



## Mobility Worldwide's Sierra Leone Affiliate is Up and Running!

18-year-old Mohamed, a resident of the Rogbere Orphanage, can easily get to school thanks to his Mobility Cart.



Mohamed, an 18-year-old Sierra Leone man born with a severe birth defect that prevented him from walking normally, is the first recipient of a Mobility Cart made in his home country. The Mobility Worldwide Sierra Leone Affiliate is now fully functional and producing Mobility Carts on the campus of the Cheshire Home Orphanage in the city of Bo.

Ibrahim Bangura, MW Liaison, and Lamin Mansaray, program manager, needed about a year to outfit their shop with equipment provided by Mobility Worldwide and train their staff so that the carts were of the same quality as those handcrafted in the US. The goal was to have the shop up and running and producing more than 100 carts in the first year. Mission accomplished!

As the recipient of the very first Mobility Cart produced, Mohamed is elated with his new found independence. "I have always needed someone to carry me when I need to go on long distances", he said. "Going on my knees on the stones in this area is very

painful. As of yesterday, I needed someone to carry me from the orphanage to the school. This can make you feel very small. Sometimes, I had to beg people to carry me".

As a small child, Mohamed would crawl in the dirt to go places and then as he got older, he taught himself how to walk in an upright position on his knees. He lost both of his parents when he was very young and there was no money to help with corrective surgery.

**"Sometimes, I had to  
beg people to carry  
me," Mohamed said.**

When he was presented with his new Mobility Cart, Mohamed told Lamin and Ibrahim that "this cart is my legs now. No longer will I go on my knees on those rocks again to school".

# OUR MISSION

Not satisfied with helping several thousand people a year with Mobility Carts, the national board of trustees of Mobility Worldwide approved a strategic plan calling for the organization to help tens of thousands of people annually. It's a bold plan that helps MWW better serve its vision to end immobility in the world.

**“We are on a bold track to help tens of thousands of people annually.”**

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. While MWW has significantly improved the lives of over 80,000 people and their families in more than 104 countries by giving them the gift of mobility and more, the Christian charity will now also collect other assistive devices including crutches, walkers and conventional wheelchairs to help an even greater number of people in need of aid.

“We are now on a bold new track to better fulfill our mission and help tens of thousands of people annually”, John Rudd, chair of the board of trustees, said. “We will continue to make Mobility Carts as we always have, but now we are enhancing our production and distribution practices so that we can mass produce carts and distribute other helpful aids like crutches.”

Scott Walters, MWW executive director, detailed the strategic plan during the 2019 annual conference in Austin, TX. “Our aim is to help 10-times as many people we are currently serving”, Walters said. “In order to achieve this bold vision, we will be augmenting every step in our business model. We will experiment with mass producing molded bodies, expanding our supply chain and recruiting more distribution partners”.

In addition to rolling out a new strategic plan at the annual conference, the 80,000th Mobility Cart made by MWW was rolled out onto the stage. The commemorative cart was made with parts supplied by the 22 affiliates located throughout the US. The molded cart and another prototype were also on display. During his keynote address to conference attendees, a founding member of

MWW, Mel West, stated, “Let’s remember that we are not looking for the one best model of cart. We are looking for all those various hand-cranked models that will adequately serve our leg-handicapped people.”

*Mel West sits on cart #80,000 while board chair John Rudd(L), past board chair Jim Conn (R) and Scott Walters, executive director (C) look on.*



## DONOR IMPACT

Denise Bertrand and Jerry Steiner recently approached Mobility Worldwide to ask how they could make a more substantial impact over and above what their donations have done in the past. It was at this time when MWW leaders were researching and designing a molded body Mobility Cart which has the potential of being mass produced to help many more thousands of people in need.

Jerry and Denise’s timing was perfect because funds were desperately needed to help build the infrastructure needed to manufacture the molded carts to initiate the effort. They understood that if they directed their donation toward building the required molds and tools more people could be helped.

“We admire the volunteers who give their time to build carts and the strong people who lift themselves up from the ground to build better lives”, Jerry said. And with that, the testing phase of the molded body cart effort began.



*Denise and Jerry*

MWW is blessed with many kind and generous people who have helped fund our mission for 25 years. Mobility Carts are manufactured by volunteers and then gifted to those in need free of charge. This can only happen through donors’ financial assistance.

## DISTRIBUTION TRIPS

As part of this year's 25th anniversary celebration, MWW organized a couple distribution trips to Haiti and invited volunteers, donors and others to participate and see firsthand how Mobility Carts change lives. A July 2019 trip was led by the Leighton, Iowa Affiliate and Pete Verhey in collaboration with Many Hands for Haiti, a sister charity with a missionary campus located in country.

Pete and his team distributed 52 Mobility Carts throughout Northern Haiti near the city of Pignon.

"Everyone should go on at least one distribution trip in their lifetime", Verhey said. "Trips like these have a way of changing the lives of people who distribute the carts to those in need in addition to those who actually receive them to help with their mobility".

*Pete Verhey (R) offers training advice to a Haitian gentleman while a representative from Many Hands for Haiti looks on.*



MWW has partnered with Many Hands for Haiti for several years in the distribution of Mobility Carts.

The organization is also field testing our molded carts to help identify areas that might need improvement. The Leighton, IA Affiliate plans another distribution trip to Haiti in February, 2020 which is open to anyone interested in participating. There is a fee that covers meals, lodging and in-country transportation. Airfare is additional. For more information on the upcoming Haiti distribution trip, visit <https://mobilityworldwide.org/help-2/volunteer/>

**Participating in a distribution trip will change your life.**

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

MWW's story has repeated itself over and over again for 25 years. Typically, a charitable person is "introduced" to a Mobility Cart and he is then inspired to take on the task of establishing an affiliate to begin making carts himself. This is exactly what took place when Sam Singer came across a Mobility Cart displayed at a conference of the United Methodist Men. Being a handyman himself, he thought he too could make carts and help people who must crawl on the ground to get to where they need to go.

Today, Sam and his wife Jaime, along with a group of dedicated volunteers, operate the East Alabama/West Georgia Affiliate in the border community of Phenix,

AL. Sam's team formally began production in 2018 after setting up their shop and manufacturing their first carts which were then inspected by national trainers to ensure the carts were made to standards. Today, the Affiliate makes about 25 Mobility Carts a month which are then boxed and shipped around the world with most of them being sent to South America. "It was love at first sight when I saw that Mobility Cart in Atlanta, GA".



*Sam Singer demonstrates a Mobility Cart for President Jimmy Carter.*

MWW is somewhat unique in this way. The organization typically attracts men who are at or near retirement and who are tradesmen or hobbyists that work with their hands in machine shops. Of course, many women also volunteer with MWW, but unlike most charities, well over 90% of its volunteer workforce is made up of men with vocational/technical skills. 90% of its volunteer workforce is made up of men with vocational/technical skills.

No matter what age, sex, or skill set volunteers possess, they are always welcome to join our effort either at their local affiliate or at the national level. If interested in helping, please reach out to us at [MW@MobilityWorldwide.org](mailto:MW@MobilityWorldwide.org). A complete listing of affiliate locations can be found at [www.MobilityWorldwide.org/affiliates](http://www.MobilityWorldwide.org/affiliates)



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

What do the next 25 years have in store for Mobility Worldwide? Based on our continuous testing of ways to improve our catalog, one thing's for sure; new designs and products will be produced to help those in need.



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