



# HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL Bikes & Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

*Providing pedal-powered transportation for the able and disabled with dignity*

*May 2012, Volume 7 Issue 1*

**Bikes:** Over the last six months we as a board we have worked on refining our focus.

**Partnership with World Relief:** In regards to our bicycle side of ministry we will continue our partnership with World Relief. Each week since 2006 a staff member picks up 2-5 bikes from our headquarters for newly arriving refugees and immigrants. Then caseworkers oversee the distribution logistics of identifying the recipients based on school, work and other considerations. By only interfacing with one contact person there, it allows us to maximize the efficiency of our volunteers as they continue fixing bikes.

“We have a client who will have a night job and will be riding in the dark,” wrote our World Relief contact. “I am wondering if you have a flashing light for higher visibility, a helmet and a bike lock?” When he came for his weekly pickup we were able to fulfill this request too.

When HWI has local bike pickups World Relief helps us. Over the last six months our contact person has used their truck and helped us pick up over 150 bikes from the Winfield Police, the DuPage County Sheriffs department, and Wheaton College.

**Partnership with Working Bikes:** One of the dilemmas we have faced related to bike pick ups is what to do we bikes beyond our repair that still have some salvageable parts. Since our parts drawers are overflowing we have become selective in the parts we keep. However, Working Bikes, one of our new Chicago partners, is an organization that containers and sends thousands of bikes and spare parts overseas each year. So when we have bikes we call Working Bikes and they pick them up.

**Partnership with Sunshine Ministries:** Last Christmas we also partnered with Sunshine Ministry in Chicago. They picked up 15 bikes for their Christmas Store. “As parents came in the door,” a staff person wrote, “they were elated to see that bikes were an option.” The parents were able to buy bikes for 25 percent of their value. “To be able to give their son or daughter a bike for Christmas was such a blessing to them. From toddlers to teens, the bikes reached over a dozen families in our neighborhood! One staff family...purchased bikes for 3 small children that they had taken in for the previous summer...These kids are not in a place where Christmas is an abundance of gifts, so the bikes were a huge surprise. The kids are excited for warm weather...to jump on the bikes! Thank you so much for being a blessing in this way!”



Three Generations of Egans

**Clapham School Service Project:** Also in 2012 year we worked with Clapham School’s sixth-eight grade teachers in Wheaton to provide students with a local service project. Tom our mechanic since 2005, has a son Dr. Patrick Egan, teaches 7th grade there, and has four grandchildren who go to school there as well. Dr. Egan contacted us. In March I spoke to the students about HWI. The 18 students then collaborated and planned for the event. Students designed the poster, addressed collection logistic issues, advertised by putting up posters, spoke on the radio and much more.

The bike collection was on April 14th at Johnsen and Taylor bookstore, at a high visibility shopping mall in Wheaton. The collection brought in 68 bikes, great exposure, and ongoing benefits.

Then on May 11th the seventh grade class came to spend the morning at HWI’s headquarters. During their visit students tried the trike, had a chance to bend steal tubing, watched Grandad Egan fix bikes, participated in our prayer time and gained some practical bike knowledge. Our parting comments were to remain cool while protecting their brain and growing intellectual property by wearing a helmet. We emphasized that it wasn’t cool to have the helmet hanging on the handlebars or on your head not strapped down while riding.

**Trikes:** We have recognized a need to place more attention on the trike side of our ministry. Back in November nine **University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)** students presented their extensive research findings on our U.S. trike prototype.

After hearing the results we have concluded that exploring the U.S. market would take us away from our present overseas niche. Thus we agreed to let Kevin and another HWI associate to explore further U.S. opportunities on their own.



UIC students presenting

Over the last six months we have met with several different groups involved in trike development. There is

a huge amount of energy and manpower around trikes with minimal if any collaboration between organizations. Thus with 7-1/2 years of experience researching, developing, prototyping, manufacturing, fabricating and assembling trikes we realize our goal is to contribute to the field in a way that assists the end user, the disabled in foreign countries. We want to do so by continuing our research and development work, getting trikes out, and developing a collaboration and consulting venue with others doing the same type of work.

With that goal in mind we met with a couple of organizations in the process of a trike redesign back in December. Then in 2012 we met with a new ministry just beginning their trike prototyping and we talked with a Christian college that has had a trike consortium since 2002. In all these instances we shared what we had learned and helped them think through their plans. In addition we are talking with a college in the beginning stages of setting up a technical school overseas.

Also in March, after **Soddo Christian Hospital** in Ethiopia finished fabricating 15 HWI trike kits, we met in Wheaton with the surgeon overseeing the project. He informed us that a smaller sized trike is needed, and that multiple gears and a drag brake would help in the rugged terrain. Kevin, our trike designer, had already anticipated all of those problems and was able to show the prototyped parts that addressed those issues.

Then in April, Ted, a short-term hospital volunteer assigned with the job of setting up Soddo's welding/trike shop came from Washington to spend three days learning about our trike process after returning from a month in Ethiopia. Kevin walked Ted through our trike process and assisted him with a few adaptations and prototyping ideas that he had.

Now with our smaller trike prototype complete, Kevin is finalizing the drawings, so once we raise the \$10,000 for manufacturing 30 trikes, at an estimated trike kit cost of \$325 dollars, we plan to rush to production. We hope to complete the project and send eight kits to Togo, West Africa, by August.

**Other Events:** In February we had 12 members of **Holy Cross Lutheran church** do a service project with us. A representative came over before the event to find out what we needed. When they found out our need for a computer person, a professional photographer, bike mechanics and others to prepare steel for painting, they accommodated our needs.

In March **Wheaton Evangelical Free Church's (WEFC) Pioneer Girls program** brought their Trailblazer group to our headquarters to fulfill part of their mission badge. In addition Louise Troup (92 years old), co-founder of Pioneer Girls who wrote out the badge requirement some 60 years earlier, came. She was the first missionary sent out by Pioneer Girls, has been my mentor since 1981, and challenged me back in 2004 to begin HWI. So it was a rich opportunity to bring Pioneer Girls, HWI, my home church and Louise Troup together. Afterwards the girls went off and raised \$120 for HWI mission. The children's director, wrote, "Thank you for hosting the girls, it was a wonderful experience for them. I just can't help thinking that at least one girl was impacted for 'missions' somehow, just in my gut, so I'm praying along these lines."

Also in March four of our team went to **Wandering Wheels** Headquarters for three days of fun and bike mechanics training by Janech, the best bike mechanic I know. Thanks, Wandering Wheels, for treating us as royalty. While we were away our landlord was able to rent out the upstairs of our building. We had been praying for a renter since we moved in. This will allow our monthly rent and utilities to drop from about \$3,000 a month to \$1,500.

On May 7th I had the opportunity to speak to the **Oaklawn Bicycle club**, also known as the BikePsychos. Afterwards many members came up to talk with me and later the leader asked if they could pass my name on to another bike club. If you are part of a bike, business, church or other club and would like HWI to come and speak, we welcome the opportunity.

Thanks for your part in helping HWI continue to use bikes and trikes as a tool for expanding Christ's Kingdom.

Riding forward on faith,

Alice Teisan  
Executive Director



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