

"It's not right that human beings crawl on the ground all their lives." -- Rev. Mel West, Founder, Mobility Worldwide



## September 2019

### This Man Deserves Better ...

I'm sorry but we don't know this man's name. We don't know what he does all day or how he survives. But we do know that up until recently this wheelchair was his only means of mobility, except for crawling through the mud.

These two photos tell the story of why a specialty wheelchair, the Mobility Cart, is so important in developing countries for disabled people to get around.



Lack of paved roads and sometimes heavy rains prevent disabled people from socializing, getting to the market, accessing medical care, attending faith services, going to school, and working. But it is for these conditions that the Mobility Cart was designed and built! Your investment in volunteer time or donor financial support can forever change a life.

# ... And Now He Has It!



# Join Us for the 11th Annual Del Webb Hill Country Retreat Fall Arts and Crafts Festival

October 19, 2019 10 - 4 October 20, 2019 11 - 3 4550 Del Webb Blvd San Antonio, TX 78253

Free Parking, Free Admission, Food, Raffle and over 50 vendors selling hand crafted items Sponsored by Alamo Ranch Artists League

The 11th Annual Del Webb Hill Country Retreat Fall Arts & Crafts Festival will be held this year on October 19 & 20. And once again Mobility Worldwide has been selected by the Festival as their "Charity of Choice." Thanks to the organizers, our volunteers will run the Raffle Room and the lunch meals. For our efforts, we will earn proceeds from these activities to be used for building more specialty wheelchairs. We will also host a sales table featuring wood products such as cutting boards and clipboards, and finely turned wooden vases and bowls. There will be more than 60 vendors selling all kinds of handmade arts and crafts, so come out to shop for Christmas gifts and support the artisans.

Thank you Del Webb Hill Country Retreat Fall Arts and Crafts Festival!



Follow us on Facebook @ Alamo Ranch Artists League Website: www.alamoranchartistsleague.com E-mail: alamoranchartistsleague@gmail.com

### PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Meet Helen Kornblum. M.D., co-founder of AMIGA (A Mission in God's Armor [Love]). "Dr. Helen" and "Sister Raquel" Ortez, SSND, founded AMIGA in 2005. "AMIGA is a mission in God's Amor (Love) dedicated to delivering basic health care, preventative health education, and most importantly HOPE to our brothers and sisters in Honduras living in circumstances of profound and dire need, who in return share a treasure of insight and wisdom back."



Dr. Helen and the local support group of AMIGA have been strong allies with Mobility Worldwide in getting Mobility Carts shipped to Honduras and distributed to physically disabled people there in need of mobility assistance.

We learned in early September that Dr. Helen, in an attempt to keep her niece from falling down concerete steps, ended up with the niece falling on her. Dr. Helen cushioned her niece's fall but fell straight back, striking a concrete corner. Dr. Helen sustained a "severe burst fracture to L1 with almost complete loss of the vertebrae." Fortunately she did not damage her spinal cord and remains neurologically intact. She is currently wearing a back brace, is on strict bedrest, and will have started physical therapy by the time you read this.

Dr. Helen stated she is "heartbroken" she won't be able to make the September 21 trip to Honduras, which was going to be her chance to personally thank the parish and other volunteers for all of the support and hard work over the years.

Your prayers for comfort and speedy recovery for Dr. Helen will be appreciated, as she will be sorely missed while she recovers and is unable to travel to Honduras to conduct the medical clinics. Dr. Helen, please accept our prayers from your friends and volunteers at Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio.

### HEY, THAT'S ONE OF OURS!

Speaking of AMIGA and the medical mission work they do in Honduras thanks to Dr. Helen and many others, they have been including some 10 Mobility Carts built in the San Antonio shop in their annual shipment to that country. AMIGA ships wheelchairs, walkers, clothing, medication, and a variety of other medical equipment once a year in preparation for their twice-yearly mission visits. They set up and run medical clinics in some of the most remote parts of Honduras, up in the mountains where coffee beans are being harvested. And every once in a while, we get a photo and story back showing someone who has received and is using a Mobility Cart manufactured in our shop. We learned that in their June 2019 trip, the AMIGA team of 23 saw 1,450 people in four days of clinics, and another 200 elementary school students at four schools, providing them with school supplies

and hygiene kits. This Cart was given to a 48-year old man named Antonio. He was injured while working, with his foot being pierced by a falling palm limb. His foot did well not heal and became severely infected, requiring amputation and a prosthetic limb. He can walk short distances using a crutch, but his Mobility Cart will allow him to travel



longer distances.



To the left is nine-year-old Alex, also living in Honduras, receiving a child-size Cart made in the Mobility Worldwide Michigan workshop. He is unable to walk, and his mother and grandmother take care of him full time. It is hoped this Mobility Cart will give them all a new sense of freedom and independence.

We send a special thanks to Mike Schramm, a volunteer with AMIGA, for these photos and stories.

### VACATION BIBLE EXPERIENCE AT FIRST UMC OF BOERNE MAKES SIGNIFICANT DONATION

Along with their regularly scheduled activities, this summer's Vacation Bible Experience (VBX) of the First UMC in Boerne held a fundraiser with the goal of donating enough money to Mobility Worldwide to build and ship 5 Mobility Carts (\$1,500). Rebecca Sweet, Coordinator of Children's Ministries, reported, "Secretly in my heart I felt the Lord nudging us towards 10 wheelchairs (\$3,000). But at the end of Day 2 of VBX, they had only raised enough money for 1 1/2 wheelchairs. Then there was an anonymous donation, and the children and staff continued to bring in additional donations. And by the end of the week, they had raised \$3,111 -- enough for 10 Mobility Carts! Rebecca Sweet said, "Thanks be to God for all the people who donated to bless 10 families around the world with the gift of mobility. And we pray that the people who receive these chairs will know that they are loved by God and some folks from Texas." Thank you, First UMC of Boerne!

### **IMPROVING LIVES IN HAITI** "A Long and Winding Road"



For eight days they were "out in the country," trying to make a better life for people with disabilities living in Haiti. They were somewhere between Hinche and Pignon.

Jodie Sell, a volunteer with Mobility Worldwide Texas-San Antonio, joined up with six Mobility Worldwide volunteers from Pella, Iowa and flew from the US to Haiti to distribute Mobility Carts for eight days. According to Jodie, there are already 400 Mobility Carts in use in this area, so one can see the great need to help disabled people with their mobility limitations here.



This is not new to Jodie, left, wearing a mango-colored shirt. She has been on mission trips before, working in Romania, Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Mexico. She said they found in the country,

away from the cities, the people have no electricity, water, or sewer service. Many of the residents earn an income by crop farming, raising goats, driving trucks and riding motorcycles to transport people or run errands. The government has dug water wells but often they require long walks to get the water, and the hours the wells are open is regulated. Jodie said people have to walk everywhere, and the weather is HOT!

Working with "Many Hands for Haiti," Mobility Worldwide ships containers of Mobility Carts to Haiti where they are stored until the volunteers can make another trip to that country for



additional distribution of Carts. When the volunteers arrive, they are confronted with people who have all kinds of physical challenges, significantly limiting their ability to get from one place to another.

Pictured here are three Haitian citizens with various disabilities. The first gentleman's legs cannot support his weight, so he has been fitted with leather pads on his knees so he can "walk" with his legs dragging behind

him. Then there is a young girl who was given a Mobility Cart. She was a little too big for a "Child Cart" so was issued an "Adult



According to Jodie, ed ucation (of all ages), employment, and proper nutri-

tion seem to be the most immediate needs in order for this population to thrive.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

presentation to your group, please contact Tom San Antonio, at (210)496-4784, or send him an For volunteer opportunities or to request Martin, President of Mobility Worldwide TX email to mwsanantonio@gmail.com. For more information about us, please visit our You can visit the international office of Mobility Worldwide website: mwsanantonio.org. mobilityworldwide.org.

at

no longer wish to receive the Mobility Worldwide If you have a change of address, would like to switch to receive the newsletter by email, or if you IX-San Antonio quarterly newsletter, please send your request to mwsanantonio@gmail.com

# Thank you for your support!

A Donor Receipt will be sent for all donations. based, 501(c)(3), tax-deductible, all-volunteen - San Antonio is a faith-Mobility Worldwide TX organization. We are also able to receive your donation on our webpage at mwsanantonio.org

Cart," with the assumption she will quickly grow into it.



### LIONS -- TRULY "INTERNATIONAL"



Sometimes, building a Mobility Cart is not the hardest part of the whole process. Take, for example, Mobility Carts going into Mexico. Carts crossing the border into Mexico must be screened by



made arrangements with the Lions across the border in Acuña. Mexico to come load Carts delivered to Del Rio by Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio and take them across. Thank you to Del Rio Host Lions Martinez, Rodney Mac McCain, Chris Ryan, Manny Carrillo, John Cole,



Cart (even though we are sending them into the country free of charge for the Mexican residents). To expedite the process, members of the Del Rio, TX Host Lions Club have

Mexican officials and a

"duty" assessed for each



and Johnny Watson for their help in getting 49 of our Carts prepared, stored, and ready for pick up. Thanks also to Joe Srubar, a Mobility Worldwide Volunteer and fellow Lion, along with Rob Remig, for driving the Carts to Del Rio.







### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We were quite pleased to learn of a Website and App that have been set up where organizations seeking volunteers, and people wanting to volunteer, can be connected. JustServe.org is such a place for matching needs with potential help. JustServe.org has a mission of helping "advance the quality of life" of others, focusing on assisting faith-based, nonprofit organizations (such as Mobility Worldwide). On September 21, several volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, joined with several resident students in the medical program at UTHSCSA preparing them for field of Physical Medicine & the Rehabilitation (Physiatry), and helped build parts for the production of Mobility Carts. Our thanks goes to the following participants, pictured to the left, top to bottom: James, Richard, Ashley, Aurora, Denny, and Eden and Dallin. Their other such service projects include Project MEND, physical examinations for performing Special Olympics, and providing services for special-needs children's track team.



Make checks payable and mail to: Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio P.O. Box 701172, San Antonio, TX 78270
State/ZIP
Address
Relationship
Name
Please send an acknowledgement in my/our name (withhold disclosing the amount of our gift) to:
My gift is in honor of / in memory of
Email
Phone
State/ZIP
Address
Business
Name
\$toward production of a Cart
\$ for Cart(s) at \$400 each, which includes a personalized metal plate on the Cart
\$ for Cart(s) at \$300 each
Yes! I want to partner with Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio to sponsor the building of Mobility Cart specialty wheelchairs.
\$300

