



The Rest of the Story

Mobility Carts are needed in some of the most remote locations on the planet. They are given away to those unable to walk and who live in forbidding areas in low and middle income countries. The journey from portside to the village where they are needed makes for a remarkable story.

Once a shipping container filled with Mobility Carts arrives in country, volunteers like Chernor Barrie will often spend days transporting the carts to their final destination. Chernor attends Sierra Leone's Fourah Bay College as a student in its Peace Studies program. He also volunteers with the Sierra Leone Education & Development Trust and recently hauled Mobility Carts to the village of Gbap.



"We have volunteers who do this work for no money, just travel expenses", Chernor said.

Chernor first secured his valuable cargo of Mobility Carts in Tombo, a coastal fishing town before taking them to Shenge, a four hour trip away. From there, he traveled yet another seven hours to Bonthe. And then, he undertook the final four hours of his

journey to Gbap. At times he used a truck; other times he took a boat.

Meantime, Sulaiman Bah and his friend Abdul, another two volunteers in Sierra Leone, used their motorcycle and rented boats to haul Mobility Carts to isolated areas on Shabro Island.

Are exhausting journeys like this worth it? Moyo thinks so. She is unable to walk upright and is forced to slide along dirt paths in her village. Today, she expresses deep joy in her ability to carry her baby in her Mobility Cart.

And now you know the rest of the story.



Chernor loads a Mobility Cart aboard water transportation



Happiness is being able to carry your son with you while riding your Mobility Cart.



Moyo has never stood upright as she scooted along dirt paths.



Sometimes a motorcycle is the only mode of transportation available to haul Mobility Carts.



Transportation is Vital



Staff of Mobility Sierra Leone now have reliable transportation to haul Mobility Carts to remote locations.

A generous donor heard of the ongoing transportation challenges faced by staff of Mobility Sierra Leone and decided to do something about it. The donor funded the purchase of a new four-wheeled truck to help with Mobility Cart deliveries in the West African nation.

The donor approached the PET Mobility Project Foundation (MW's formal foundation) and donated the resources needed to fund the purchase of the truck and have it outfitted to carry Mobility Carts.

In many low income countries like Sierra Leone, transportation is a serious challenge. For example, once a shipment of Mobility Carts is ready to be distributed from the Mobility Sierra Leone manufacturing site, staff must spend days organizing transportation.

Years of prayers have been answered, as a faithful benefactor stepped up to address a challenge. Other needs in West Africa requiring funds include the purchase of tools and security for the affiliate in Liberia.



Mel and Bev Toellner making bird houses with their grandchildren.

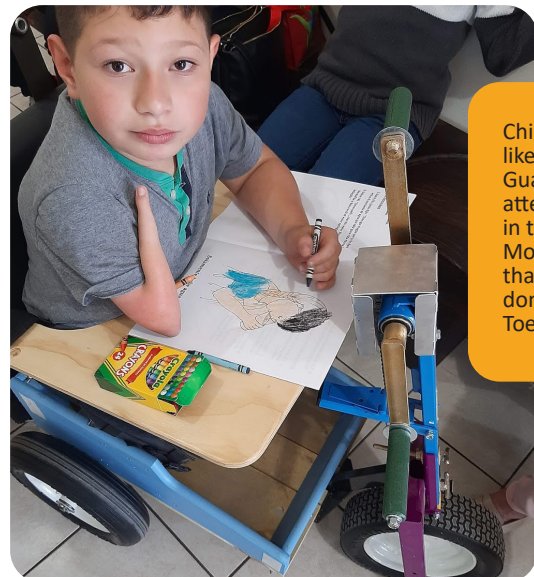
Donor Impact: Mel and Bev Toellner

"Nature is a stress reliever from God. Take time today to listen to the birds sing!" That inscription is found on most of Mel Toellner's communications. And he would know. He and his wife Bev started Gold Crest Distributing from their garage and built it into America's largest backyard nature product distribution company.

Mel also relieves stress by volunteering with Mobility Worldwide. Mel and Bev have been committed to Mobility Worldwide on the local, national and international level for years with gifts of time, talent and treasure.

"Mel is a godsend to our shop", according to Gary Moreau, executive director of the Columbia, MO affiliate. "He enjoyed participating in a distribution in Guatemala years ago and since then, he and Bev have helped in many ways. He's a big promotor of what we do and also donates cardboard shipping boxes and materials," Moreau said.

Mel serves on the board of trustees for the Columbia, MO affiliate and provides helpful business advice to the international office as it works to expand globally.



Children like Juan of Guatemala attend school in their Mobility Carts thanks to donors like the Toellners.

Hidden In Plain Sight



Ketut has been unable to leave his room for 20 years.



Ketut smiles as he sits atop his new Pull Cart

This is not a picture of an imprisoned man in a 20th century gulag. Rather, it's a picture taken only weeks ago of Ketut, a 60-year-old Balinese man who hadn't left his room for 20 years.

Ketut's medical condition limits his movement which contributes to muscle atrophy. His mental abilities are top notch, but he struggles to move or speak and spends his life in his room. His devoted sister comforts him and brings him food.

Indonesia's Global Village Bali provides help to impoverished disabled people in North Bali and recently discovered Ketut. The charity furnished him with Mobility

Worldwide's Pull Cart and suddenly he was able to see the outside world, no longer confined to his cinder block room. His sister easily pulls him along the dirt paths in his village as they visit neighbors or go to the market.

Ketut manages to make himself understood despite his inability to speak. Everyone understood him the day he was wheeled out of his room on his Mobility Cart. He started to laugh and then began to weep with joy.

He was hidden in plain sight for 20 years but now he's experiencing mobility and more as never before.

Plan 10X: What's Next?

Mobility Worldwide leadership believes more leg-disabled people will receive the assistance they need by focusing on two objectives. First, more assistive devices will be provided through an ever expanding catalog of products. Secondly, an effort is being made to build a vibrant network of likeminded organizations to foster collaboration.

A major step in shaping this dynamic network will take place during a planned forum held immediately prior to Mobility Worldwide's annual conference in 2021. The first International Conference for Mobility Device Provision & Distribution is planned to take place in Columbia, MO September 20-22, 2021.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE MOBILITY DEVICE PROVISION & DISTRIBUTION

The theme for the event is Communicating, Cooperating & Collaborating to Serve More People. Staff and/or volunteers from non-governmental organizations or NGOs, private industry, the secular community and faith-based organizations are all welcome and invited to attend.

The host committee is accepting inquiries now from those interested in helping to shape the conference by delivering presentations or sponsorship. For more info email info@imdmd.org or call (770) 407-8796



Larry Hills using an earlier version of a PET Cart

Hills' Vision Lives On

Larry Hills, 89, of Penney Retirement Community passed away June 3, 2020 while his vision to end immobility in the world continues to thrive.

Larry and Laura Hills are credited with igniting the spark which became a global movement first named PET International and today called Mobility Worldwide.

Larry and Laura served as agricultural missionaries in the Congo and Zambia for many years. It was there in Africa where he came upon the idea of helping isolated people with sturdy three wheeled trikes which work better than conventional wheelchairs.

In the early 1990s, Larry chanced upon a woman crawling in the dirt in the Congo with her children by her side. He was so troubled at what he saw that he was determined to find a solution.

He gifted the very first PET Cart to a fisherman who lost his leg in a crocodile attack. Since then, over 80,000 Mobility Carts have been given to those in need in low and middle income countries.

Larry's obituary appeared in a national newspaper in Sierra Leone where a well-wisher conveyed his condolences:

Mr. Hills' death is a great loss for the disabled community across the world but Africa in particular. Thanks to you and your family, we are grateful and appreciative of your humanity. To Laura and the family, take heart. God loves him more than we do at this moment. Our condolences. Love, Kanapi.

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Vision:

End immobility in the world

Mission:

Mobility Worldwide seeks to reflect the love of
God by bringing mobility & dignity to those in
developing countries who are unable to walk.

Mobile Cart Field Test Update

Field testing of 200 mobile carts with bodies and tires made of molded resin has begun. The testing began after an evaluation was performed on an outfitted treadmill used for accelerated time tests. During that analysis, a few areas in need of improvement were uncovered. The formula for the resin was changed to add more flexibility and strength to the tires before sending them out to the field.

Affiliates in Minneapolis, MN; Stow, OH; Brazos Valley, TX and Columbia, MO volunteered to work with distribution partners to share the new carts with people. The resin bodies are designed so they fit with little or no alterations to the existing metal frame which is used for wooden body Mobility Carts.

The R&D Committee carefully recruited trusted field partners who are willing to perform ongoing follow-up of the new carts and their users' suggestions for improvement. Suggestions that don't come to mind until after a few days use.



Men crawling to receive a Mobility Cart.

Mobility Worldwide has been working closely with the product design team at The Step2® Company LLC, a leading toy and home solutions innovator in the molding of the resin parts. If approved, the new carts would not replace existing Mobility Carts but rather add to the catalog of products available.

