



Eulpio Capil Fermin from La Moskitia, Honduras is 58 years old. He has no job. He is married with six children. In 2001 he had a diving accident on a lobster boat. After that he was hospitalized for 59 days receiving treatments in the hyperbaric oxygen chamber but was unable to regain the use of his legs. He gives thanks to God and all the hands that made his new PET.



Elias lives in Honduras and is 24 years old. He had Polio when he was 1 year old and was left paralyzed in both legs. Elias is married and father of two children; they currently don't have a place to live of their own. His mother and family borrowed a plot of ground where they built several shacks.



This is a nonprofit corporation that came into being through compassion for others. It will continue and flourish through those who catch the spirit and give of their time and resources. We welcome word-of-mouth publicity, commitment of volunteers, and tax-deductible financial gifts.



Donations may be made payable to:

PET IN – DeMotte, Inc.
5978 W. State Rd. 10
DeMotte, IN 46310



The Gift of Mobility, The Gift of Hope.

P.E.T.

--the gift of mobility!



Volunteers, especially retirees, coming together to make PETs (Personal Energy Transportation) for those in the Third World who have no legs or cannot walk.



PET IN – DeMotte, Inc.
219-789-8617

PERSONAL ENERGY TRANSPORTATION

Where did it all start?

Mel West from Missouri tells the story: "The PET gets its name from Personal Energy Transportation. The PET is a 3-wheeled, hand-cranked, sturdily built wheel chair with hauling capacity; it will go where an ordinary wheel chair will not go, and it's designed for the Third World where the roads and trails are bad and rough and where the people need to haul things.

It all started in 1995....when a missionary friend in Zaire (now Congo) told me they needed a hand-cranked wheelchair for the rough roads – so many people had lost legs in the war from landmines. So I got with my friend Earl Miner who is a design engineer....and several prototypes were sent to Africa with the invitation to try them out on the worst places they could find to see how they held up. The recipients were, first of all, very poor because of their situation and where they lived. Secondly the loss of the use of their legs came from a wide variety of causes: polio, landmines, birth defects, leprosy, and large animal injuries such as crocodiles."

How extreme is the shortage?

Some reliable estimates put the number of people who are unable to walk because of leg deformities, injuries or amputations at 15—20 million, more than 1/3 of whom live in Third World countries where hard surfaces do not exist for regular wheelchairs. While polio is on the decline around the world, millions are alive today who suffered from polio while a child – they will never walk for the rest of their lives. In marshy areas of Africa crocodiles maim countless people each year. One of the largest problems is landmines which currently maim several thousand people each month. Since 1979 more than 20,000 civilians have died in Cambodia from landmine explosions, and there have been 44,000 amputees. Landmines are indiscriminate weapons—they do not distinguish between a soldier's footstep and a child's footstep. Yes, the need is overwhelming, but each PET made and delivered gives new life to the recipient – one person at a time.

Can you imagine what it means to a man or woman if, after 30 years of crawling in the dirt, someone walks up to you, lifts you up from the dirt, brushes off your clothes, and sets you on a brand new colorful PET, and then . . . you hear the words of Jesus: "I say, get up and walk!" As you tentatively begin to turn the hand-crank, you feel yourself moving forward under your own power. You feel forward motion while sitting on a seat, when for much, if not all, of your life the only thing you felt associated with forward motion was rocks cutting your hands, your elbows, and your stomach as you pulled yourself forward, inch by inch! Then you look for the first time at the people around you, eye to eye, sharing the dignity of being human like them, instead of straining to look up at them from the ground!

Where are PETs being made today?

The first PETs were built in Mel's garage, but the ministry has expanded and now PETs are being built at 21 certified locations in the U.S. and a few sites overseas. Last year about 6000 PETs were built and shipped, but there is an extreme shortage in the world.

How are PETs distributed?

The PET Project works mainly with existing and trusted Non-Government Organizations. These agencies are already in place in poor countries. They have staff who place the PETs where they are most needed and train and monitor the people in their use. They are given at no cost to the recipient.

Contact Us:

PET IN-DeMotte, Inc.
5978 W. State Rd. 10
DeMotte, IN 46310
219-789-8617

Jesus said, "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Why are PETs so important?

If you were an amputee in most any of the Third World countries, you would almost certainly encounter the following:

1. You would be despised because you would be seen as having been cursed; often you are carefully hidden away by your family.
2. You are a burden; you eat, but cannot produce; you are a drain on the family's meager resources. You are a burden because you have to be manually carried.
3. You cannot even carry your own child because if you do move around, you need both arms to pull yourself along the ground.
4. You probably have no dignity in your community, because while everyone else walks, eats, works, and socializes, you crawl along in the dirt, more like an animal than a human!
5. You have nothing you own because you are entirely dependent on others for everything!

Dr. Roger Hoffmeister, a volunteer doctor, treated countless victims with maiming injuries in Vietnam. Now retired, he is a regular and very active PET Workshop volunteer. He observed that when you put a person who has been on the ground for 20 or 30 years on a PET you change their life and "there aren't many things in medicine or any other things that gives that kind of effect immediately." This change of a person's life so dramatically takes place when you place a disabled person on a PET!

What can WE do?

The DeMotte area has a brand new workshop to manufacture these PET carts. We need the support of all of Northern Indiana; it is an ecumenical effort, and we are an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization. Our goals are:

1. To provide mobility to those outside of the U.S. who are most in need of it.
2. To provide meaningful activity for volunteers (and especially retirees), who wish to meet this need.

We have a truly unique opportunity to make a difference directly in the lives of the least and lowest of the poor. We need your encouragement, your time, your funds—it is a cooperative effort to reach out all over the world. Each PET will involve the investment of about **\$250** to cover its construction costs and shipping it to one of the coasts for final distribution.