

December 2010

Volume II, Number 5



## *Reports from the Field*

### *Mongolia*



It isn't often we can get good pictures of our Spokane built Rainbow PETs as they arrive on the field and are distributed to those in desperate need. We did get these (and others) from Mongolia when a load of Rainbow PETs arrived last Spring. Notice the smiles on all of these recipients as they realize they can now be more like "normal people" and not be put down because they are physically challenged.



### *Honduras*

Jeanne Smith, of McPherson Kansas traveled to Honduras with a shipment of PETs for distribution to those in need of "The Gift of Mobility". She writes: "I have often pondered the lives of the PET recipients, their lifestyles and the heartaches we all have seen. More than once I wondered how many of them lived.

"No more than an hour into our journey to deliver the PETs someone noticed a man with a pant leg folded under his trunk. We jerked to a stop and within minutes our guys ripped open a carton and bolted together a PET. Crux Perez sat in his new PET dumfounded, not knowing what to make of all this. Manna from heaven had come to his house that day.

"While we finished assembling his PET a woman noticed the unexpected commotion. She asked if we would follow her. We came into a village with 40 or 50 shanties. We soon found the house we sought where a woman was in the yard feeding her chickens. Her husband sat outside in a broken-down wheelchair that could no longer function. We immediately began to assemble another PET. Within minutes neighborhood children

arrived and were soon squealing as books, cuddly stuffed toys, balls, and “new” used clothing, which had been used to pack the PET, were discovered. As the PET took shape it was evident that a miracle was happening. “Papa can go! Papa can go!”

“We realize we cannot “save the world”, but we helped provide many with a quality of life they didn’t have yesterday. Perhaps not every PET will see its full potential with its new owner, but if it frees up another mother or another caregiver, and gives them a life, the PET will have accomplished its humble mission.”

### *Mexico*

#### Persistence Pays Dividends

Last January Phyllis Starks-Swarner and her husband from Kenai Alaska were eating at a sidewalk restaurant in Puerto Vallarta when they noticed a man approaching who had no legs. He



was perfectly formed from the waist up but was getting around on a home-made cart, pushing himself along with a stick. “You could tell he was a proud man by his beautiful smile”, she said. Both she and her husband said to each other, “This man needs a PET!” but the problem was how to get one to him.

When they returned to Alaska, they called a fellow Lion Club member, Walt Hays, who in turn called Dick Carpenter. Dick contacted Paul Connolly at Peninsula Truck Lines (one of our faithful PET partners) who volunteered to get it from Spokane to Auburn Washington, then on to Lynden Truck Lines for the trip to Kenai, all at no cost.



Last August, Phyllis was able to personally deliver a PET to the legless man she now knows as Reuben.

She says that when he sat on his new PET for the first time, she realized he had “much more than just a means of getting around. Suddenly, this man was no longer down on the ground looking up at the



world. He was at our level, looking the world in the eye. We have given him back his pride and integrity. Afterwards he rode around the area smiling broadly with his grand-son in the back telling everyone he saw, ‘My new

car! My new car!’”

Phyllis completes her story by saying “I smiled through my tears!” And oh yes, we need to tell you, the PET travelled from Kenai to Puerto Vallarta as excess baggage on Phyllis’ next trip.

### *Tajikistan*

An on-site missionary organization who helps determine individual’s needs, and then distribute and follow-up PET recipients, is Orphan Grain Train (OGT). They recently reported on a large family in Tajikistan with six physically disabled children. All have genetic disabilities which keep them from being able to walk. Both parents are pensioners and have limited sources of income. Living conditions are very poor due to high medical costs as well as fewer members of the family who are able to hold jobs and contribute financially. OGT gave the family a PET and during a follow-up visit it was very clear the PET was being put to good use and had become one of the most essential items in the household. The oldest son, Nematullo Ainiddinov said that the PET was shared between the six and that they were now able to visit neighbors and contribute to the family’s other needs.



## *Volunteer Spotlight*

Our Spotlight this month is shining brightly on a very faithful volunteer who is an avid reader of science fiction, grew up on farms and ranches in Central Oregon, and loves to fly fish. He has been married for 54 years, has three children and eight grandchildren. He is so unassuming that when he retired at 58, he refused to have a retirement party in his honor. He loves missions, serves on the missions committee in his church, and went on a short term missions trip to Gambell, Alaska, just 35 miles from Russia. He enjoys photography, and took many skiing vacations with his family (in his younger years). If you haven't guessed who our hero is yet, this will give it away: his wife's name is Bonnie, he graduated from medical school at the University of Oregon as a radiologist, worked at Holy Family Hospital for 24 years, shares his shop building for the benefit of the PET ministry, and has enjoyed working with the PET Project since its start.



This month's honor goes to Lyle Crecelius. We praise the Lord for people like Lyle and Bonnie who not only love working with their hands but also love being with other people and helping lift those

without hope out of the dirt into a life of dignity and mobility, one PET at a time.

## *Two More Milestones*

On December 9, PET numbers 684 through 733 were loaded for shipment #17 by a great group of dedicated, hard working, volunteers. The entire shipment of 50 was loaded in 20 minutes, which means each PET took 24 seconds to load. If the crew gets any faster, we will have to reschedule the pizza delivery.

This February the PET Spokane shop starts its 6<sup>th</sup> year. Happy Birthday – our volunteers are the best.

## *Finances*

After so many positive articles about our own volunteers and stories from the field, we are hesitant to mention anything negative. However, we feel God's people who support this mission of mobility need to be kept informed. Dick Carpenter works hard with businesses who provide parts, fabrication, painting, shipping, and other vital services at no, or very reduced, cost to the PET Project. There are some parts we have to buy which are not "off the shelf" items for which we have to pay full price. Purchasing these parts has nearly "broken the bank". Buying necessary items for the next batch of PETs is at a critical stage, thus hindering future shipments.

## *Contact Information*

For comments about this newsletter, or address changes, please send an e-mail to: [www.petnnewsletter@onemain.com](mailto:www.petnnewsletter@onemain.com). You can contact Dick Carpenter at (509)466-3425. Tax deductible donations may be sent to WCPC PET Project and mailed to 15123 N Little Spokane River Dr, Spokane WA 99208. A coupon is on the last page.

## *Quotes Worth Reading*

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Encouragement is oxygen to the soul.

"Be thankful we're not getting all the government we're paying for." Will Rogers

Never love something that can't love you back!!

# SEASON'S GREETINGS



*Merry Christmas  
From The Inland North West PET-Ki  
Pictured at the 17th load-out  
9 December 2010*

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’” Matthew 40:24

## The Inland North West PET Project DONATION SLIP

Yes! I want to give the GIFT OF MOBILITY to a person whose legs do not function. My check is enclosed for:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ PET's at \$250.00 each.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the purchase of a PET.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Organization, or memorial (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: WPCPC PET Project & mail to:

15123 N Little Spokane River Dr  
Spokane WA 99208

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