals. Thank you for your part in providing hope for those in the world needing it.

Please make checks payable to Mobility Worldwide FL–Penney Farms.

NAME _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

If you prefer the newsletter via email, please request it by emailing your address to petpfmw@gmail.com

ADDRESS _____

Street/PO Box

City

State

Zip

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!

PO Box 919 | Penney Farms, FL 32079 | 904-284-5495

Email: petpfmw@gmail.com

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

(May 3 through August 30, 2017)

In Memory of:

LaVerne Archibald
from Barbara Chase; Wayne Thomson;
Valley Engineering

Claude Corbett
from Carl & Vivian Pennock

John Dyke
from Janis Dyke

Warren Ebling
from Emma Jean Redding

Edward "Pops" Emack
from Brian Talbott

Charlene Daniel Hall
from Hurston Hall

Glenn Hupprich
from David & Donna Adams

Helen Keller
from Dee Yurdock; Barbara Chase

Art Kuehn
from Nancy & Lawrence Dunham

Elvira Maniatty
from George S. Maniatty

George Moll
from June Herbelin

Buster Rahn
from Laurie Mullins

Melvin Richey
from Betty Richey

Yvonne Vinkemulder
from Rev. & Mrs. James Baird; Barbara
Chase; Wilma David; Jim & Susie Kaelin;
R. Jane Knudtsen; Jan Petty; Dee Yurdock

In Honor of:

Joy Carol
from PEO Chapter of Gainesville

Barbara Chase, Joy Carol, Nancy Romero
from Ted Emack

Dick & Margaret Dodds
from Denise Cavanaugh; Ed & Gail Wohleberg

Ted Emack
from Donald Lohr

Tonya Hart
from Laurie Mullins

Ruth Hughes
from Lee & Andrea Hughes

Walt & Joan Jacoby
from Norm Thomas

Wilda Loughhead
from Marybeth Hunt

Gwenn McCormick
from Bruce Hamilton

Penmor Staff
from Margaret & Dick Dodds

Alan Pohalski
from James & Naomi Bryant

John Wallace
from Lee & Andrea Hughes

Sandy Welch
from Fred and Dorothy Bruner

Special Events

Dr. and Mrs. Joe Aubel, 50th Anniversary
from Lynn and Martha Aubel

Jeannine Cawthon, Happy Birthday
from Shirley Edmondson

Barbara Chase, Thanks for Hospitality
from Ramona Cass

Shirley Edmondson, Happy Birthday
from Judy Phillips; Delores Swift

Ted Emack, Father's Day
from Matthew & Jennifer Burnsed;
Brian & April Jourdan; Ellen Simons

Carol Freehan, Thanks for Tax Assistance
from Jean Spahr

Marybeth Hunt, Thanks
from Wilda Loughhead

Joan Jacoby, Thanks for Transportation
from Jean Abell

Phyllis Jepson, Happy Birthday
from Dona Welch

Gwenn McCormick, Happy Birthday
from Hiawatha Cook

David Quirk, Thanks for Tax Assistance
from Robert & Marilyn Christie; Marilou
Usher; Marjorie Williams

Sam Singer, Father's Day
from Sam Singer, Jr.

Sue Vandermeij, Thanks
from Janis Dyke

Mobility Worldwide-FL
at Penney Farms produces
PETs (Personal Energy
Transportation) that are
hand-cranked carts built
for durability and travel
over rough terrain. Our
goal is to provide this gift
of mobility to those who
are leg disabled living in
developing countries. Our
mission is to reflect the
love of God through the
provision of PETs, bring-
ing dignity to those who
are mobility challenged.
This newsletter is pub-
lished four times a year.
For more information
Google Mobility World-
wide, Penney Farms, FL.



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