



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



October - December 2023

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Mobility Cart #100,000 goes to a man in El Salvador

San Antonio's Mobility Cart #2,001 heads to Mexico

There are many ways to volunteer with Mobility Worldwide

Mobility Worldwide featured in "San Antonio Express-News"

Courtney Friedman from KSAT-12 TV visits San Antonio workshop



MOBILITY CART #100,000

Sr. Aristides Antonio Mejia
El Salvador



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.

Mobility Worldwide is an international volunteer, non-profit, charitable organization made up of 20+ production facilities located in the US and in the African countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Zambia. Its purpose is to reflect God's love by bringing mobility and dignity to those in developing countries who are unable to walk. Mobility Worldwide began in 1994, while the San Antonio (Texas) affiliate workshop came onboard in 2004. In those 30 years of manufacturing Mobility Carts, 100,000 Carts have been built and distributed within



MOBILITY CART #100,000

117 countries. Carts are donated, free of charge, to distribution partners who handle the shipping, importation, and assessment of beneficiaries before giving them away to those in need.

The applicant for a Mobility Cart from Mobility Worldwide chosen to receive Cart #100,000 is Sr. Aristides Antonio Mejia, a 50-year old resident of Quezaltepeque, El Salvador. Sr. Mejia has faced extraordinary challenges throughout his life. Drafted into the El Salvador Civil War at just 16 years of age, he endured a traumatic injury caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) that claimed his left leg and severely damaged his right. He is a devoted father of two daughters and a cherished grandfather of four grandchildren. His resilience and determination have been a source of inspiration to many.

Mobility Cart #100,000 represents a life-changing moment that will provide Sr. Mejia with newfound freedom and independence. Built by dedicated volunteers, Mobility Carts offer individuals a means to move with ease and dignity, enhancing access to education, employment and social activities. "Our vision at Mobility Worldwide is to create a world where all people with disabilities, regardless of their social-economic status and birthplace, have free access to mobility solutions that enable them to live with independence and hope," said Margot Newcomb, Mobility Worldwide's Board Chairperson. "This milestone underscores the importance of our mission and further empowers us to continue making an even greater impact." (Above, see photo of Sr. Mejia navigating his new Mobility Cart, with Wayne Beare, Mobility Worldwide's Director of Global Logistics, standing behind Sr. Mejia, third from the right).

2,000 CARTS: A MORE PERSONAL CELEBRATION!

As you have read elsewhere, there are 20+ "Affiliate" manufacturing sites in the US contributing to the overall production of Mobility Carts. Some of these workshops are small and some rather large. The San Antonio shop would rank in the smaller, one-third of the shops based on annual production. Local financial support, number of volunteers, and overall work space dictate the number of Mobility Carts a shop can produce.

So even though some of our workshops had been up and manufacturing Carts for 10 years when San Antonio came onboard, we are quite proud of the 2,000 Carts we have produced in our 20 years!

And wouldn't you know, as we got close to making that Cart #2,000 and kept pointing it out to everybody, we somehow let it slip through our hands without taking pictures of it or celebrating the achievement. So when we looked for it, we discovered #2,000 had gone out in the February 23, 2022 shipment to Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico. However, we did catch Cart #2001



and took a photo of our "Monday Volunteers" standing with the Cart and a second photo of the "Friday Volunteers" with the Cart.

Congratulations, San Antonio, on our achievement of having produced 2,000 Mobility Carts! And thank you to our numerous financial supporters who helped make this possible!

IT'S NOT A MOBILITY CART WITHOUT A SEATBELT

We should all recognize this person since no Mobility Cart leaves our shop without her handiwork added to complete it.



This is Maria Prasser and she was recommended by another volunteer, Ken McGinnis, for recognition of her volunteer work for Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio.

Maria was introduced to Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio in 2009 when a group of people living at Hill Country Retreat by Del Webb heard a presentation about our specialty wheelchairs and toured the workshop. She became interested in possibly volunteering there, however we soon moved to a larger and more permanent workshop near the San Antonio Airport and the drive became prohibitive. When the person who had been stitching the buckles to the Mobility Cart seatbelts was no longer available, Maria was contacted and she expressed much interest in joining us as a volunteer. That was 15 years ago, making Maria one of the longest-tenured volunteers!

Maria has an interesting background of having been raised in Germany, came to the United States in 1966, has volunteered at several National Parks, and took a roadtrip to Alaska in 2000. She has worked for the Cruise Lines, been in 100 countries, was a housewife and raised her children. Maria currently keeps active by playing tennis weekly. Pictured above, Maria uses her mother's old sewing machine to fabricate the seatbelts with buckles attached, since her more modern machine would not handle the thick webbing used for the seatbelts.

Thank you, Maria, for making this important safety feature for the Mobility Carts!

“SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS” PAYS A VISIT



Perhaps you have seen this heading in the “San Antonio Express-News” newspaper on Mondays, usually at the top of Page 3. Mr. Vincent T. Davis is a Staff Writer with an interesting background. After spending 22 years in the Air Force, he decided to seek a second career as a journalist. Mr. Davis’ news articles are snapshots of everyday people performing their routine

activities. His readers are given a glance at what others are doing and how they developed a passion in their lives for it. Vince wrote a very informative article in the October 31, 2023 edition of the “Express-News” about the Mobility Carts which we manufacture in our San Antonio workshop.

As a “plug” to assist us with seeking additional volunteers to help build our Carts, Vince stated in his article, “The volunteers look forward to many more hours of building gift carts alongside new helpers.”

Pictured here is Tom Martin, President of Mobility Worldwide, showing a padded seat cushion, as Mr. Davis takes notes.



MOBILITY WORLDWIDE FEATURED ON KSAT-12 (ABC) TV



Sure, you recognize her: That’s Courtney Friedman of KSAT-12, anchor for weekend evening newscasts and reporter during the week! KSAT was approached about doing a story on Mobility Worldwide and Courtney responded. Much of her body of work

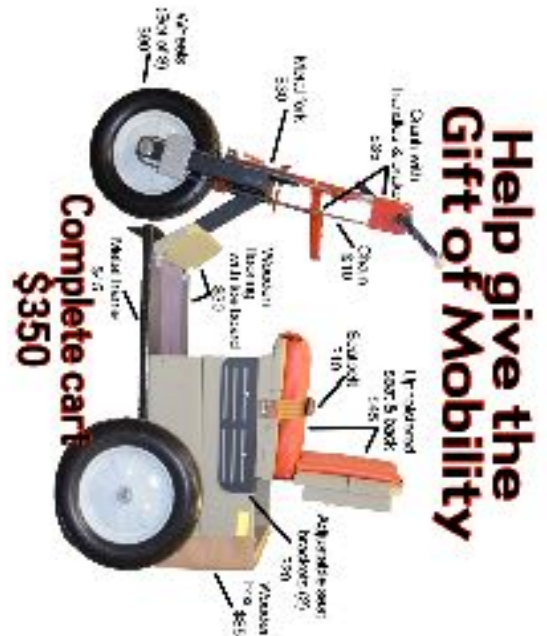
includes reporting on domestic violence, trafficking, foster care, homelessness, and suicide. Essentially her work gives survivors and the disadvantaged a “voice.” In 2021, Courtney was honored with the Media Award of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers Alamo

Branch for her work covering domestic violence. Here, Jodie Sell, Mobility Worldwide volunteer demonstrates to Courtney and her cameraman some of the equipment we use.



WATCH VIDEO

<https://www.ksat.com/video/news/2023/12/14/people-without-legs-worldwide-receive-mobility-carts-made-in-san-antonio/>



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