

SUMMER 2025

Mobility Ministries, Inc.

A Ministry to the World . . . from Northwest Indiana



Brandina's Dream

Editor's Note: This story deeply touched our hearts as Brandina exemplifies a person who does not let her physical limitations get in her way. What a blessing that Mobility Ministries could assist her as she strives to fulfill her dream — that is why we are here!

Ntcheu, Malawi — Brandina Mlotha, a delightful 19-year-old student, currently attends Ntcheu Secondary School in her senior year and serves as a huge inspiration to her peers. Having made it this far with a major physical challenge is a remarkable achievement. Others her age chose marriage as an easier option than education, but Brandina does not harbor self-doubt, and she believes in her ability to pursue her dream of becoming a bank manager or owning her own company in the future.

She states, "I lived in Zomba and I was born physically challenged. The wheelchair I used required someone to push me, which

We no longer make the *Mobility Cart*! See the **all new Action Trike** on pages 3 & 4, and the HUGE benefits for the recipients!

"I promise to continue working hard to inspire others who perceive being born with a disability is a regrettable circumstance."

—Brandina



was difficult for my mother to manage because she needed to work to provide for me and my siblings. My aunt suggested that I transfer to the primary school in Ntcheu so her children could assist me with school transportation. (continued on p. 2)

Brandina's Dream

(continued from p. 1)

Now I am diligently working to finish my studies here and I aspire to continue at the University of Malawi, where I aim to become a bank manager.

Brandina continues, "I understand that some individuals with disabilities feel limited by their physical challenges. However, I want to encourage them that disability is not an inability, and we cannot attribute it solely to God. Instead, I am grateful for my life and every stage I have passed. I also express my gratitude to *Action for Progress* for this generous gift, as it will greatly assist me with mobility. I will no longer need to rely on my friends to push me, instead I will be cycling and pushing myself along. I am grateful and promise to continue working hard and inspiring others who perceive being born with a disability as a regrettable circumstance."

Physical challenges do not hinder individuals from pursuing their aspirations. Individuals with physical disabilities are no different from others and possess the potential to achieve their goals if they maintain a positive self-perception, work diligently, and are able to avoid societal discrimination.



The last 10 of our wood body Mobility Carts were loaded in a shipping container in March; then production of the new and much improved Action Trike model began!

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.*

Dan is Enjoying His Eternal Life

Dan and Susan Allen came to Mobility Ministries in 2015 and together they plugged into the Packing Crew team. Dan took the responsibility of making sure they had a complete crew each week, calling in subs for help if needed. He made sure that each week seven carts were properly packed into their respective boxes — the crew could usually get it done in less than an hour. Even when Dan was getting weaker in his struggle with cancer toward the end, Dan showed up to watch his friends pack the carts. Then on February 3, 2025, Dan entered his heavenly home, free of his bodily weakness and pain, joyful to serve his Savior in His presence. We are so thankful for Dan's part in the ministry of Mobility, packing several thousand of Carts — his gentle ways and friendly smile will never be forgotten.



≡ *Action Trike*

.... unlocking the full potential of a hand-cycle

Bob Gabrielse

June, 2025

Mobility Cart — 2012 to 2024



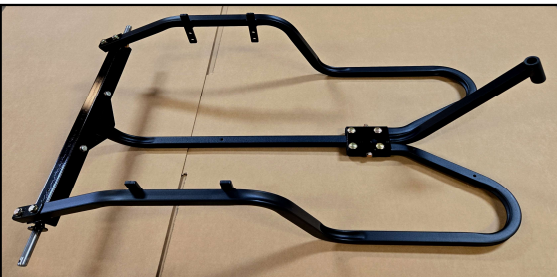
Action Trike — 2025 to ???



For 25 to 30 years the original basic design of the *Mobility Cart* has been accepted as adequate; it is sturdily built and only cosmetic changes have been implemented. When I served as Chairman of the Design & Standardization Committee for Mobility Worldwide in 2015, I became increasingly aware of the nearly unlimited potential for improvements. In 2016, I addressed the Annual Conference and challenged the organization to embrace significant changes to the vehicle, including but not limited to, making the vehicle lighter, replacing wood with plastics, and re-designing a number of the components. In my focus on developing the full potential of this mobility vehicle, I realized that a whole new design was necessary to address numerous interrelated changes. I am often asked: “What prompted you to totally re-engineer the mobility vehicle?” The focus of the re-design was to provide always better benefits to the Recipient; but the motivation for this re-design was God’s directive for Christians to love their neighbor!

The name “Action Trike”: The very name conveys what we believe is key to what our Recipients need—a vehicle that goes much further to empower them to be as *active* as is possible and that inspires them to *actively live their life* to their fullest potential! This vehicle not only gives *Mobility*, but also brings *Dignity*, and along with that, it inspires *Hope*!

The Frame on the Action Trike is made using CNC bent 1” square tube (14ga center beam, two 16ga side beams). The body is dropped from 7.5” of ground clearance to 4.5” clearance, making it far easier to get on the vehicle. But the new frame does more: it opens up the front end by getting rid of the toe-board; it allows 6” of additional foot room along both sides of the gooseneck; it uses steel side beams to support the Seat (no need for wood support); it allows for significantly more seat adjustment; it combines the gooseneck with the main center beam without welds; and substantially increases the stability of the Action Trike due to a significantly lower center of gravity. You can see the differences in the vehicles pictured above. Also, the Frame is not as rigid as the traditional frame and has a softer ride—strong, quiet, and smooth—it acts like a shock absorbing frame.



The Rear Wheels on the Action Trike are 19.5” flat free wheels Marastar manufactures for us to our specifications with a steel rim and Peer Bearings. Weight is about 2–3oz more than the 15” rear wheels. Larger circumference wheels handle uneven surfaces more easily (much less ‘wheel friction’). Width is about 2” (current rear wheels have 2.75” tread width). Lesser flotation surface of a narrower tread is set off by the increased flotation surface of the larger circumference wheel.

The **Plastic Body on the Action Trike** is made of a 1/4" HDPE which is 'thermal formed with a vacuum assist' and it weighs only 6.5lbs; it has an extremely high UV rating (it is the same 1/4" HDPE sheets that John Deere uses for it's garden cart dump bodies). The Body is trimmed and shaped to our specifications; they nest well in each other (at 1-1/4" spacing) for shipping to us. The front wheel guard protects the feet of the recipient. The

bottom of the plastic Body is "trayed" for strength, stability and rigidity, and it is supported by all 3 of the Frame parts. The Body has 4 drain holes, and it is riveted to the Frame, using drive rivets; the nesting space increases to 4-1/2" spacing after frame attachment. We weld the Rear Axle Beam assembly and assemble the Frame components in our Shop.



The **Seat System on the Action Trike** is composed of a rotomolded HDPE Seat Base (with steel reinforcing tubes inside) and a removable hi-quality cushion that is sculpted for avoiding pressure sores; the rotomolded curved Seat Back provides comfort. This system was designed to be very adjustable for different recipients. The Seat can be set higher or lower with the 3 slots in the bracket and the 2 bolt holes in the Frame (4 height settings) for the rider; the Seat can slide forward or backward in the slots a total distance of almost 9" for the rider; and the Seatback can be raised 3". This design provides extra flexibility in adjusting the Seat system down and forward for use by a 5 year old, or adjusting it up and back for a person that is 6'6" tall — in short it can grow with the recipient and be adjusted accordingly. Seat adjustments are made easier by using Knob Bolts instead of hex bolts.



Mobility Cart

Action Trikes—same units, but very adjustable seating

The **Tractor Unit on the Action Trike** has changed. Since the Action Trike was lowered considerably, the Fork has been redesigned to make it more compact and to remove unnecessary space between the wheel and the Fork. The Pedal Post has been shortened and is now a 1" x 1-1/2" rectangle tube; the spacing between the T-bolt holes is reduced to 3". The chain was shortened to 60" and the brake shoe changed from 1" round bar to 7/8" round bar. The drive sprocket in the Crank was increased from 21T to 25T to allow for more speed; to facilitate that speed increase the Crank arms were increased 1/2" in length to provide the necessary power. The Fork legs were shortened, and the front axle ends and cotter pins were recessed into the Fork legs for safety reasons. Other parts of the Fork were also adjusted. A Knob Bolt is used for chain tensioner adjustments.



Summary: The **Action Trike** is a totally different vehicle—the only parts that the **Mobility Cart** and the **Action Trike** now share in common are the Front Wheel and the Bearings. Every Work Station and every Process at our Shop has changed; every part is made differently, and new tooling and jigs were made. The Action Trike now uses all Metric fasteners. With all of these changes, the Action Trike is less bulky, and it weighs about 20 pounds less than the average Mobility Cart being produced. It now fits in an even smaller packing box— 40" x 29" x 13.5"— which permits us to increase the number of Action Trikes we can ship in a 40' hi-cube Container from our current 231 units to 237 units.

A Community's Journey to Empowerment

Lilongwe, Malawi — In the heart of Malawi, *Action for Progress* (AfP) has dedicated its efforts to assisting those in need, regardless of their background or circumstances. From impoverished villages to cities and trading centers, AfP's commitment to providing support for individuals facing mobility challenges is unwavering.



One such individual is Wafwase Sichali, a resident of a small village in the Karonga District of central Malawi. Born in 1968, Sichali experienced minor mobility issues for the first eight years of his life. However, at age 8, a bout of cerebral malaria severely affected his ability to move. Despite trying various medical options, his left leg remains paralyzed to this day.

At some point Sichali received a wheelchair which he used until it deteriorated. He stated that he has been without any wheelchair or other mobility device for at least the past two decades. The challenges he faces in navigating his daily life, particularly when attempting to use public restrooms, are profound. Crawling on his hands and knees increases his pain and basically hinders his ability to fully participate in social interactions. As he was being interviewed, Sichali described the lack of infrastructure to promote accessibility in public places.

Upon learning of a church in Mzuzu that had been given mobility units to distribute, Sichali sought their assistance. Thankfully he was given a brand-new unit. Additionally he received a Bible in the Chichewa language, a gift that surpassed his expectations.

"I am now able to engage in my farming activities," Sichali proudly declared. "As a rice farmer in Karonga, this unit will facilitate my business endeavors. Furthermore, I believe that the Bible will be a valuable resource for my spiritual growth." Sichali went home a very thankful and happy man and the Karonga District will follow his situation and hopefully be one step closer to providing more ways to aid many others with mobility challenges.

Who Says You Can't Have Fun Loading a Container?



Wheatfield, IN—On March 18, volunteers gathered to fill the 14th container heading to Malawi with 230 mobility carts. It was a tight load once again and the guys worked well together, stopping only for water breaks. But instead of filling the last spot with a cart box, there were bags of clothes ready to fill that space; they were being thrown faster than the crew could catch them.

"Ouch! That bag had SHOES in it!"

"OOOohh, that's why it was so heavy!"

"We're sooooo SORRY!" After our fun and laughter, we then joined hands and



prayed, for safety for the truck driver, and asking God to bless the recipients in Malawi who would receive these gifts.

Rotary Clubs are Over-Achievers !



In our winter newsletter, we told you about the 57 Rotary Clubs of the Northern District of Indiana setting a 1-year goal of donating 57 carts, one from each Club. As of the end of that 1 year in June, those Rotary Clubs have sponsored 178 carts — more than 3 times their original goal! This has given our ministry a big boost and we are extremely thankful! But that's not all — many clubs put together Birth Kits for us to pack in our cart boxes. These are very basic supplies that are given to moms ready to deliver their babies so when they are ready to go



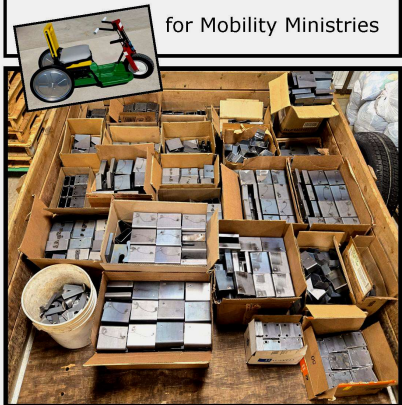
to very sparsely equipped rural hospitals in Malawi they have just what is needed. Pictured here are two special groups who helped with the Birth Kits: the Interact Rotary Group of teens from KV High School, and the Girl Scout Brownies who worked with the



Ossian Rotary Club. With their help along with many others, we received over 1000 Birth Kits! **THANK YOU All !!!**

4000 Pieces of Blessing!

for Mobility Ministries



Thank You Steel Craft !



The crew from Steel Craft Fabricators donated their labor and materials to provide over 4000 specialty parts for 500 carts. But it wasn't quite free —with a friendly smirk they charged Bob 1/2 cent for each part! [\$20.00]



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