

SUMMER 2024

Affiliated with



Mobility
Worldwide®
Empowering People

Mobility Ministries, Inc.

A Ministry to the World . . . from Northwest Indiana



**Help Us Keep Making More Carts . . .
... the Need is Endless!**

Wheatfield, IN — Shop workers always love to gather for reflection when the Packers announce there is a milestone cart box being filled—this time #3500! They take pride in their part of the process. Every time a cart is packed, they know a person on the other side of the world, a recipient they will never meet here on earth, will receive the extraordinary *Gift of Mobility* that the person never dreamed possible—and then the recipient immediately also experiences the twin *Gifts of Dignity* and *HOPE* as well! In the same way the Shop Workers volunteer their time week after week, you are also a vital regular part of this ministry because Shop Workers cannot work without your financial support and your prayers.

Kolesi is Thankful to be Alive!

Katsabola Village, Malawi— Kolesi Phiri, age 50, was a second-hand shoe salesman. He was successful in his nearly 14-year-old business of selling shoes, and able to make a good living, until a sudden and tragic car accident caused Kolesi to lose both his legs. Despite this life changing accident, he expressed his heartfelt thanks to God for life itself.

“I thank God for saving my life; even though I will never walk again, at least I am alive.”

As with most of us, Kolesi was born with both legs functioning as they should. Up until “that day” he lived as any other normal human being. That all ended suddenly; he never thought he would meet a tragedy that would leave him with no legs below the knees. His faith in God was strong, but his outlook was still bleak.



Because Kolesi had no relatives, Mrs. Philimon, a neighbor, stepped in to help with daily care of Kolesi after the accident; for both, it has been rather awkward for her to physically handle Kolesi’s personal care. Mrs. Philimon was quick to agree: “To feed, clothe, and carry him around has been challenging. It is also hard to help bathe him, not being related and all. But I am relieved knowing he will now be able to go back to work in his business. He needs that!”

Kolesi held the Bible close that had been given to him along with the mobility unit. He said it had been a struggle to learn the Bible since he never owned one. He praises and thanks God, *Action for Progress*, and all those across the ocean who made these gifts possible.



Kolesi just received his Mobility Cart and a Bible with his Neighbors cheering him on!

Our Mission Statement: To reflect the love of Jesus Christ by bringing **MOBILITY and DIGNITY** to those in emerging countries who are unable to walk.

Mobility carts ... and so much more!

Burlap Coffee Bags



Almost the entire rural population of Malawi must farm to feed itself; but any extra maize raised for later use during the dry season is often eaten by rodents that have access to the family's hut, so food shortages and famine occur yearly. The *Malawi Project* and *Action for Progress* assist villages to build a sealed storage building to hold the village's extra maize for later that year when food is scarce. These *like-new burlap bags*, previously full of coffee beans, are now used to store maize for later use in the new storage buildings, free from rodents and mold. Thank you *Copper Moon Coffee* for saving thousands of these bags for us, and helping us to prevent starvation. We can pack 20 of these in every Cart box—shipped for free!

Days for Girls Kits

Days For Girls kits hold reusable menstrual supplies allowing junior high girls to remain in school **an extra week each month** during their monthly periods ("extra days" of schooling) instead of staying at home. Full time education is important! Individuals and sewing teams are working to sew these



special gift bags. The need is unlimited! We can pack 32 of these kits in every Cart box we ship—once again, shipped for free!

"Thinking outside the box"
for us means
creative packing **"inside the cart box"**

Birth Kits



Pregnant moms need to take *their own supplies for giving birth at a hospital*—a *Birth Kit* with a large black plastic bag (to give birth on), a razor blade, soap, 2 pair of latex gloves, umbilical clips or string, baby blanket, washcloths, a 'onesie' and hat, and several other items, all collected prior to birth. They climb on a gurney for delivery often only shortly before they give birth; then they need to vacate the gurney for the next

waiting mom, and often need to sit on a chair or a floor mat until a bed is ready for her to rest in for awhile.

Thank you to several groups of women for assembling supplies and making the kits to help these moms!

The need is unlimited! We can pack 25 of these Birth Kits in every Cart Box—they are shipped for free!

Little Girl Dresses

Several times a year boxes of homemade *little girl dresses* are dropped off at our shop. That's when the volunteers enjoy the cute artistic touches of the women who sew them. Some of these dresses come all the way from California, and others come from a senior living community in eastern Indiana and also locally. It is a joy to pack these gifts for children in our Cart Boxes—and they are shipped for free!



News from the Shop Manager

Hello Supporters: Mobility Ministries, Inc. is moving forward in the development of a much improved mobility vehicle we will identify as the **Action Trike**. This concept has been progressing forward for the last several years in response to our continuing drive to make mobility assistance the best we can for the welfare of the recipient! For 14 years we made the traditional **Mobility Cart**, albeit with many changes and improvements along the way; these have been produced with your generous support. It is a good, rugged vehicle, and we are humbled and thankful that God has allowed us to produce thousands of these units to bring people *Mobility, Dignity, and Hope*. But we have been concerned about addressing issues with heavy weight, durability of component parts, speed, adjustability, etc.



Action Trike

We determined we needed to re-engineer the vehicle from the ground up—everything needed to be addressed at the same time since everything is interrelated. We are pleased with the new **Action Trike**. It is built several inches lower to the ground (4-1/2" ground clearance) which results in an easier vehicle to crawl into, and also provides a lower center of gravity which gives more stability; the wheel base is several inches longer. It is made from very durable materials, having no wooden components. The frame is made from 1" square tube which is bent with CNC tube bending machines. The gooseneck is made as a part of the Center Main Beam. The green body is made from thermal formed HDPE plastic (the final molds are still being finished) and provides more "limb-room" for the recipient's unusable legs/feet. The fork around the front wheel has been shortened, and has recessed axle tips to keep the axle cotter pins out of the way for safety reasons.

The new **Action Trike** has 20" rear wheels with steel rims designed specially for our use; these steel rims provide the necessary strength we need for the rugged terrain. We continue to use the same high quality wheel bearings Peer Bearing Co. developed with our Shop in 2015 and 2016. The greater circumference of the rear wheels allows it to travel over uneven ground much easier. This cart is geared higher for greater speed when needed, and the crank is adapted to provide for greater power to compensate for the power loss attributable to the greater speed capability. And, with all of these changes, the **Action Trike** is still about 20 pounds lighter! That makes it much easier for the rider—and, it will fit in a packing box that is slightly smaller than our current packing box!

The new **Action Trike** also 'grows' with the recipient! It can be adjusted for use by a child, and then it can be easily re-adjusted by the recipient as the rider grows into adulthood--no need to replace the vehicle as a child grows. This is accomplished by special features of the rotomolded HDPE seat system that has extensive adjustability, including a newly designed seat mounting bracket system which allows the seat to be significantly lowered and brought forward to fit a child. Production may start in the next 6 months. We are thankful for these advancements to be able to bless our recipients! —**Bob Gabrielse**, Shop Manager



WE ACCEPT
ONLINE
DONATIONS

Mobility Ministries, Inc.

12352 N 550 W
Wheatfield, IN 46392

Phone: 219-789-8617
mobilityministries@gmail.com

Mobility Ministries, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

All gifts to Mobility Ministries, Inc. are tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.

Mobility Ministries, Inc. affiliates with Mobility Worldwide, Inc.