



## You thought that YOU had a hard day at the office?

### *Eugenio's story*

Eugenio Lara lives in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and is one of the many disabled in the region. He lost his legs at the age of 36 as a result of a tragic event that changed his life forever. He was a strong, energetic, hard-working man who built wagons, tamed horses, and cleared land.

One evening on his way to visit a friend, he was encountered by a group of thugs, who beat him unconscious for no apparent reason and poured gasoline over his legs, burning them mercilessly. He was rushed to the hospital, where doctors attempted to save his legs and life, but the damage was too severe and required amputation. The identity of those men is still unknown, but the impact of this crime will remain in Eugenio's life and family.

Now, at the age of 37, his physical injuries are healed, and in spite of his disability, he is eager to live his life with optimism and joy. His family is fortified by his strong spirit and motivated to move forward together. Eugenio has not married and has no kids; before the tragedy he took care of his mother. Now his sister, Emma, herself a single mother, takes care of him and their mother.

It is impossible for Eugenio to use a wheelchair. He lost his legs close to the hips, and the majority of his weight is at the back of the wheelchair, causing it to flip backward when using it. Fortunately, we were able to help. His new PET worked out perfectly for his condition, allowing him to freely move about and operate it with ease. His strong, able arms make the use of the PET a snap. It was an amazing sight; he declined to return in the cab that he had arrived in with his family, assuring us that only his PET was necessary for him to return home. He departed needing no help from his relatives for the first time since the accident, and waved gratefully to us as he left.



*Eugenio Lara of Honduras receives a PET and can finally move around freely again.*

# Mission to Moyobamba, Peru

In October, South Tampa Fellowship sent a mission team to the town of Moyobamba, which is in the jungle of the northeast region of Peru. PETs were distributed to the individuals below.



This is Abelardo Cardozo Rivera, age 48, who was an innocent bystander when he was shot during a holdup in 1996. He hasn't been able to walk since. He and his wife, Evangelista Roman, have three children ages 15, 17 and 18. He is a cobbler, and the PET will help him transport his materials and make deliveries. He was very thankful for his PET wheelchair.



In the push/pull PET is 9-year-old Gris Joeli Vasquez. She was born without legs and without a left arm. She attends school and totally relies on her mother to get around. The PET will help greatly in her mother's ability to transport her, especially as she grows.

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## Workshop Renovation

The organization of the PET Project workshop has been an ongoing venture from its original set up here in Tampa since its inception back in 2004. We have learned many lessons through trial and error that have helped it become what it is today. We still can see the possibility for improvement and have enlisted the assistance of a design engineer who has previously been involved with two other workshop implementations with great success. Therefore in January of 2010, Al Kindig of the Holland, Michigan, workshop will spend some time with us as we consider our options. We believe a clean slate approach will most likely give us the best results, and we will proceed if it will benefit the shop on a long-term basis. The renovation is needed for several reasons: to increase production through greater efficiency; to promote training; to enhance our volunteer safety; to maintain the quality control of our PET wheelchairs; and to give it a clean appearance to all volunteers and guests, resulting in an even better stewardship of what the Lord has blessed us with to do His work.

The workshop will be closed the month of January to begin the work, and the workshop dates in February will be used to complete the renovation. This will mean that there most likely will be no wheelchair production during this time. Our efforts will be pointed at removing equipment and materials, repairing, cleaning, painting and re-installing under the guidance of our designer. We hope that we will all be pleased with the result and can continue the work we have started here in Tampa. We appreciate any help during this time from all those interested. We also ask for your patience and prayers. Upon re-opening, we will have much need to replenish our workshop materials and supplies, from tires and chains to packing boxes, along with a few needed pieces of equipment. Your prayer and continued financial support will make this possible. Please see our website calendar for volunteer dates in February. We hope to see you there at some point in the future. We greatly appreciate you and thank you for your partnership with us!

## News Flash

### Visit our website: [www.pettampa.org](http://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 - 3 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:

Jeff Sukup  
[director@pettampa.org](mailto:director@pettampa.org)  
813-677-3709

George Frazer  
[gmi02@yahoo.com](mailto:gmi02@yahoo.com)

### 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 - 3 PM  
Thursday 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
Check the website for holiday hours.

Website: [www.pettampa.org](http://www.pettampa.org)

**Mailing address:**  
**P.O. Box 2688**  
**Riverview, FL**  
**33568-2688**



## PET Project Donation Slip

December 2009

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 2688, Riverview, FL 33568-2688)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer & Praise

- Praise and thanksgiving to our heavenly Father and Lord Jesus Christ for His guidance and protection of every volunteer partner within the PET Project.
- Pray for the upcoming workshop renovation and reorganization.
- Pray for the delivery, pairing of wheelchairs with individuals, and the acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior by those recipients.

## Year-End Contributions

Remember that all financial contributions **received by December 31, 2009**, will apply to charitable giving for this year. It is now possible to give online through our website at [www.pettampa.org](http://www.pettampa.org).

# Merry Christmas!

*The PET Project wishes you a very joyful Christmas in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and a blessed New Year!*



**PET Project**  
**P.O. Box 2688**  
**Riverview, FL 33568-2688**