Akron Family Opens Doors to Kenya by Evey Williams & Lynda Rimke

Evey and Mike Williams have been friends of Wheels of Hope for years, while engaging in their own urban ministry, Bamco 4 Youth and an outreach in Kenya with Pastor Timothy, who is heading up a community development project that ministers to the elderly and the disabled.

This summer, they took Wheels of Hope equipment to Kenya.

Evey blogged about delivering the “first portable ‘potty seat’ (bedside commode) to an old woman. It was becoming very difficult for her daughter to get her to the facilities (a squatting type toilet). We left her with the potty and we gained a hefty bag of avocados and a warming prayer, in Swahili: that she now knew that God had seen her even in her place and that He cared for her.

“While still in the home, Michael gave Timothy an express lesson on wheelchair repair (using the woman’s existing wheelchair.) Mike is shown teaching how to position the chair. Timothy also learned about tightening and adjusting various parts, changing ball bearings, and also some minor troubleshooting.

“They quickly realized that one reason they could not get the chair to move properly was because the leg lifts were on the wrong sides! Quick fix. Then a lesson for the caretaker on how to use the wheelchair properly. Now we have to buy Timothy some tools so that the work can be done!

“The next delivery was not quite so easy, as you see Pastor Timothy carrying the wheelchair on the motorbike in front of us. Evey was on the second with Michael tight behind her and carrying another “potty seat” over his shoulder. The roads were quite muddy, but after only a couple of slide outs and losing Evey’s hat to the wind, we arrived ...”

“In true Kenyan blessing, Evey was presented with a chicken for bringing the old woman such gifts ... it was such a blessing, but so hard to accept ... They have so little, yet they will give so much even with their many needs.”

Since then, Timothy has built an access ramp to the community center, with the help of seed money from Wheels of Hope.

We look forward to giving more blessings to Kenya in 2013. Thank you, Mike and Evey!

Read more about the Williams’ Family Kenya adventures at Evey’s blog: thankyoukenya.wordpress.com
In May, a youth group from Friendship Alliance Church in Auburn, Ohio, came and recycled for a day. Half the youth worked with Mike in the workshop, taking apart the aluminum rollators (pictured below are Sam and Morgan) while the remaining youth tackled bariatric steel rollators out on the warehouse floor, disassembling in “majority world” style (pictured at right are Claire, Kelly and Bren).

Saturdays are busy at the warehouse! Want to join us? Call or text Patrick at 330-620-4214 to schedule a work day.

On March 24th, Wanna, Savanna and Langley from Bethel Temple AG in Canton began to flatten our mountain of cardboard. They did a great job! And they came back for more recycling time and again.

In April, we got a visit from the Williams family, along with our March crew. Mike is a wheelchair technician, and his wife and son and daughters learned to pull a wrench or two in preparation for the family’s humanitarian aid trip to Kenya. (See our article on their Kenya trip on page 1.)

Meanwhile, Mike Mager and his wife Nicole, who are Physical Therapists and youth group leaders, learned about Wheels of Hope through equipment donor Hattie Larlham Foundation. On May 19 They brought ten youth from Friendship Alliance Church in Auburn, to work in our recycle program as part of a weekend youth event to explore and identify with those in need.

Half the youth worked with Mike in the workshop, taking apart the aluminum rollators. While the other half tackled the steel rollators out on the warehouse floor disassembling in “Majority World” style.

After enough frames were stripped, the group learned how to stack, shrink wrap and palletize them for delivery to our local metals dealer.

Over 50 rollators were recycled! These youths worked fast and made their fasting work!

Throughout the summer, Wanna and one or two youth from Bethel Temple continued to come on Saturdays. But on one fine October Saturday, Wanna almost brought the whole church! Moms and dads,
Wheels of Hope has partnered with Vine International since our inception in 1997, thanks to the networking of one of our founders, Mark Richard of Hope Haven International.

Dennis McCutcheon writes about the family pictured at left: “This is one of your chairs going out. If I remember correctly this man was made paraplegic after motor vehicle accident. The chair he has used for years had multiple welds, the seat was a piece of leather riveted in place (for the umpteenth time) He and his family are very grateful and blessed.

In the photo below, of another wheelchair, Dennis writes: “A pastor friend called and asked if we would give one chair to a man he was working with whose mother in law was wheelchair fast and in great need. ‘Of course’ says I ... well his only transportation is a motorcycle. In Guatemala motorcycles haul just about everything. All I did was provide balance while the driver tied on the load. Thank you to Wheels of Hope for helping us help a man who is helping his mother in law who can only afford a motorcycle for transportation. Hope your volunteers get a smile out of this. We did and we are grateful for your service.

Another great story about just the right chair at just the right time occurred about a year ago, but it’s worth sharing in our once-a-year newsletter:

“Chuck and Ilse Chambers of New Hope Ministries came to the bodega today. But wait we need to back up. There was a container of wheelchairs from Wheels of Hope in Ohio (www.wheelsofhope.org) about three weeks ago and in that container were two specialty wheelchairs. Cindy gave away one and I hid the other telling her that this needed to go to a special kid. Today, all the wheelchairs are gone except this one. Well Chuck and Ilse get their cart and we go down the aisles picking out medicines and dressing supplies that they can use for the kids they minister to. We get to the aisle with the rolling walkers and where the wheelchairs used to be… Chuck asks for a wheelchair, but explains that a regular chair is not going to work. This child is carried by his mother and he can’t flex enough to sit up in a standard chair… Cindy looked at me and I raised my hand to Chuck and Ilse, I had heard enough to know where this last chair was to go.

We pulled that chair out of the box and showed the Chambers how to work the back and the feet. He raised his hands to heaven four or five times before we got that thing in the car. We all praised the LORD and we all firmly believe in God’s timing.

This is common here. Jim Moore once asked me why he did not get as excited as the doctor that just found on the bench at Jim’s ministry what he could not find any where else. I told Jim we work where the miraculous is common place. My friend Jim and I still get charged up working where the LORD has placed us. We see God at work everyday.

I often tell people our bodega is just a warehouse, but you know some days it is holy ground. Sure wish you could have been in our warehouse today.

“Cindy and I feel really blessed in these situations and recognize that we get the benefit of seeing the tears of gratitude and the smiles of joy.

“May our LORD return every blessing to you and your team one hundred fold … of course that will mean more work!”

In Christ, Dennis & Cindy McCutcheon

The McCutcheons blog at: dennis51.wordpress.com
Our Mission
To raise the poor with disabilities from the dust and give them a place of physical dignity, spiritual regeneration in Christ and capability in Christ.

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Wheels of Hope is a registered 501(c)3 faith-based non-profit organization with a governing Board of Directors.

Filled to Overflowing! — Patrick’s Warehouse Report
We rejoice in the abundant gifts-in-kind we have once again received in 2012 from Invacare. We rent a 26 foot dock high truck and have been picking up two loads per day about once a month. I have inventoried 465 Invacare wheelchairs to date and have at least that many left or more, as I am currently four loads behind! (Last year at this time it was 500 chairs counted and three loads behind.)

To get me caught up, I am launching another program for volunteers to do the incoming inspection and inventory of donations. Truckloads usually arrive one Tuesday each month. Every box needs to be opened to make sure it is what the label says, and contents checked to see if the donation is repairable or recyclable. Every wheelchair needs to be inspected for what repair is needed or if it is better off used for parts. I can show you how!

We are also praising God for sending new volunteers to dismantle aluminum and steel damaged items on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from March through October. Mountains of cardboard, aluminum and steel fetched a better price per pound because they were clean rather than combined with plastic, rubber or mixed metals. (See previous article and Saturday photos.)

Seven 2012 Containers include:
2 to Thailand - RICD Wheelchair Project
2 to Guatemala - Vine International
1 each to Ecuador and Chile - Friends of the Disabled Latin America
1 to Moldova - Summit Missions
1 53’-semi loads to Hope Haven International Ministries for repair, reconditioning and world-wide distribution
1 24’ truckload to Christian Aid Ministries for overseas distribution

Total wheelchairs 689*
YTD number of items sent 90,400*
Total value: $706,708*
*Includes estimated December shipments

2012 Board of Directors Report — Loren Wallace, President/Treasurer & Lynda Rimke, Publicity Chair
We rejoice that, so far in 2012, we have surpassed the $15,875 in financial donations given last year. This enabled Patrick, our “DOO man” (Director of Operations) to oversee volunteers two Saturdays a month in addition to every Tuesday and Wednesday. In addition, new volunteer sweat equity on Saturdays blessed Wheels of Hope with an additional $4332 in income from scrap metals.

With an eye to 2013, we look for God’s provision to
• Improve warehousing and inventory control with a new volunteer program.
• Expand and develop the weekday and Saturday volunteer corps and Board of Directors.
• Grow Patrick’s service and volunteer opportunities to include all Saturdays and a third weekday.
• Provide assistance for shipping charges to missions who are unable to raise the extra funds.
• Enable Patrick to travel to the missions to train, assist and audit the distribution of equipment.

We now have a PayPal account set up through our website www.wheelsofhope.org Just click on the donate button to donate and help make the above goals a reality in 2013.

Wheels of Hope Income and Value of Goods Shipped

Financial donations can also be sent to 9800 Morges Dr. SE, Waynesburg, Ohio 44688

To donate a wheelchair or other durable medical or physical therapy equipment, call or text Patrick at 330-620-4214 or email patrick@wheelsofhope.org

Heartfelt thanks to all our supporters over the years! Your prayers and gifts of time and treasure have made Wheels of Hope what it is today: a pipeline of blessing to the least of the least.