

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MOBILITY WORLDWIDE BUILDS 80,000<sup>TH</sup> Mobility Cart as it CELEBRATES  
THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING**

Mobility Worldwide, an international humanitarian Christian charity that builds specialized wheelchair-carts for those living in the developing world, recently celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding by handcrafting Mobility Cart #80,000. The commemorative Mobility Cart was made with parts provided by the 22 affiliate locations throughout the US. The organization celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary during its annual conference which was held in Austin, TX September 26-28, 2019. Attendees were also briefed on a new strategic plan approved by the board of trustees that calls for an expansion of its operations to better fulfill its vision of “ending immobility in the world”.

The new strategy calls for the distribution of other mobility assistive devices such as crutches, leg braces, conventional wheelchairs, etc. in addition to its current catalog of Mobility Carts. Additionally, two new prototype models of Mobility Carts will be field tested with the goal of mass production in the near future. One prototype has a molded resin body while the other has a new style of hand-crank propulsion system which allows for smoother braking and increased speed.

“We are now on a bold new track to better fulfill our mission and help tens of thousands of people annually”, John Rudd, board of trustees, said. “While we will continue to handcraft our traditional Mobility Carts, we are exploring ways to help many more people by enhancing our production methods and also collecting and distributing other devices that will provide mobility and more to people in need”.



*Figure 1 Mel West, MW's founder, sits aboard Mobility Cart #80,000 as Board Chair, John Rudd (L), Immediate Past Chair, Jim Conn (R) and Scott Walters, Executive Director, look on.*

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that there are 70-million people in the world who are in need of a wheelchair with many of them living in the least developed countries. Furthermore, those who do receive a wheelchair obtain a device that is not suited to the environment. That is where Mobility Carts operate best with their heavy duty steel frame and puncture proof tires.

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**Mobility Cart #80,000**

During this year's annual conference, a founding father, Mel West, gave the keynote and challenged the organization to build upon the great work it's known for and help even more through collaborations. One of these collaborative efforts will be a national symposium of wheelchair manufacturers and providers in the fall of 2021 at the *Mel and Barbara West Mobility Worldwide Center, located at the Columbia, MO Mobility Worldwide Affiliate.*

**ABOUT MOBILITY WORLDWIDE:**

Mobility Worldwide first began as the P.E.T. Project in 1994. Over 80,000 Mobility Carts have been distributed in 104 countries since its founding. Carts are built at one of 26 production facilities located throughout the US and Sierra Leone and Zambia, Africa. Carts are donated to distribution partners who handle the shipping, importation and assessment of beneficiaries and then given free of charge to those in need. Mobility Worldwide (an initiative of PET International, Inc.) is a tax-exempt 501 (C) (3) NGO/charity with a mission to ***reflect the love of God by bringing mobility and dignity to those in developing countries who are unable to walk.***

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