

Spring Newsletter 2024

with 2023 Annual Report



Spring Newsletter – 2024



Rev. Daniel's Visit from Kenya!

On January 19, the volunteers at Mobility Worldwide West Michigan were honored to have a visit from Daniel Nandwa from Eldoret, Kenya (located in the Rift Valley).

Daniel is the Executive Director for the Calvinist Cadets Corp in Kenya and is very active in the community, helping to make sure those in need are taken care of. Being so involved in the community, Daniel is looking to get a couple more carts for others in need.

Daniel's son Martin Luava Nandwa is a recipient of one of the carts from Mobility Worldwide. Without this cart, Martin needs 24-hour assistance and cannot even navigate the home. Daniel told us that when Martin received his cart, he got in it and didn't want to leave. It gave him freedom that he wouldn't otherwise have and he can now navigate his home without help.

Daniel also spoke about how women with handicap children are many times left to be single parents. This makes it extremely difficult to emotionally and financially support their child in need. These children don't have any freedom and their mothers can't properly give them everything they need.

Your donations help children like Martin and other kids live a fuller and happier life. You absolutely make a difference in these children's lives.



Featured Vendor: RepcoLite – Holland, MI

When Mobility Worldwide is building carts for kids, we partner with local vendors in order to keep down our costs and, as a result, provide more carts to those in need. RepcoLite is a paint company in Holland, Michigan that has been supporting Mobility Worldwide West Michigan for years. Though their support, these carts are painted "vibrant colors".

RepcoLite was established in the late 1930's by Jake Rezelman who founded Rezelman Paint Manufacturing and started producing Dutch Mills Paint. Ben Altena partnered with Jake in 1946, and in 1950 Ben bought the company. In the 1950's the name RepcoLite was created by shortening the company's original name (REzelman Paint COmpany) & adding "Lite" to convey the idea of "high tech". Between 1975 and 1993, RepcoLite grew to 6 locations in the Holland and Grand Rapids areas. In 2007, they became a Benjamin Moore Dealer and purchased Snyder Paints & Port City Paints. RepcoLite purchased Teknicolor Paints in 2023 and is now the largest Benjamin Moore dealer in MI.



Mobility Worldwide West Michigan is proud to have them as our Partner in helping these kids in need!

Introducing Jo Bird,

Joann (Jo) Bird has joined the Board of Mobility Worldwide West Michigan.

Jo retired from Zeeland Public Schools where she taught high school English, German and Spanish for thirty-one years.

During her teaching career, Jo led student trips to Germany and taught summer sessions in Costa Rica.

She served as President and Treasurer of the Teachers' Union local and is currently president of the Retired Teachers Organization, working on fundraising and political action.

Jo volunteers for Kids Hope and Crop Walk and she and her husband, Bob are members of First United Methodist Church in Holland.

Jo and Bob have been faithful donors to Mobility Worldwide West Michigan for years. She has a great passion for the cause and believes in the power of Mobility carts to transform the lives of the recipients and their families.

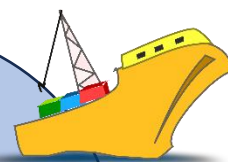
Jo says, "A Mobility cart for a child lasts for years and affects a child and his/her family for generations."

We welcome Jo to our Board of Directors!



530

**Carts Built in
2023**



580

**Carts Shipped
In 2023**

Donation Tags: For donations of \$400.00 or more, a tag can be placed on an individual cart.

For this to occur, the donor must request a tag. If it is "in honor of", the name of the honoree and their address will allow us to acknowledge the gift appropriately. If it is "in memory of", the name of the honoree needs to be given. If there is a family member you wish to get acknowledgment of this honor, give the name and address.

Our New Address:

Mobility Worldwide West
Michigan
414 E. 40th Street – Suite 3
Holland, MI 49423

GREETINGS FRIENDS AND MISSION PARTNERS,

At the beginning of 2023, we found that the nation's economic situation with higher prices and parts shortages has put some major financial challenges before us. As we looked to God for guidance, we knew we would learn of the means to deal with these issues. Our Board of Directors put their heads together and made a number of decisions to improve our financial standing to continue producing our carts for disabled children around the world.

First, we decided to cut our financial outflow by reducing the number of carts produced by half, from 60 to 30 carts per month. We achieved this by only building 10 carts per week and again only working three weeks per month during the spring and summer months in an effort to retain our many talented volunteers. We also spent considerable effort in fund raising by applying for economic relief grants as well as corporate charitable grants. These efforts proved beneficial and by September we started to see a consistent positive cash flow. By October we were once again up to full production of 15 carts per week and continued at that rate through the close of the year. Although we were only able to produce 530 carts in 2023, our goal for 2024 is between 700 and 750 carts.

Earlier this year we had the privilege of meeting with the father of one of our cart recipients who lives in Kenya. This experience is highlighted in a feature article within this newsletter. We learned from this meeting about some areas where we could make improvements to our carts to help the users, while costing very little to implement.

Throughout the year we have been improving our production processes through the help of several of our volunteers who bring a wealth of engineering talent to assist in product and process improvements. We now perform more of these processes in-house, saving on component costs which we had previously purchased.

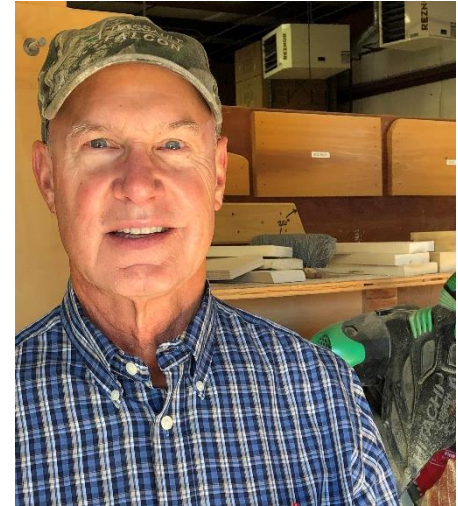
For those of you who have been faithful supporters of our mission, we are most grateful. We know we would not be able to do this important work of helping to provide mobility to so many disabled children without your financial and prayerful support. We are also indebted to the freely given time of our many volunteers. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission of giving mobility and improving so many young lives around the world.

Sincerely,



Bruce Wickmann

President



Board of Directors:



**Bruce
Wickmann**



**Joel
Wolfe, MD**



**Ken
Rizzio**



**Jo
Bird**



**Dale
Dykema, MD**



**Al
Hoffmann**



**Conrad
Mutschler**

Mobility Worldwide West Michigan's 2023 Annual Report

PET MI- Holland dba Mobility Worldwide West Michigan (MWWM) is part of a bigger picture. This Report provides metrics for last year on our Holland, Michigan based 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization as well as shares a story of how we are an integral part of a larger network that achieved an amazing milestone last year.

Mobility Worldwide West Michigan

Mobility Worldwide West Michigan's mission is to provide mobility to disabled children living in developing countries around the world that have lost the use of their legs due to diseases (typically polio), congenital conditions, animal attacks, land mines and other severe circumstances.

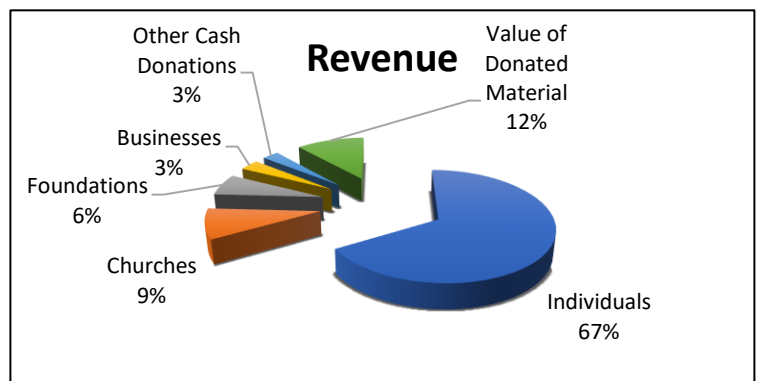
MWWM operates from a 7,108 square foot shop located on the southside of Holland, Michigan. Approximately 70 volunteers, mostly retired men and women build the three-wheeled, hand propelled carts. The carts are sized for children and have wide tires that make them are suitable for off-road travel. Lifting them off the ground, with all the other children.

At MWWM, there are no paid positions or staff. Last year, MWWM's volunteers built 530 child sized carts from steel, wood, rubber and other component parts. At the beginning of 2023, there was an inventory of 50 finished carts in the shop. Added to those carts built in 2023, a total of 580 finished carts were shipped during last year. Carts went to the Brother's Brother Foundation, World Vision, Americares, a MWW Affiliate in Iowa, and to Malawi with Little Dresses for Africa.

As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation, PET MI- Holland dba Mobility Worldwide West Michigan relies on contributions received from many individuals, Churches, foundations and businesses.

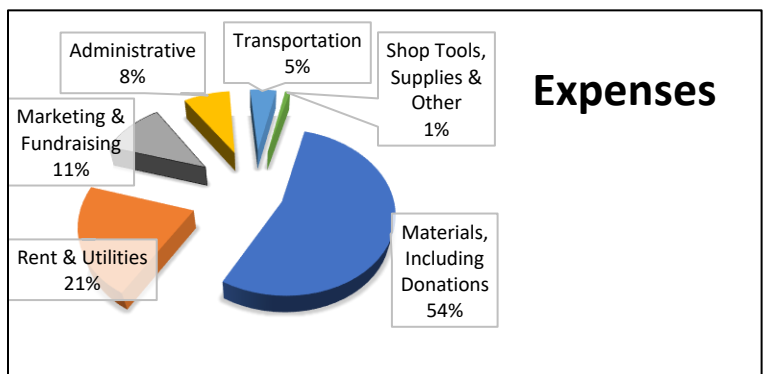
Revenue & Support for 2023/Sources of Funds:

<u>Category</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Individuals	246	\$ 211,362
Churches	32	28,927
Foundations	5	20,700
Businesses	9	10,390
Other Cash Donations	5	8,806
Value of Donated Materials		36,673
Total		\$ 316,858



Expenses for 2023/Uses of Funds:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Materials, including Donations	\$ 155,002
Rent & Utilities	61,090
Marketing & Fundraising*	31,540
Administrative (Accounting Serv.)	23,140
Transportation (Domestic Trucking)	13,098
Shop Tools, Supplies & Other	2,454
Total	\$ 286,324



*The “functional marketing and fundraising program support” expenses that were charged to the Howard Trust Fund was \$ 25,909.

Other Facts & Figures:

Total Hours of Volunteered Service 6,842
Cost per Cart (w/o Donated Materials) \$ 471



<u>Carts Shipped To:</u>	<u>No.</u>
Brother's Brother Foundation	220
World Vision	170
Americares	160
MW Affiliate in Iowa	20
Malawi with Little Dresses for Africa	<u>10</u>
Total	580



Mobility Worldwide International

“Mobility Worldwide Celebrates 100,000th Mobility Cart Donation”

Building and donating 100,000 carts was truly a special achievement. Not all of those carts were made for adults. Mobility Worldwide West Michigan along with MWI in Missouri and Penny Farms in Florida build carts sized for disabled children. Since MW West Michigan’s formation in 2009, a total of 6,900 youth carts have been manufactured in Holland, Michigan. That total represents approximately, seven percent of the total 100,000 carts produced by the entire Network.

Mobility Worldwide West Michigan is appreciative of its many donors that have supported us over the 16 years. The need for carts is still overwhelming and MW West Michigan intends to continue carrying out its mission. If you would like to donate now, mail your contribution to MWWM, 414 E. 40th Street, Suite 3, Holland, MI 49423. If you have any questions concerning this Annual Report or you would like to tour our Shop, please contact us at 616-396-2031 or info@mobilityworldwidewm.org. Thank you.

MW West Michigan Officers and Directors:

Bruce Wickmann, President

Joel Wolfe, Vice President

Ken Rizzio, Secretary/Treasurer

JoAnn Bird

Dale Dykema

Al Hoffmann

Conrad Mutschler

* PET MI-Holland’s Michigan Charitable Solicitation Registration No. is 44712