



Mobility Device Industry Unites!

Representatives from throughout the mobility device industry including manufactures of tricycles, wheelchairs and carts attended an international conference in Columbia, MO in September to explore ways to collaborate.

People traveled from Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ecuador, Kenya, South Sudan and throughout the US to share insights on how best to work together to meet the growing demand for mobility devices around the globe. The World Health Organization predicts the number of people in need of mobility assistance will double by the year 2050.

Dr. Jon Pearlman, chair and associate professor with the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology and a founder of the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP), presented the keynote address.

Pearlman said that scaling is one of the best ways to fill the gap between those in need of mobility and the number of devices available to them. Scaling includes concentrating on building and maintaining tricycles, carts and wheelchairs in the country where people need them and offering them at the most economical and affordable cost.

Moving forward, attendees are working to identify specific projects where they may share resources to help more people. A steering committee has been formed to maintain momentum within the network of providers.

The SCROLL Newsletter



Michael Panther, Living with Hope Foundation w/mic, leads a panel discussion with (L to R) Bonnie Gonzalez, Free Wheelchair Mission, Elizabeth McLellan, Partners for World Health and Cary Loesing, Mobility Worldwide.



Bonnie Gonzalez, Free Wheelchair Mission, tries out a trike prototype while Oswaldo Guzman, Fundacion Vista Para Todos Ecuador, looks on.



During the conference, Lamin Mansaray, Mobility Sierra Leone, personally thanks 11-year-old Stella Heller of Missouri for raising funds to build Mobility Carts.



Dr. Jon Pearlman, Director of the ISWP



www.MobilityWorldwide.org

Mobility Carts for Zambian Prisoners Reentering Society



Several Mobility Carts were provided to disabled Zambian prisoners who have reentered society.

Americares is one of Mobility Worldwide's many valuable partners due to its extensive global network of health agencies including the Prison Fellowship of Zambia (PFZ). Prison Fellowship works with 47 correctional facilities in Zambia along with the Ministry of Health.

Mobility Carts are distributed to disabled former prisoners who are reentering society and many other people who are aided by PFZ. Recently, we received a note

from Teddy Mweeta, Executive Director of PFZ, who said, "PFZ is very grateful to Americares and their donors, especially Mobility Worldwide for the substantial volume of specially requested Mobility Carts."

"We are humbled for the donation of Mobility Carts. You have made movements easy for our beneficiaries. I have just handed over one pedal cart to Mapalo who was born without legs. What a joy for him. I have handed another cart to Alice who is disabled with a tiny thigh. Her movements have been made easy after receiving a Mobility Cart."



Another satisfied Zambia child and community after receiving a Mobility Cart.

"The PFZ team extends their sincere gratitude to Mobility Worldwide for these specially requested and hopes that Mobility Carts will continue to be made available in the future."



Sneaking up on 100K! The E. Alabama-W. Georgia Affiliate recently hit a milestone as the team made Mobility Cart #300. Those manufacturing the cart are (L to R) Gary Forrester, Jaime Singer, James Thomasson and Vic Feliciano.



Stella marketing her product.

Donor Impact: Stella the Philanthropist

Most 11-year-olds are content with riding their bikes or socializing with friends, but not Stella Heller. Over the past three years, Stella has organized a successful lemonade stand raising hundreds of dollars which she donates to Mobility Worldwide.

Stella started her annual project when she was only eight raising \$44 that year. Her fundraising project has steadily grown into a city-wide event raising hundreds of dollars each year. And she continues to do even more for people in need.

Ms. Heller volunteers regularly at the Columbia, MO Mobility Worldwide shop with her grandmother Elsie. She says that she enjoys making the tool kits that are sent along with the Mobility Carts.

Stella attended MW's 2021 annual conference where she was recognized and thanked by the very people who have benefitted from her generosity.



Stella staffs her lemonade stand to raise money for Mobility Worldwide.

Partnerships Are Key



Mobility Carts can be used by the large population of Cambodians injured due to landmines. Seen here, disabled musicians perform outside a temple for BrightStart and other guests.



Disabled Nigerian women crawl to accept their Mobility Carts (seen in the background) during a distribution there recently.

Mobility Worldwide's business model is built on partnerships. Partnering missionary groups and charities help to broaden distribution efficiently. As Mobility Worldwide expands, leadership has their sights set on working with other agencies abroad who can make carts closer to where they're needed.



Gwen Higaki, BrightStart Executive Director and Vernon Higaki, Trustee (left) tour the Columbia MW shop during this fall's annual conference.



Many thousands of people must contend with birth defects and anxiously attend wheelchair and Mobility Cart distributions.

Two such agencies, BrightStart Learning Cambodia and the Ministry of Health in Zamfara State, Nigeria, are in the early planning stages with Mobility Worldwide in hopes of developing manufacturing shops overseas in the years ahead.

BrightStart operates learning centers in Cambodia where they teach and train disadvantaged Khmer children. A MW manufacturing center on their campus in Cambodia would offer a vocational technical training opportunity for students as they build Mobility Carts.

Nigerian officials also would like to establish a production facility in order to both employ disabled people and build Mobility Carts for the tens of thousands of people who are unable to walk due to polio.

Other partners prefer to simply ship containers of Mobility Carts and distribute them to those in need skipping the building process. We are thankful for both of these types of partnerships and encourage other organizations or individuals interested in partnering with us to reach out to start a dialogue.



Ni loves her new Mobility Cart.

A Life Changing Event in Bali

Ni was born with the debilitating birth defect *metatarsus adductus* 29 years ago in Bali. People with this condition are often called pigeon toed. Unfortunately for Ni, medical treatment was unavailable to her. She has lived her entire life struggling to walk and constantly being harassed by others.

This past September, her life changed in an instant when volunteers from Global Village Foundation offered her a Mobility Cart. Now she can travel throughout the village with confidence and pride. You must see her in action by visiting our website at www.MobilityWorldwide.org



"Now I can go to church and help my mother sell cookies."

Gustavo's Message

Gustavo was infected with polio shortly after he was born in a small village in Honduras. Since then, he has been paralyzed from the waist down. His mother and father carry him wherever he needs to go.

Now that he's getting older, he wants to be more independent like other children. His prayers were answered recently when he received a Mobility Cart from the Alabama-Honduras Medical Education Network (AHMEN Ministries). Gustavo

wrote a message to donors which said:

"Thank you for the little car. Now I can go to church and help my mother sell cookies. Thank you all. I was praying and asking God to send me one. Thank you and God bless you all."



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.

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Mobility Worldwide, an initiative of PET Int'l, is a
tax-exempt 501(C)(3) charity.
EIN #86-1128278

“Mobility Worldwide shows amazing vision for helping the needy!”



“Thanks for your recent newsletter. Well done in your advances in design to fit different climate situations. We in the developed world sometimes forget that our life-changing devices have life spans. We can forget a person’s glee could be replaced with a sense of being letdown if a Mobility Cart’s usefulness comes to an end. Mobility Worldwide’s many planned improvements are indeed forward looking. Blessings and love to you and your team in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Denny & Twink DeWitt, Hideaway, TX

25-year missionaries with
Mercy Ships & Youth with a
Mission (YWAM)



Mobility Worldwide’s R&D team is nearly ready to seek approval of a new cart design featuring a molded resin body and a new plastic seat cushion like this one being tested by a Kenyan gentleman.