



His Wheels International's Fact Sheet 2005-2025 20 Years of an Amazing Ride

It all happened after a dinner invitation by Walt and Ellen in 2003. Alice Teisan asked John and Carolyn Lutembeka, from Tanzania, "How can our church help your ministry in Tanzania?" After only a moment's hesitation, John replied, "If every family in the church gave a \$100 gift, each gift would purchase a new bicycle. It would allow a traveling evangelist or healthcare/AIDS worker to reach more villages faster given the distance between villages is often a six-hour-walk."

In May, 2005, with the encouragement of the late Robert Walker, His Wheels International was incorporated as a 501-C-3 Not-For-Profit. Walker, "The Pioneer of Christian Journalism" prayed daily for Teisan (12 years), taught her to write, challenged her to write a tract, a book, and start a ministry.

By July 2005, a picture sparked our Global Hand-cycle (trike) Division. Globally, many have been impacted by polio, landmines, and other physical disabilities. Without transportation, these individuals are left crawling along on their hands, pulling their paralyzed limbs behind through the dirt and sewage.

An invitation to a party (August 2005), is where Teisan and Kevin Nikolich met. After showing him a picture of a hand-cycle Teisan bought in Nigeria, Africa in 2003 (part of her lifetime goal: to give away 100-bicycles). Teisan said, "I hope to take a welding class, learn to weld and then build hand-cycles." Kevin said, "I'm a mechanical engineer. Can I design, build and pay for the trike prototype?"

From there, it was clear that this was divine timing and His Wheels started rolling.

Foundation on which HWI operated for 20 years

- **Prayer:**

- HWI was:
 - Birthed out of prayer
 - Bathed in prayer
 - Daily prayer led by JJ, (50 men in a Texas Penitentiary)
 - Directed through prayer
 - Funded by God through prayer.
 - Teisan continues on teaching prayer studies.

By the Numbers:

- **Over 500 volunteers by 2010** (when we stopped counting).
- **Budget:**
 - Monthly average \$1,833
 - 20-year total of \$440,000
 - Countless gifts-in-kind.
- **Locations:**

- 2005-10: Teisan's backyard
- 2010-14: Rented 3,500 sq. Ft. building
- 2014-21: A storage unit
- 2021-24: Teisan's home.
- **Media: Sharing the story of hope and His Wheels**
 - **Radio/TV: Featured on 13+ different programs, 30+ appearances**
 - NPR Worldview Wednesday
 - Moody Radio
 - Chris Fabry Live (a best of programs from 2010)
 - First Person with Wayne Shepherd
 - Family Radio: WJCH with Virginia Beehn
 - Special Chronicles Podcast
 - 17 HWI videos hosted on YouTube.
 - **Print Media: Appeared in over 90 publications**
 - Daily Herald, (Best of story in 2006)
 - Journals, Flyers, Newsletters (80+), HWI brochures (3)
 - Teisan's tract and two books:
 - *Riding on Faith: Keeping Your Balance When the Wheels Fall Off*
 - *Pray 10K: How the Radical Can Become Real, a 10,000-Hour Prayer Adventure*
 - Story/Coloring book:
 - Très the Trike's Treks: Travels to A-Land-Far-Away (2,000 distributed)
 - Feature HWI hand-cycles in 4th of July parades (2) Distributed 3000+ pieces of literature at each
 - **Speaking Opportunities: (over 90 different venues)**
 - Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary meetings
 - Video invitation to students in 7 Pakistan Universities for design contest
 - Disability Certification Program
 - Church programs: Pioneer Girls, Adult and children's classes
 - Commencement speech: Teisan 2017 Distinguished Alumni of the Year (Resurrection University)
- 7-International Not-For-Profit start-ups benefitted from HWI mentoring, consulting and networking.

Bicycles: 2005-2013

- Supplied 165 to 12 African countries.
- Repaired and distributed (1,700+ bicycles in USA)
 - Missionaries (43 organizations representing 52 countries)
 - Immigrants/refugees (600 representing 50+ countries)
 - Post Hurricane Katrina (150 to Louisiana in partnership with Naperville Presbyterian Church)
 - International Students (20+ countries).
- Sponsored Eagle Scout Service Project (20 bicycles collected and repaired for World Relief)
- Weekly workday participants:
 - Seniors

- Students: church groups, classes, International students
- Neighbors: formerly incarcerated, refugees
- Community service hours
- Special Education transitional students
- Partnership with Working Bikes, Chicago
- HWI partnered with 31+ organizations in 9 U.S. cities, in collection and distribution of bicycles.

HWI Hand-cycles: 2005-2025

- **Prototypes (22 progressive prototypes done gratis by Engineer, Kevin Nikolich)**
 - **Designs:**
 - **National Models:**
 - U.S. urban 7-speed
 - Junior racers (2)
 - **International Models:**
 - Low Rider
 - Pre-Dott Series (5)
 - International DOTT series
 - Manufacturing fixtures (set of 4 as a turn-key system for production)
 - Wooden block fixturing
 - Seating and Skin Care Manual (Written by Nancy Biedry, P.T.)
 - Mini (Desktop)
 - Free downloadable blueprints now available at: URL
 - **Other:**
 - Insync/out of sync hand-cycle crank arm system (activated while pedaling)
 - Rough Terrain Wheelchair Concept Drawing (Parts Specification for Pakistan)
- **Distribution:**
 - 120+ His Wheels trikes (hand-cycles in 22 countries on 7 continents)
 - South America to Oceania (Peru to Vanuatu)
 - Asia to Europe (Indonesia to Bulgaria)
 - United States to Africa (15 countries)
 - Junior racers: (young girls adopted from Belarus and India)
- **Production Runs:**
 - DOTT hand-cycle Series: (3-runs: 70 total)
 - Manufacturing Fixtures (1 run: 3 sets of 4 fixtures)
- **Assembled/Manufactured:**
 - Uganda: Ideas Workshop (built from HWI's free downloadable blueprints)
 - North Africa (Taught a humanitarian worker to weld/build/design. His team built 20)
 - Ethiopia: (15 HWI hand-cycle kits shipped to Soddo Christian Hospital)
 - Inspiration for Emmanuel Disability
- **Design-elements replicated in other models (Uganda & Pakistan).**

Hand-Cycle Community Development & Disability Advocacy

- **Developed a University Consortium**
 - **Wheaton College**

- Graduate Internship (Christian Formation and Ministry)
 - Engineering class design projects
 - Engineering Departments 50-year anniversary celebration
 - Guest Speaker, Graduate chapel, and classes
 - Faith and Disability Initiative Symposium Participant (where “20 thought-and-practitioner-leaders from around the world” met)
 - Contributed to a special issue of the Journal of Disability and Religion.
 - Teisan recorded a four-part talk titled: The stages of an acquired disability: The last part entitled Redemption, describes how HWI was born out of her 30+ year disability with ME/CFS.
 - Football mission trip: Trike to Senegal, fixtures to a neighboring country.
- **Messiah University**
 - Site visit to HWI headquarters
 - Spoke at Engineering Department Chapel, and Collaboratory night
 - Collaboration visit to MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) with HWI
 - Class projects and evaluation of safety issues with MU’s hand-cycle
 - Computer Analysis Strength Testing on HWI’s trike
 - Collaboratory mission: Burkina Faso (A HWI trike kit welded together)
- **Spring Arbor University**
 - Enactus (a network of leaders committed to using business as a catalyst for positive social and environmental impact)
 - Chicago Regional Competition: showcase of social entrepreneurship project
 - Hyderabad, India: Raised money for the building and distributing of 20-HWI hand-cycles for a leprosy colony.
 - Arranged transportation for a HWI hand-cycle to Hyderabad
 - Business Class project: Part-sourcing in Tanzania for HWI trike
 - HWI trike to Burundi
 - Friends of Immanuel University, India: Graduate Business students
- **Mobility Worldwide**
 - **Committee Member:**
 - Theory of Change
 - Research and Development
 - Medical Advisory Committee: Seat Evaluation
 - **Conference Speaker:**
 - Annual Conference, Holland, MI
 - Provision & Distribution Conference
 - **Concept Design Consultation:** (International Executive Board and 4 affiliates)
 - Weekly brain trust meetings with Executive Director
 - HWI DOTT-CC trike and US Urban model given for future hand-cycle development
- **Joni and Friends (JAF)**

- Family Retreats (trikes were used as a free-time activity)
- Taft Prison visit (JAF Wheels for the World partnership where inmates restore wheelchairs for distribution)
- HWI trike to Trujillo Peru with Wheels for the World partnership
- JAF Headquarters: (Meetings with 8 JAF department heads and donated a hand-cycle)
- JAF Chicago area Disability Summit: exhibitor and speaker
- **Formed a hand-cycle community (12 organizations doing similar work)**
 - Formulated a Hand-cycle (Trike) Criteria for Designing and Testing document with individuals from 9 institutions (Russia to MIT).
- **Concept/Product Design Consultation (15 organizations) including:**
 - Creative Mobility
 - Free Wheelchair Mission
 - Beautiful Gates, Nigeria
 - The Accessibility Institute, Kenya
- Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (wheelchair athletic program)
- STEAM Maker Day, Wheaton Public Library
- International Judge NOWPDP/ Pakistan: (hand-cycle design competition, 60+ entries from 7+ institutions)
- Global Mission Health Conference (Exhibit booth display in partnership with Soddo Christian Hospital)
- USAID Comparative Trike Study (7 designs in Indonesia 2013-2014) follow-up meeting: (10 participants from organizations, mobility companies, and university faculty)
- Project Rwanda: hosted Director
- WBEZ (NPR) Global Expo (exhibitor)
- I-TEC (Indigenous Peoples Technology & Education Center), Ministry visit: Exchange ideas with HWI board, Steve Saint, and I-TEC team

Conference Speaker:

- International Transportation Conference, D.C.
- Health and Human Services Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee Meeting, (same day) D.C.
- CUBE, Chicago Unconventional Bike Expo
- Glen Ellyn Covenant Church Women's Retreat
- Disability Awareness Sunday: Wheaton, Evangelical Free Church

In 2025, HWI completed its God given mission. His Wheels contributions to the hand-cycle community have been fully integrated into the programmatic efforts of Mobility Worldwide with the shared goals of expanding reach, raising awareness, and improving the design for the end-users.

All glory, honor, and praise to God the Father, Jesus Christ His Son, and through the Holy Spirit's direction for the ministry legacy of His Wheels International. Indeed our God has supplied all HWI's "needs (beyond our wildest imaginations) according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus," (Phil. 4:6).

Thank you for partnering with His Wheels International as together we have Mobilized God's Work Worldwide through the platform of bicycles and hand-cycles.

Compiled March 18, 2025 by Alice Teisan, Founder & Executive Director