



# Annual Report 2020 (7/1/2019-6/30/2020)

***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.*







Ken Graalum (L) of the Brazos Valley Affiliate helps hired workmen load a container bound for Africa. Dick Witherite (R) models social distancing as the crew helps mitigate the spread of COVID-19.



Mobility Cart #80,000 was made with parts from every affiliate.



John Rudd fits Thompson into a Mobility Cart during a trip to Liberia.

## From the desk of John Rudd, Chair, Int'l Board of Trustees A Look Back at Fiscal Year 2019:

Mobility Worldwide again proved its resilience as a global Christian humanitarian charity this past fiscal year as we came to the aid of people who are leg- disabled despite the challenges posed by a worldwide pandemic. Like most organizations, we were forced to close our operations for a time and then alter the way we do business to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. But we used this operational downtime wisely to focus on testing a new mobile cart.

Before the pandemic, I had the honor of traveling to Liberia in February of 2020 with Scott Walters, executive director, to begin work on the development of another production site in West Africa. We met with a wide range of officials including Bishop Samuel J. Quire, Jr., the head of the Liberian United Methodist Conference and the Reverend Rose Farhat who will lead our efforts in Gbanga, Liberia on the border with Guinea.

We also made great progress in our research and development of a new product to be added to our catalog of assistive devices. A cart with a body and wheels made of molded resin was tested in a controlled lab-like setting and then sent to four distribution partners

abroad. These partners agreed to gather data during field testing to help discover areas in need of improvement. This information will be critical as we make a final decision as to whether or not to continue production of a resin cart.

Unfortunately, we also said goodbye to a man who started our movement many years ago. Larry Hills passed away in June of 2020 following a life that served the Lord well. He and his wife, Laura, first came up with the idea of a durable wheelchair-trike when he spotted a woman crawling in the dirt in the Congo over 25 years ago.

Meantime, amid the public health emergency caused by COVID-19, we still bravely and ever so carefully, shipped Mobility Carts to those unable to walk and recognized the production of Mobility Cart #80,000 during our annual conference.

Mobility Worldwide's workforce of volunteers and staff in the USA, Zambia, Sierra Leone and Liberia once again proved their tenacity and spunk as they worked tirelessly toward our vision of ending immobility in the world. Well done team!

# 25 Years of Mobility: 1994 – 2019



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



Josephine Mbilishi, New Life Center Director, speaks to volunteers while the Rev. Delbert Groves, founder, looks on. Joe Harless, Zambia volunteer (l) and Emily Padilla, NLC administrative assistant (2L) also look on.

Mobility Worldwide celebrated its 25th anniversary in Austin, TX during the organization's annual conference which was held from September 26-28, 2019. The history of Mobility Worldwide is a fascinating story of a global organization that instantaneously improves the lives of people around the world who are unable to walk.

Mel West, one of the three founders of Mobility Worldwide, reflected on the past and offered a challenge to volunteers during his keynote address. West said, "I strongly recommend that Mobility Worldwide become the initiator of a convention of all humanitarian organizations that work toward the eradication of immobility in the world." With that challenge, work began immediately on the first International Conference for Mobility Device Provision & Distribution.

The leadership team from PET Zambia, one of the first production sites established at the New Life Center, joined in the 25th anniversary celebration. Reverend Delbert Groves, the founder of the New Life Center Zambia where PET Zambia resides, spoke to the attendees by sharing stories of the leg disabled his team assists throughout Africa.

In recognition of the quarter century milestone, a commemorative Mobility Cart was made with parts contributed from all affiliates. Named Miss Aydee Kay by Richard Baldwin, the coordinator of the effort, Mobility Cart #80,000 was quite the hit.

Scott Walters, MW's executive director, unveiled a new vision during the event which has an objective of helping as many as 70,000 people annually with various assistive devices. That target includes the provision of such items as crutches and walkers in addition to Mobility Carts.



Ricardo of Honduras is one of 80,000 children and adults whose lives were changed with the gift of a Mobility Cart. But not only Ricardo's life has changed. His mother and father are also proud now that their son can attend school.



## Larry Hills, Mastermind of the Mobility Cart, Passes Away

Larry Hills, the man who is credited with first coming up with the idea of creating a sturdy three-wheeled trike for those unable to walk, passed away in June of 2020 at the age of 89.

In 1999, Larry and his wife Laura retired to the Penney Retirement Community, FL after a lifetime of missionary work abroad. He spent many of his retirement years building Mobility Carts in the Penney Farms Affiliate shop.

He was a captivating speaker that mesmerized audiences for decades as he described his and Laura's missionary adventures. He often told the story of a woman crawling in the dirt in the Congo with a baby tied to her back and another

small child walking alongside her. That chance encounter made a profound impact on Larry.

He couldn't allow the situation to go on and found the woman a wheelchair. When he visited days later, he was heartbroken to discover the wheelchair bent and broken. He was determined to find something sturdier and more durable. It was that thought which sparked the effort to create today's Mobility Cart.

He lived a life of service, dedicated to racial equality, peace, and hands-on support to those in need. He loved birding, gardening, writing, and reading. He is survived by his wife, Laura.



Larry Hills aboard an earlier version of a PET Cart.



John Rudd (L), Chr., Board of Trustees, Mobility Worldwide and Liberia's Bishop Samuel J. Quire, Jr. (C) sign an MOU agreeing to work together in developing an affiliate in Ganta, Liberia as Scott Walters, MW's Executive Director looks on.

## Liberian Affiliate Set in Motion

Mobility Worldwide took a major step forward in plans to establish an affiliate in Liberia during a document signing ceremony in Monrovia attended by leadership from two continents. John Rudd, Board Chair initiated a memorandum of understanding with Bishop Samuel Quire, the head of the Liberian United Methodist Church. The agreement outlines the organization of an affiliate workshop in Gbanga, Liberia where a local workforce will first assemble and then manufacture Mobility Carts for their countrymen and women in need.

Mobility Worldwide has collaborated with the United Methodist Conference and other organizations for many years in the distribution of Mobility Carts throughout West Africa. Now this joint venture will call for provision of the carts locally with an emphasis toward hiring those who are disabled. Initial plans call for the team from neighboring Mobility Sierra Leone to help with training the team in Liberia.

The trip to Liberia included an opportunity for Rudd to address the 187th Session of the Liberian Annual Conference, United Methodist Church. He explained that the new affiliate will be located in Gbanga, Liberia and led by the Reverend Rose Farhat.

The visiting team from Mobility Worldwide also had the opportunity to participate in two distributions of Mobility Carts and tours of a hospital and leprosy center where Mobility Carts are currently used.



John Rudd addresses the 187th annual conference of the Liberian United Methodist Church.



Patients await treatment at the Gbanga, Liberia Leprosy Clinic which helps distribute Mobility Carts.

## Practicing the Three R's: Research, Reliability & Resiliency

If Mobility Worldwide's R&D Committee is on the right path, then its vigorous research will lead to another new, reliable and resilient Mobility Cart. Volunteers are testing a cart with resin wheels and a body made by Step2 Discovery, LLC. The parts are made in a process known as rotational molding.

Andy Maynard, a retired manufacturing & mechanical engineer with 3M, is leading the R&D effort. Maynard first called for an accelerated time test where prototype rear wheels were fitted to a wooden cart then secured on a specially outfitted treadmill.

The test run was performed for days nonstop, mimicking years of use. As areas in need of improvement were discovered,

alterations were made before revised wheels and the molded body were sent abroad for field testing.

Four affiliates volunteered to take part in the test to discover how MW's logistics system will sync with the new mobile cart's shape, package size and weight. The affiliates are also discovering how easily the new bodies will fit into the metal frames used for wooden body Mobility Carts.

It's hoped field testing will be complete and the committee will make a recommendation to the international board of trustees in 2021.



A prototype using the Mobility Cart's standard wheels and frame ready for field testing in Kenya. A Kenyan man models the new resin body with the conventional wooden body cart.



Mobility Carts are used in demanding environments like muddy roadways where wheelchairs are difficult to use.



Andy Maynard, Chair, R&D Committee



Molded resin rear wheels in an accelerated time test.



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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.

Facts:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 10% of people with disabilities globally (approx. 112 million people) need assistive devices like a Mobility Cart or a wheelchair.
- Only 5-10% have access to such devices and are dependent on donations.
- The WHO projects the number of people with disabilities globally will double by the year 2050 with 80% of that population living in the developing world.
- Often conventional wheelchairs are not sturdy enough to operate in the environment where the user lives which is typically in low or middle income countries.
- A Mobility Cart costs about \$350 to make but are given to those in need free of charge.
- Mobility Worldwide has been awarded GuideStar’s Gold Seal of Transparency.

Finances:

Mobility Worldwide continues to build capacity and infrastructure through aggressive fundraising and investments. A more detailed logistics chain is being built to help fuel growth and standardization. Vigorous marketing campaigns are also being put in place to help communicate to the world, the great work and accomplishments of Mobility Worldwide as it seeks to make a greater impact in helping those who are unable to walk.

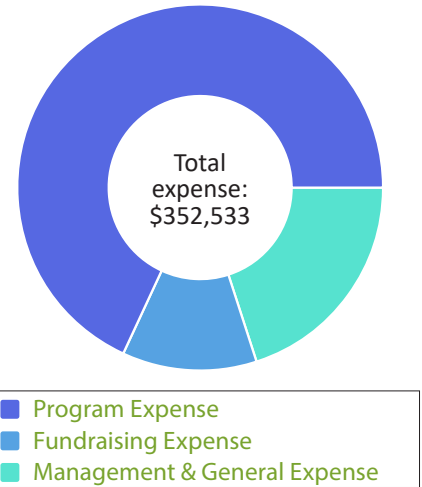
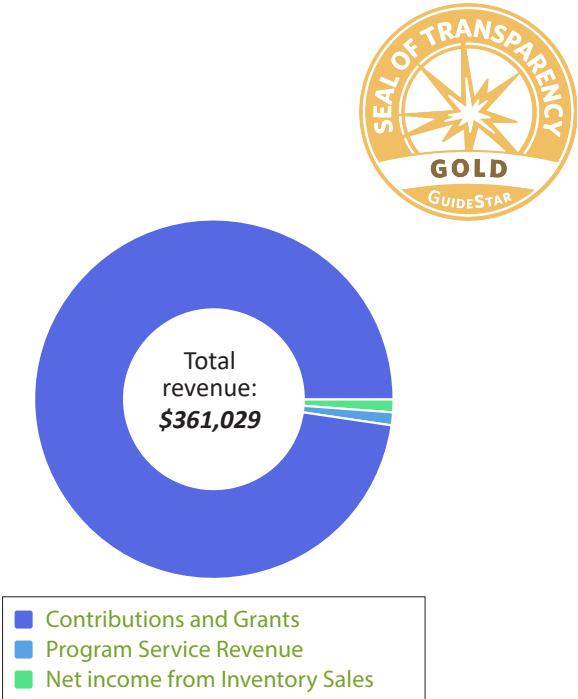
Total revenue: \$361,029

- Contributions & Grants: \$352,163
- Program Service Revenue: \$4,177
- Investment Income: \$172
- Net Income from Inventory Sales: \$4,206
- Misc.: \$311

Total expense: \$352,533

- Program expense \$240,033 (68%) to include shipping, subsidizing of cart parts & performing national trainings.
- Fundraising expense \$41,947 (12%) to include solicitations, newsletters and brochures.
- Management & General expense was \$70,553 (20%) to include CPA work, office support, phone and travel.

Mobility Worldwide’s financial statements are reviewed by the independent accounting firm Gerding, Korte and Chitwood, PC, CPAs, Columbia, MO. The above financial office recognizes revenue and expenses managed by the international office and does not take into account the estimated \$2,450,000 raised through the 20+ affiliate locations throughout the US, Zambia, Sierra Leone and Liberia.





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*Mobility Worldwide, an initiative of PET Int'l,  
is a tax-exempt 501(C)(3) charity.*

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