



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



July - September 2023

## **CARL COPPOCK**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

We just learned that Carl Coppock passed into Life Eternal on Friday, September 22, 2023.

Carl, with his wife Marge, were one of the first volunteer manufacturers of Mobility Carts in South Texas. We don't have the details of how a building site was established in Luling, Texas, but this happened sometime after 1994 when Mobility Carts were first produced in what became the first manufacturing site in Columbia, Missouri. Carl and Marge, along with other volunteers, would travel from San Antonio and surrounding areas to Luling, approximately 60 miles, on a Friday and remain there, spending the nights, and building Mobility Carts all weekend.

This project spread to San Antonio/Helotes, where another temporary workshop was set up and parts for the Mobility Carts were built and transported to Luling for finishing and shipping to other countries. After the San Antonio/Helotes group began manufacturing the entire Mobility Cart, the Luling shop was closed and reopened in Brazos Valley (College Station), which is still building Carts today.

Because the distance from Carl and Marge's home in north San Antonio to the San Antonio shop was too great, they decided to do other things with their time. But that first shop was quickly outgrown and a new warehouse in north-central San Antonio was established. This suited Carl and Marge just fine! And soon after the new shop was up and running, Carl and Marge were able to return in May 2010 where they remained active until this day.

Carl's accomplishments and contributions to Mobility Worldwide are many, but let it suffice to note that he earned a certificate in 2012 for 500 cumulative hours of volunteer service. This was followed by 1,000 cumulative hours in 2014; 1,500 hours in 2016; 2,000 hours in 2019; and 2,500 hours in 2022.



A man of many talents. A man dedicated to helping others through this "Gift of Mobility." A man of faith. A man with many friends. You will be missed, Carl. And Marge, we send you our most sincere sympathy.



## PROBLEM-SOLVING

### Mobility Worldwide Texas-San Antonio

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

James was crippled by polio as a child. He had worked hard his whole life as a blacksmith. And with no wife or children, at age 58, James lives at a small shelter for the disabled in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, Africa. Medical Services recently gave James a Mobility Cart, one of 78 Carts donated by Mobility Worldwide and shipped to Sierra Leone by "African Surgery." In spite of polio, James' Mobility Cart gets him around independently.



But who could have foreseen a new obstacle for James to solve? While he gets around town just fine on his Mobility Cart, he now encounters needing to carry with him a board that he uses to span the gap between the road and the sidewalk. It appears that the designers of infrastructure in Freetown thought it was necessary to create a space between the road and sidewalk to carry storm and waste water down the street. Up to the challenge, James is working on a solution to that problem!

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## A SURPRISE SHIPPING OPPORTUNITY!

Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio recently received a telephone call in which we were asked for our immediate response. It seems that Mobility Worldwide volunteers in our TX-Brazos Valley (College Station) workshop had been making arrangements to send a shipment of Mobility Carts to Mexico with the assistance of Aztec Ministries. When the transport truck showed up for the loading of Carts, it was determined that the truck was much larger than they had anticipated. Given this additional space to haul Mobility Carts, San Antonio was contacted and asked if we had any Carts we could add to their shipment.

Indeed, we had 24 completed Carts in our shop without a destination or without a sponsor to facilitate their delivery to another country. We were delighted to be able to participate in this combined shipment of

Carts going to Mexico, and within about three hours the truck showed up at our shop, the Carts were loaded, and the truck was off to a border crossing in El Paso, Texas! Sometimes things just work out! We have a good knowledge of and working relationship with the director of the Aztec Ministry Project, Tami Beller Gaddis, as we have received many photos of her Mobility Cart recipients in the past.



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## THE BIG GIVE!

For 10 years the Nonprofit Council has been proud to present Big Give, a 24-hour online giving day that helps connect South Central Texas nonprofits with new and existing donors. Again this year, the Council featured “Match Minutes” which allow donors to effectively double their donations throughout the day.



To provide greater visibility and hopefully develop new volunteers for Mobility Worldwide, we sponsored an Open House at our workshop on Saturday, September 9. We had an excellent turnout and, as you can see by the photos that follow, there was something for everyone to try out. We gladly accepted early donations and provided supervision in operating our machinery and equipment.



There is no deadline for donations, so please feel free to use the donation slip attached to this newsletter if you missed your opportunity to donate during the regular Big Give hours.

We are proud to report that through Big Give we exceeded our Goal of \$30,000 by raising \$32,103 thanks to 100 donors. This presents one-half of our annual budget to operate the shop, purchase materials, and get the finished Mobility Carts into the hands of the people who need them.



Mobility Worldwide TX-SA wants to thank our board secretaries, Joslyn and Joana, for all their hard work during the Big Give fundraising campaign. From sending mass communications by mail and email since June and soliciting matching sponsorships to blow up social media with inspirational content, we say, “Well done on the mission to give the gift of mobility.”

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***(Please note: The following two volunteer stories and photos were provided by Linda Montez, Volunteer Ambassador).***

# WELCOME, NEW VOLUNTEER!



Welcome, new volunteer Bob Oroszi! We're so glad for the conversation he and his wife had with their church friend Beverly, who also volunteers with Mobility. Earlier this year, Beverly invited them to visit our machine shop, and already Bob is a regular on Fridays.

For 30 years, Bob worked in the wholesale nursery business, mostly in Texas but also for a brief time in Florida. Currently his hobby of playing drums is a

weekend source of fun while taking his band to a variety of local venues. In general, he enjoys working with his hands and says he thanks God for the opportunity to serve at our Mobility shop.

Having attended Mobility's recent annual dinner, Bob tells of a video shown there that illustrates the need for our Carts worldwide, in this case showing the joy of the recipients in Africa gaining mobility. He says a particular statement continues to echo with him: "People crawl in, but they ride out!" They may crawl to receive a Cart, but then they're empowered to ride toward pleasure, confidence, freedom, income and a host of new opportunities. Bob says viewing the video inspired in him a desire to go to the shop and start working right then!

If anyone wonders if they too could become a volunteer, Bob reminds that Mobility does have a need for volunteers. The machine shop is routinely open Monday and Friday mornings. Groups may prearrange for Saturdays and other days. Bob smiles to say, "If you can stand or sit for a couple of hours, you're hired!"

# VOLUNTEERING SINCE AUGUST 2015 !

A huge thank-you to Deb Young! Deb began volunteering with Mobility in August 2015, and we're so happy she learned about our shop from a fellow church member. For a short time, Deb worked at one of our drill presses but then moved straight to painting. Because of Deb, our Mobility Cart floorboards and various components are fancifully dressed in reds, yellows, blues, and greens. Deb's been known to concoct some fun color blends as well, and her resourcefulness in stretching the life of a paintbrush is much appreciated by her fellow painters.

Deb grew up on a ranch and loved working with her dad. She loved to build things. She humorously comments, "I can't use a sewing machine too much anymore, but I can use a power saw!"

Deb says her first favorite thing to do is volunteer with Mobility. Her second favorite thing is volunteering with Meals on Wheels, where she has served for 23 years, at one point as a site coordinator through her church, and now delivering meals.



One of Deb's goals is to reach 1,000 hours of volunteer time with Mobility Worldwide. She currently has recorded 814 hours, so she may just meet that goal!

Deb wanted to remind everyone of the following: Mobility is always grateful for paint donations. If anyone ever has extra paint, latex or acrylic (non-oil) paints are especially helpful to us. Colors work well with our Carts, and white paint is least used. Partial cans of paint can be used. Please feel free to leave paint outside our workshop door at 219 E. Nakoma (rear).



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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the production of a Cart

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Cart(s) at \$450 each, which includes a personalized metal plate attached to the Cart

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of / \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement in my/our name (withhold disclosing the amount of gift) to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail to:

Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio

P.O. Box 701172

San Antonio, TX 78270

