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★ COVER STORY ★

35 CARTS DISTRIBUTED IN ONE DAY!

Mobility Worldwide Texas-San Antonio

P.O. Box 701172
San Antonio, TX 78270
(210)596-4584
Website: mwsanantonio.org

Shop Location: 219 E. Nakoma Drive, San Antonio, TX (Rear entrance only; no mail delivery)

The Need

Over 65 million people need a wheelchair! In most developing countries, few of those who need wheelchairs have access and there are insufficient production facilities available. (21st World Congress of Rehabilitation International, World Health Organization, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, and Disabled People's International, 2008).

Of the more than 18 million amputees around the world, about 80-percent of those live in developing countries. ("Bringing Prosthetics to Developing Countries." Atlanta Business Chronicle, May 2010).

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide Mobility Carts (specialty wheelchairs) at no cost to individuals with disabilities who live in developing countries and who have no appropriate means of mobility by: operating a manufacturing site to construct Carts; educating the public about the great need of disabled and disadvantaged persons; raising funds to support the construction and delivery of the wheelchairs; and disseminating the wheelchairs to the applicants through international agencies and sponsors.



The Municipal President of Acuña City, Ciudad Coahuila, Mexico, and the First Lady of the Acuña Municipal DIF, carried out a ceremony of the delivery of 35 Carritos (Mobility Carts) on February 13. This occasion benefitted 35 people and their families, among them older adults and people with disabilities. These Mobility Carts were made and provided at no charge by volunteers in the manufacturing workshop of Mobility Worldwide Texas-San Antonio.

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The DIF staff and others involved also visited the homes of the people with disabilities to verify the need that they had for a Mobility Cart. Those residents receiving a Carrito will allow them to have a less dependent life and greater mobility in their day-to-day activities.



(Photos and above story thanks to DIF Acuña staff)

DELIVERING 20 MORE “CARRITOS”



Volunteers Joe Srubar and Rob Remig from Mobility Worldwide drove to Del Rio, Texas on March 2, delivering a trailer and pickup truck-load of Mobility Carts and medical equipment. The recipients from DIF Acuña, Mexico, were waiting for us and helped in transferring the equipment from our trailer to theirs.

Representatives from DIF Acuña included Director Amalia Hernandez and Assistant Zaira Gonzalez. Assisting with the driving and transfer of Carts from DIF were José and Gilbert.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX!

What do a machine shop manager, an electrical engineer and a mechanical engineer, and two welders do when they run out of space in their 2,500-square foot workshop? We looked at the cost of moving our operation to a larger warehouse but, not wanting to incur additional rent cost or the downtime of the actual move, we went back to the drawing board. And here's what our volunteer team came up with. “A Rube Goldberg,” dubbed by some naysayers, but the



final product quickly gained the understanding and admiration of the rest of the volunteers. “The Mezzanine” floor is 10' X 12', adds 120 square feet of useful space, and allows for 6' of headroom for storage underneath. And if that weren't enough, this special storage unit has a crane attached to it to provide for safe maneuvering of heavy objects going out and in our loading dock.



RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER

THE PASSING OF A PIONEER

Sidney L. Matin, Jr.

September 10, 1949 — January 4, 2023



WALT MISCHENKO has been a volunteer with Mobility Worldwide since before we started keeping records — before January 2009, in fact! Walt has now gone over 1,500 volunteer hours, specializing in seat cushion fabrication, assembly work, and instructing new volunteers in the various aspects of building a Mobility Cart. Congratulations, and thanks, Walt.

One doesn't need to search the imagination far to come up with the adjectives "pioneer" or "visionary" in describing Sid Martin and what he meant to PET (now Mobility Worldwide). Sid could see the end-product even before he tried to describe it to others and explain how each person fit in the big picture.

In 2004, Sid first encountered Mobility Worldwide and volunteers making hand-cranked, off-road wheelchairs. This small, all-volunteer worksite was in Luling, Texas. And as he looked at what they were doing, Sid thought, "My Sunday school class at Helotes Hills United Methodist Church could do that!"

BILL MYERS logged in 2,500 hours between his first day with us, March 2013, through the end of 2022. Bill also builds seat cushions, but his main specialty is making "Front Ends" and performing final assembly check to ensure that all the parts are in good operational order. We call Bill the "Trouble Shooter!"



A successful business man, it wouldn't be long before you could find Sid at the top of an organization, trying to "sell" the idea of providing "The Gift of Mobility" to influential people who may have positive impact on others to support the effort. We will never know how Sid got Deborah Knapp, KENS Channel 5 news anchor, to come out to our workshop and interview and record a story for the evening news! But there they are, Deborah and Sid, with cameras rolling in an old, vacant, airplane hangar, which we called our workshop.



Roger Galloway (aka "Roger the Welder") has amassed 4,000 volunteer hours at the end of the Year 2022! And he has accumulated all those hours just since beginning his volunteer work with us in October 2014. No one else has come close to that accomplishment, but then very few volunteers are in the shop working 15 hours a week! Thanks, Rog.



We thank Sid and his wife Laura who had their hands in starting several church Pumpkin Patches and BBQ Fundraisers to support the churches' community mission efforts. Sid, larger than life, will live on in the lives of disabled people in other countries whose lives have been enriched by the addition of their personal transportation device.

Yes! I want to partner with Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio to sponsor the building of Mobility Cart specialty wheelchairs.

\$_____ for _____ Cart(s) at \$350 each

\$_____ for _____ Cart(s) at \$450 each, which includes a personalized metal plate on the Cart

\$_____ toward production of a Cart

Name _____ M

Business _____

Address _____

State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My gift is _____ in honor of / _____ in memory of _____

Please send an acknowledgment in my/our name (with/hold shipping the amount of our gift) to:

Name _____

Relationship _____

Address _____

State/ZIP _____

Make checks payable and mail to:

Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio
P.O. Box 701172, San Antonio, TX 78270



