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**A GROWING BAND OF BIG-HEARTED VOLUNTEERS TOILING IN A TINY AIRPLANE
HANGAR BUILDING UNIQUE, OFF-ROAD WHEELCHAIRS BOLDLY BECKONS
LOCAL PHILANTHROPIST TO PITCH IN**

The local nonprofit affiliate of a global grassroots assembly line begun in Missouri to get people in poor and war-ravaged countries “out of the dirt with the gift of mobility” has outgrown its miniature workshop—while volunteers pour in with nowhere to work.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, August 5, 2008—Getting behind a growing phenomenon that’s reaching across the United States and into 69 developing countries, Personal Energy Transportation (PET) of San Antonio-Austin, a nonprofit comprised of volunteers in San Antonio, Austin and Luling, boldly announced today it is seeking a philanthropic donor to provide a 15,000- to 20,000-square-foot workshop centrally located inside Loop 410 in San Antonio. The place is needed to multiply the efforts of volunteer carpenters, steelworkers, welders and others from all over South Texas who make and assemble off-road wheelchairs for people of all ages in the poorest countries who have lost, or lost use of, their legs due to birth defects, diabetes, spinal cord injuries, polio, land mines or war.

Born of a retired missionary, a pastor and an airplane mechanic in Missouri in 1995, PET International now has affiliates with workshops in 11 states including Texas and others in Mexico, Sierra Leon and South Africa, all wholly run by volunteers and wholly donor-financed.

“The No. 1 thing to know about the PET organization is it is dedicated to providing personal mobility to individuals throughout the world without regard to income, nationality, race or religion,” says PET San Antonio Board of Directors’ President Joe Srubar and director of Engineering for M2 Technology Inc.

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According to PET International, an estimated 21 million people worldwide need a PET. “Landmines alone kill or maim one person every 20 seconds,” says Sid Martin, vice president of PET San Antonio-Austin’s board of directors and retired trucking company entrepreneur who volunteers with PET full-time. “But all the PET plants combined including Texas are able to build only about 2,000 a year. That’s a far cry from the 21 million that’s needed.”

PETs are simply made, sturdy, three-wheeled, hand-cranked carriages engineered with wheelbarrow wheels and tubeless tires that do well in dirt and grass. The vehicle allows anyone without use of legs to hand-power the cart that has a front-wheel brake and a wood-wedge parking brake in the rear. Each one also has a cargo area like a wagon for carrying things.

“For just \$250 apiece, we can build and ship a PET anywhere in the world,” says Martin. “If we had a sufficient production and assembly plant, we could give a lot more people the gift of mobility.”

Free to anyone without mobility, PETs are widely accepted in the world’s poorest places. In undeveloped countries such as Mexico where diabetes unchecked causes mass amputations and in many others ravaged by war such as Bosnia and Afghanistan where loss of limbs is commonplace, a PET can raise a human being’s dignity by raising him or her literally out of the dirt and rubble.

With San Antonio neighboring Mexico and PET San Antonio-Austin supported by the Mexican Consulate and government, it helped open a workshop in Nuevo Progreso and taught people there to build PETs. The local affiliate often transports mobility devices it makes directly to Nuevo Progreso.

Common among PET volunteers is the selfless gift of whatever time, talent or money they can offer. Martin, for example, has hauled PET parts across the country. He knew he was doing the right thing when, during his first transport from Ohio to Texas, his truck and flatbed trailer packed with PET frames jackknifed, but he, his rig and the cargo miraculously escaped unscathed.

While church groups, Lions Clubs, individuals and some businesses are chipping in with donations of materiel, dollars and elbow grease—primarily the latter—PET San Antonio-Austin sorely needs a sizeable workshop and distribution center to accommodate growing numbers of volunteers who want to come together and do the work that’s needed to meet the growing need for their product.

For want of an adequate facility and funds to purchase required liability insurance, local volunteers currently build PET parts at home or in a small, rented open-air hangar at San Geronimo Airport in northwest Bexar County. What PET San Antonio-Austin needs is a spacious workshop where volunteers—including interested disabled people and supervised youth groups—from Bexar and area counties can converge to build, assemble and ship PETs from one central location to points worldwide.

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Seeing firsthand the children and adults who receive PETs who are ineffably grateful for the gift of mobility, it is volunteers' collective hope to attain recognition and sponsorship as a SPURS foundation and that other business pillars will offer to help defray the administrative costs of operating PET San Antonio-Austin, which will ensure individuals' donations go 100 percent to PETs. "We're a faith-based nonprofit but not yet a United Way agency for lack of a reliable address aside from a hangar," says Martin, "so we're asking for help in a big way."

Aside from much-needed philanthropy, individuals can get involved by raising funds to buy parts or help weld, package, ship, or distribute PETs. "All it takes is a willingness to help," says Martin. "Find people with welding, metalworking or woodworking skills. Help with expenses; buy materials. Find businesses that sell or make 'off the shelf' items needed for parts. Get them to donate or sell at cost. Tell the story."

Marvin Morgan got involved two years ago with PET San Antonio-Austin and personifies a typical PET donor. A retired policeman from Nebraska who moved to San Antonio and then worked 10 more years with the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office, Morgan is a gifted woodworker. "This is my chance to use my God-given talents to serve people who have so little and need help," says Morgan.

Chris Bunch of ENTrust and his wife, Sara, of San Antonio are others. They got behind PET with financial donations after hearing Martin tell the story during a "Walk to Emmaus" spiritual retreat. "I prayed about it and then I knew it was the right thing for us to do," says Bunch. Others who have heard about the worldwide ministry at their churches have quickly volunteered whatever they could, he says.

On August 16, PET San Antonio-Austin will deliver materials and lead an all-day effort at the Bethany United Methodist Church in Austin where, during the church's all-day summer festival, seven Sunday school classes will assemble seven PETs, with an estimated 5,000 people expected to attend and observe.

PET San Antonio-Austin is an affiliate of PET International, which has affiliates and workshops in Florida, Tennessee, Iowa, Kansas, Washington, Maine, New York and Missouri; in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico; in Sierra Leon; and in Cape Town, South Africa. In addition to building PETs and promoting the need for PETs in developing countries, PET International and its affiliates oversee worksites where PETs are constructed, teach others how to build PETs, and help deliver the devices to international agencies and sponsors in nearly 70 of the poorest countries in the world.

For more information on PET San Antonio-Austin, contact PET San Antonio Board of Directors' President Joe Srubar, P.O. Box 941, Helotes TX 78023. PHONE: (210) 602-3246. EMAIL: jsrubar@sbcglobal.net. To learn more about PET, visit the following websites: www.petsanantonio.mysite.com, www.pet-texas.org/index.htm, www.petinternational.org. To learn more about how to volunteer or donate to PET, visit www.giftofmobility.org. To watch a short video on YouTube about PET, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8UI7VOHSuk.

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