



April 2010

Farewell Jeff and April

By: Tom Behrens

With mixed emotions we say farewell to Jeff and April Sukup, founders of the Tampa PET Workshop. They have been called to Gabarone, Botswana, in Africa to serve as missionaries at the Open Baptist Church. Jeff will serve as the Missions Facilitator and will be coordinating incoming short-term mission teams from churches in the U.S.

PET Tampa became a passion for Jeff, who has always had a heart for the mission field in developing countries. His wife, April, is the daughter of one of the co-founders of the PET Project, Larry Hills. Initially, Jeff started out providing various parts to Larry's workshop in Penny Farms, just outside of Jacksonville. As an accomplished woodworker, it didn't take Jeff long to catch the fever, and soon he started hatching plans for a full workshop in Tampa.

The perfect opportunity arose when Davis Islands Baptist



April and Jeff Sukup



Botswana, Africa

Church acquired the Ballast Point

property. Jeff commandeered the small administration building and began turning it into a workshop in 2004. Soon after, DIBC began development of the Ballast Point property, and PET Tampa had to look for another location. In everything, God provides, and Faith Baptist Church in South Seminole Heights opened their hearts to the PET ministry.

Thanks to Jeff's hard work and strong faith, the Tampa PET Workshop has transformed from just making parts to a thriving and active ministry that touches people all over the world.

It has taken two people to fill Jeff's big shoes. I am taking over the administrative side as Workshop Administrator, and Dave Halterman is now our very capable Workshop Coordinator, handling all the day-to-day activities at the workshop. We are blessed to be involved as the Tampa PET Workshop enters a new and exciting generation! ■

The PET Ministry

P.O. Box 320126 • Tampa, FL 33679 • www.pettampa.org

In-kind Donations Make Huge Impact

By: Teresa L. Nielsen



About three years ago, the Tampa PET began receiving regular donations from James Zehnder. Most people who give to the PET ministry know Jeff and April Sukup personally, or are connected to the PET ministry in some way. However, Zehnder was unknown to both the Sukups and the PET ministry. When April Sukup became the treasurer, she sent him a thank you note for his contributions, wondering how he had become drawn to the PET ministry. Then one day, Zehnder called Jeff with questions about the hardware used on the wheelchairs. Jeff sent him a complete list of everything they regularly need. Zehnder then sent a truckload with one year's worth of hardware.

"We had still not met him, but I sent him a brochure and video with a thank you note," says April. "The next year, he did the same thing again, sending a truckload of hardware supplies."

"I don't remember how I got connected to PET," says Zehnder. "I think Jeff might have talked to a Rotary Club, and I was a guest there." He was drawn to the PET ministry "because I have two legs, and when you see someone who doesn't, it really gets you. The DVD was extremely potent. You want to help."

Zehnder owns a fastener company with his wife and son in the Tampa area. He realized how many hardware parts the PET workshop needs and was able to make a donation from his company.

"Sometimes we have surplus parts that we would otherwise scrap," says Zehnder. Instead of throwing them out, he was able to find a perfect use for them by donating them to PET. When he didn't have everything PET needed, he showed resourcefulness to get them. "There were 10 items that we didn't have, but the Iowa headquarters of my company helped get them. There's all kinds of things left over that companies could use."

The Tampa PET Workshop has received in-kind donations from other companies as well. A local steel company contributes steel, and a woodworker's group in Sun City contributes wood.

"There are a lot of ways to contribute other than just money. Most people will contribute money, but forget that a relative may own a business like a paint shop, and could contribute specific items instead, like the paint," says April.

Zehnder says he contributes to PET because his heart has been moved by the ministry, and the opportunity was there for his company to fill the needs.

"He continually gives," says April. "He is a consistent giver that has helped us in big ways. In the past two years we haven't had to spend any money for hardware. He has honored PET in such a big way. He is near and dear to my heart. I'm sorry I didn't get to meet him in person before I left for Botswana. If I did, I would give him a big hug."

If your organization would like to make an in-kind contribution to PET, contact the director, Tom Behrens, at director@pettampa.org for more information. A complete list of regularly-needed items to manufacture the PET wheelchairs is available on the PET website at <http://www.pettampa.org/PET-Donation-Needs.html>. ■

Workshop Renovation

By: Tom Behrens

In the midst of getting the news that Jeff and April were moving to Africa, we decided to completely renovate the workshop. If you have ever volunteered at our workshop, you would remember the tight quarters and inefficient layout. With thanks to Al Kindig, designer of the Holland, MI, workshop, we have transformed our workshop into a much more efficient facility. Closing the shop and cleaning it completely out has given us the opportunity to start with a fresh slate, and design workflows that make sense and help to keep people from bumping into each other.

Removing a few walls really opened up the shop, and it appears much larger than it did before. Al Kindig gave us inspiration for vertical hanging storage for completed subassemblies, which also added to the open floor space. The walls and floors were painted, and we began moving equipment back in during the first week in March. The wood shop came together nicely, with an improved dust collector system. The wall in the metal shop has been removed and really opened that area up, but there's still much to do to take advantage of the added space.

This year, we have made a commitment to make our carts more consistent with standards that PET International is beginning to promote. When experienced core teams work together on a consistent basis, the quality of the carts is greatly improved. To support that effort and encourage the development of teams, we will be changing the way volunteers and groups sign up.

First, we are limiting individual volunteers to a total of four per session. On Saturdays, there will be only one morning session, and on Thursdays only one afternoon session. We are no longer accepting groups when the workshop is scheduled to be open on Thursdays and Saturdays. Instead, we will be starting a new program oriented specifically for groups and organizations. Beginning in April, the workshop will be available to groups on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, by appointment only. Also in the planning stages is a team-building curriculum for corporations and organizations that wish to improve relationships and team interaction. ■

News Flash

Visit our website: www.pettampa.org

Check out all of the information available online.

Please note: Workshop sign-ups for individual and groups is now done on our website. Due to overwhelming demand for group volunteer activities such as PET and the increased costs for production, we request groups to make a contribution (financial or supplies) as part of their participation. Please let us know if you wish to donate supplies such as paint (latex house paint or spray paint), wood, milk jugs (rinsed and dried), cardboard, parts, etc. A complete list is provided on our website.

Give the Gift of PET

If you would like to sponsor a PET wheelchair in the amount of \$250 as a memorial, an honorarium, or a gift for a special occasion, we will gladly send a letter of recognition to that individual. It's the perfect gift for those who already have everything they need, and it's a gift that will change a life.

Estate Planning

As you do your estate planning, consider making the PET Project a part of those plans. The gift of mobility is an ongoing need, with millions around the world awaiting it.

How You Can Help

- Pray for the 21 million people in the world who have lost the use of their legs through polio, landmines, war amputations, crocodiles, etc.
- Give/raise funds: It takes money to buy metal and parts, to weld, to package, to ship, and to distribute.
- Find people with welding, metalworking, or woodworking skills who can offer to help build PET parts. Help them with expenses — buy the metal, etc. Help them ship it to Tampa PET.
- Find businesses that sell or make "off the shelf" items needed for the PETs. Ask them to donate or sell to you at no profit. Send the items to The PET Place.
- Talk about the PET Project to others.
- Ask your company if it provides matching funds for donations, volunteer service, or group projects. Ask if it would be interested in bringing a group to work at the PET workshop.

Volunteer information

The Tampa PET workshop is open every Saturday from 9 AM - 12 PM and Thursdays from 1:30 - 4:30 PM. Volunteers are needed to assist with packing, sorting, painting, assembly, woodworking and metal work. No prior experience is necessary, training is provided, and volunteers of all ages are welcome. There is a particular need for experienced welders. The oldest volunteer is 92 years old, and teenagers can fulfill their community service hours as well! Please note that anyone under age 15 requires adult supervision.

For more information, visit our website or contact:

Tom Behrens
director@pettampa.org

Dave Halterman
coordinator@pettampa.org

Workshop Location:

1109 E Osborne Ave, Tampa, FL 33603
East of Nebraska on 12th Street at Osborne (just off I-275 in Tampa at the MLK exit). See map below.

Workshop times:

Saturday 9 AM - 12 PM
Thursday 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Check the website for holiday hours.

Website: www.pettampa.org

NEW
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 320126
Tampa, FL 33679



PET Project Donation Slip

April 2010

Your donation to the PET ministry will provide someone with a whole new way of life.

Help raise a child or adult from the dirt to dignity with your gift.

The cost of each PET, including materials, assembly and packing, is \$250.

Gifts of all amounts are accepted and appreciated! All donations are tax-deductible.

Please detach and return this form with your contribution.

Please accept my gift of \$_____ to the PET Workshop.

(Make checks payable to "PET Florida, Tampa" and mail to:

P.O. Box 320126, Tampa, FL 33679)

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Prayer & Praise

- Praise that our workshop renovation is complete and seems to be working better than ever before!
- Praise and thanks to Faith Baptist Church for providing a home to the PET Tampa ministry.
- Pray for our former director, Jeff Sukup, and his wife, April, as they begin their missionary work in Botswana.
- Pray that God will raise up teams of regular volunteers that will use the PET experience to develop unity and company spirit.
- Pray that God will raise up leaders from those teams to assist in daily leadership responsibilities in the workshop.
- Pray for two of our volunteers, Eric and Jim, with health problems, that God will heal them and return them to full service in the workshop.
- Pray that God will order the schedules of all volunteers as they honor Him in their service to the PET Tampa workshop.



Contribute!

As always, you can use the donation slip on the previous page, or you can donate via PayPal on our website: www.pettampa.org. Remember that all donations are tax deductible, as we are a charitable organization under the 501(c)(3) section of IRS.



PET Project
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