

Volunteer Spotlight

Headed up by Cyndy Boyd and her friend Edwin Soto, the Boyd family comes every Thursday to volunteer at the PET workshop in Tampa. Their entourage includes Cyndy's five grandchildren: J.R., Spencer, Matthew, Laura and Leah. They help out with painting, packing, and assembling the packing materials at the workshop. They also have contributed many clothes and other items of their own to pack because they realize that people without the use of their legs often own little to nothing but what is on their backs. Many thanks to this group and all the others who make the happenings at the PET workshop possible!



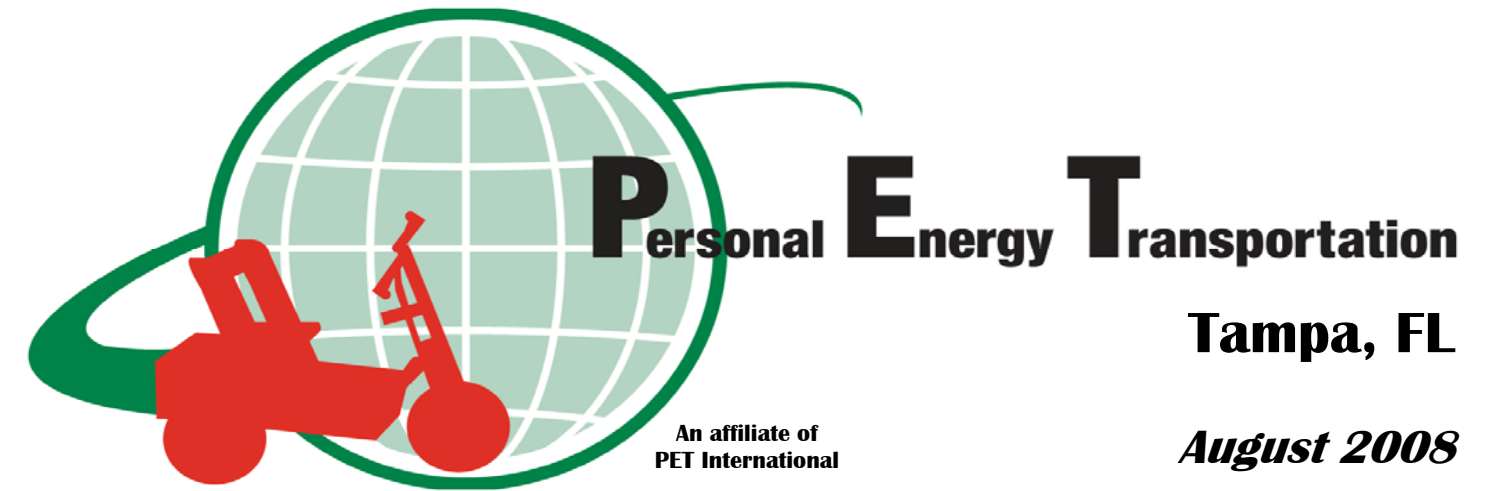
Matthew, J.R., Cyndy, Spencer, Leah, Edwin and Laura

Prayer & Praise

- Praise for the continued flow of volunteers who show up to do the work. Without those hands none of this would get done.
- Prayer that even through this time of economic recession we would all continue to give to those less fortunate than ourselves and continue to realize how truly blessed we are to live in these United States.
- Prayer for connections to be made for the destination of a large shipment of PET wheelchairs, and that the expense of it would be attainable for us.
- Prayer for the continued safety and protection of the workshop and all who work there.



PET Project
P.O. Box 2105
Tampa, FL 33601



Nicaraguan Blessing

By: Jeff Sukup

For 26 years Luz Mirein has not been able to walk due to a birth defect that made her legs useless. She lives about 10 miles outside of Matagalpa in a small mountain village called Laguna Verde, nestled among the coffee groves covering the mountainside of Nicaragua. She lives with her sister, brother-in-law and niece in a two-room shack that has a dirt floor, wood board siding with gaping holes and a tin roof. There is no running water or electricity inside or even nearby, and she sleeps on the ground because she does not have a bed. In fact, if she goes farther than 8 feet outside the door to their home without turning to the left or right, there is a steep incline down the hillside. Her sister's family attends a Catholic church in the area, overseen by Father Jorge.



Nicaraguan PET recipient Luz Mirein



On June 24th this year her life changed when she was presented with a PET wheelchair. But before she agreed to get on it, she insisted that she change into what was probably her best outfit and fix her hair with some bobby pins. Emerging from the house all smiles and dressed in her best clothes, she was ready to try out her new wheelchair.

In order to deliver the PET to Luz, it had to be dismantled and carried down the narrow path over the mountain ridge.

The PET Ministry • Jeff Sukup, Director
1109 E. Osborne Avenue • Tampa, FL 33603 • 813-625-7789 • www.tampapet.com

Where is PET?

PET has 11 affiliate workshops across the nation:

- PET Missouri – Columbia
- PET Missouri – South West
- PET Florida – Penney Farms
- PET Texas – Luling
- PET Tennessee – Murfreesboro
- PET New York – East Jewett
- PET Washington – Northwest (Spokane)
- PET Kansas – Mound Ridge
- PET Texas – San Antonio
- PET Florida – Jacksonville
- PET Florida – Tampa

PET around the world:

- PET South Africa — Cape Town
- PET Mexico — Nuevo Progreso
- PET Zambia — Kitwe

PET sites forming:

- Sierra Leone – Waterloo (waiting on approval)
- Maine
- Utah

Each shop has its own unique way of doing things. Parts are received or made, assembled, boxed and shipped by volunteers. But the end product is the same: a sturdy vehicle with interchangeable parts.

PET is in the workshops of dozens of volunteer parts makers across the United States. Many of the parts that go into a PET are produced by volunteers in their home, farm or business workshops and sent to an affiliate. Some examples are:

- ◆ Dale Jaquette, a retired pastor in Wildwood, Florida, makes hundreds of wooden crank handles for the wheelchairs annually;
- ◆ An ecumenical group of men and woman in Fernandina Beach, Florida, raises money, buys metal, cuts, welds, prime-coats and delivers hundreds of pedal assemblies, peddle posts, brake shoes and handles and other parts annually;
- ◆ Hillsborough Sheet Metal in Tampa, Florida, donates cut-to-size galvanized sheet-metal plates for the lower chain guards;
- ◆ Ray Truhn and Armand Schmaltz of Galien, Michigan, raise money, buy steel, and produce hundreds of parts for both the junior and adult size PETs; and
- ◆ Tom and Dallas Andrew of Napoleon, Ohio, raise funds, buy metal, cut, weld and powder-coat over 1,000 trailer frames each year and deliver them.

PET is with worldwide distributors. PETs are distributed by front-line, proven, responsible not-for-profit organizations that already work with those in need, know them and their families, and maintain contact with them. Following the directions of PET, they distribute first to those most in need, without any regard to race, religion, age, sex or other considerations. A few such groups include:

- ◆ Hope Haven in Rock Valley, Iowa. They take all the PETs we can provide them and distribute worldwide through an excellent program.
- ◆ Mercy Ships is overseeing and coordinating the efforts of the workshop set up in the town of Waterloo in Sierra Leone, West Africa. They also continue to receive completed units from the U.S. workshops that they also distribute.
- ◆ The Washington Missouri Overseas Mission receives and distributes PETs through a partner connection with doctors in Honduras.
- ◆ The St. Augustine, Florida – Baracoa, Cuba Friendship Association receives and distributes dozens of PETs in Cuba each year.
- ◆ The Angolan Advocates in Colorado Springs, Colorado make regular shipments of PETs to Angola, Africa.

PET works with secular and business groups. Many PET affiliates report excellent support and cooperation from local business and social groups that make donations of parts and/or give discount prices. Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Masons and others give support to PET. Orschlens Company in Missouri powder-paints all the metal parts for the PET – Missouri, Columbia workshop. Crown Products of Jacksonville, Florida, makes and donates all the chain guards for the PET Florida, Penney Farms workshop, and the upper guards for the Tampa workshop.

How you can help

This is a growing but daunting ministry due to the great need. There are many ways to help, as the many current volunteers and contributors have learned.

INDIVIDUALS AND LOCAL CHURCHES

- 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: This is always basic. It takes money to buy metal and parts, to weld, to package, to ship, and to distribute. "Ask ... and you shall receive" is the message of Scripture. Be creative.
- 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. Say in conversation, "Our church is doing a fascinating mission project ..." Tell the story. Word of mouth is the best advertisement!
- Ask your company if it provides matching funds for donations, volunteer service, or group projects. It is generally quite easy to qualify PET Tampa to receive these types of funds. Ask them if they would be interested in bringing a group to work at the PET workshop.

DONATIONS — To make a donation, please print out our donation form on the website, or use the one below, and send it along with your donation to: PET FLORIDA, P.O. Box 2105, Tampa, FL 33601.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART — Honor your loved ones while helping to provide another person with mobility. A Gift From the Heart celebrates a special occasion, in honor of, or in memory of, while supporting the work of The PET Project. A note will be sent to the person being honored. This gift information can be filled out on our donation form.

ESTATE PLANNING — As you do your estate planning, consider making the PET Project a part of those plans. The need for the GIFT OF MOBILITY is an ongoing need, with millions around the world awaiting it.

Volunteer information

The Tampa PET workshop is open every Saturday from 9 AM - 3 PM and Thursdays 1:30 - 4:30 PM. Volunteers are needed to assist with packing (each PET includes about 30 pounds of clothing, toys, supplies, etc. that serve as the packing material), 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 90 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, or to donate good used or new clothing, supplies, toiletries, etc., contact:

Jeff Sukup
webmaster@tampapet.com
813-625-7789

George Frazer
gmilo2@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.tampapet.com



PET Project Donation Slip

August 2008

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 shipment, 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 Tampa, Florida" and mail to:

P.O. Box 2105, Tampa, FL 33601)

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____