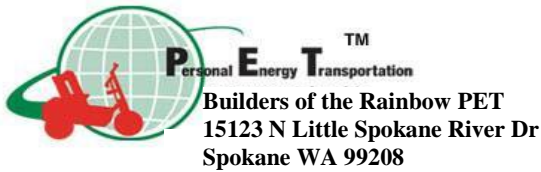


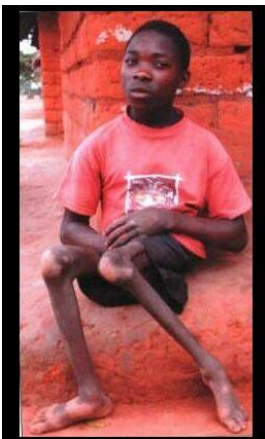
PET = Kin Pathways



Volume 1 Number 1 ~ December 2009

The BIG News

Yes, the BIG news is worth celebrating ~ “PET WA – Inland Northwest”, has just passed 500 PETs built. We have packed 501 and shipped 482 as of mid November. Quite a milestone accomplished by our super all-volunteer staff and paid for by our wonderful donors. The other piece of news is that we have succeeded in producing our very first newsletter, which you are holding in your hands. Enjoy. For suggestions, comments (good or bad), address changes, and ideas for articles, please contact: petnwnewsletter@onemain.com. We apologize if there is a “typo” or two in your name or address. Please help us get that correct. We can also save postage by sending future newsletters via e-mail if you will let us know.



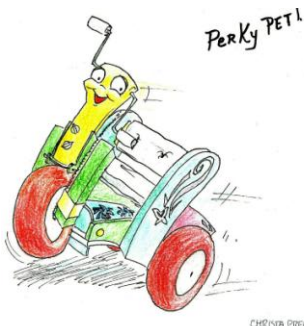
Why PET's ~ The Problem

Living in a country with good medical care and no leftover buried landmines to step on; it's hard to imagine the pain, suffering, and just plain inconvenience of not having use of our feet and legs. Millions of people around the world suffer from deformed, or missing, feet and legs due to bad nutrition prior to birth, childhood (or adult) disease or injury. Many of them must be carried by someone else, or come up with their own unique methods for getting around. This is 14 year old Katuta, a polio victim, from The Democratic Republic of Congo.

Before the December 26 earthquake in 2004, locations of buried landmines around populated areas in Southeast Asia were pretty well known and usually could be avoided. However, after the resulting tsunami, the landmines were re-arranged and many of them stepped on by women and children on their daily shopping trips.

An Answer

The “Give the Gift of Mobility” brochure enclosed with this newsletter will give you some idea of how PETs are being used around the world to help meet daily needs of some of the people described above. Evolution of the



current PET design is an interesting, and unique story. We'll include some of that evolution process in future newsletters.



Meet Our Mascot

Fourteen year old Christa Prentiss drew our mascot for us. Looking at the picture she drew, what could we have named him but the appropriate title of “Perky Pet”? Thank you so much Christa.

The Needs

Currently PET components are built and painted at homes volunteers, then brought to the shop in Colbert, Washington Mondays or Thursdays for final assembly, packing, and shipping. The need of so many injured or maimed people are literally “stuck in the dirt” is so great, it’s heartbreaking make them wait. This picture shows how Jose Molina (after bout with polio at age 3) managed to get around his town of Cortes Honduras before he got a PET. He said he used to “crawl on the ground like a cat”. The picture below shows him on his new PET. What isn’t so evident in the picture is the radiant happiness of his face when, for the first time, he could move face to face with other people.



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A note the other day from our director, Dick Carpenter, expresses our greatest current need:



“In the last week, I have made the purchases for the 13th round of 50 PETs. We should finish the 12th round in late January. This week’s purchases total about \$3500 which ‘breaks the bank’ until we get more donations.” Although PETs are assembled by volunteers, to purchase parts and ship them overseas costs about \$250 per vehicle (or \$12,500 per batch of 50). There is a project donation slip on the back of the “Give the Gift of Mobility” brochure for your convenience. You can also give in memory of a friend or loved one, or you can honor a person while helping provide mobility to another person. Two gifts in one, a gift from

the heart celebrates a special occasion while supporting the work of The PET Project. A note will be sent to the person being honored.

Besides the urgent need for financial help, clean packing (filling) materials are always welcome. We fill each shipping box with items that have practical uses overseas. Stuffed animals (we send thousands each year), clothing, including shoes, boots, coats, and hats, blankets and sheets, prescription/vitamin pill bottles, cassette tapes of music or sermons, and wire coat hangers (even bent ones) are welcome additions.

One last item which illustrates one of the unique methods a person can use to get around before the age of the PET. This poor fellow, from Uzbekistan, stepped on a buried landmine. Talk about ingenuity. He now has a PET which not only gives him much better mobility, but he can carry items in the “trunk” of his new PET.



Lifting people out of the dirt into dignity, one PET at a time