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GIVE THE GIFT OF MOBILITY, GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE

# Merry Christmas

This is the time of the year that we think of giving. We have enclosed an envelope in this mailing for you

to choose 'alternative giving' for friends or family. For \$250 you can 'buy' a PET and a plaque will be attached with their name on it. A colorful Christmas card will be sent directly to the person being 'gifted', or, you have the option of the card sent to you so you can present it on Christmas Day. Either way you know that it will be used as a blessing of 'new life' for a child in a faraway place.

It's a wonderful way to honor the spirit of giving at Christmas. It is truly life-changing! We here at PET MI-Holland wish you all a blessed Christmas Season and a great 2012!

## ***The Latest News*** **Judy Laidler**

Here I am, mailing you a letter after whining for your email addresses. There is a very good reason for doing this. It is

**December, 2011** #0024

our once a year fund raising request. We are hoping you will take this wonderful time of the year to make a donation to PET.

Now, as the *PET INSIDER* reporter let me tell you what has been going on. We have given tours to the following groups:

Pleasant Valley UMC from Schoolcraft, Big Rapids UMC Youth, Fellowship Reformed Church, First Reformed Church Sr. Group from Zeeland, Trinity Reformed Seniors from Grand Haven, First CRC Sr. Group from Jenison, Red Hatters from Hudsonville, Central Wesleyan Study Group from Holland, Home Schooled children and many more small groups that drop in on our work days for a tour.

We have given presentations at Lions Club and Hope CRC both in Grandville, Rosewood Reformed Church in Jenison, Drenthe CRC, P.E.O. Group and a West Ottawa High School class.

And, we aren't tired yet! We invite you to pick up the phone, go on line, address an envelope, or simply stop in and arrange for yourself or your group to see first

### **Please Send Gifts To:**

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WE ARE AN ALL VOLUNTEER  
ORGANIZATION MAKING PETS  
FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE  
UNABLE TO WALK & WHO  
LIVE IN THIRD WORLD  
COUNTRIES.

501 c 3 ORGANIZATION

hand how PETs are made and who they are for. OR, to make a personal contribution yourself ...

We have set up displays at Trendway Car Show, Crystal Springs Camp, 1st UMC in Grand Rapids, and a Skeet Shoot in Indiana – yes, really.

We have shipped 201 child sized PETs since July, 2011. They have gone to Peru and Columbia, South America; Haiti and Dominican Republic; and Tanzania, Africa.

We have used the following partners to ship and distribute them; MedShare from Decatur, GA; F.A.M.E from Indianapolis, IN, Rays of Hope for Haiti from Grand Rapids, MI; Evangel Worship Center at Concord N.C.; and Foundation for Peace from Ironia, N.J. and finally the U.S. Navy at Atlantic Beach, FL. using their service called "Operation Handclasp".

I will now end with my usual plea for email addresses. Just send an email to [PET@petmiholland.org](mailto:PET@petmiholland.org) and we would be most grateful. Have a blessed holiday!

*"It is in the shelter of each other that the people live"*  
- Irish Proverb -

**Director of Development  
Dan Fitzpatrick**

We have all relied on someone else to help us through a tough time or two in our lives. Our families, our friends, our neighbors are there for us. We, in turn, are willing to reach out to help those in need in our family and community.

But, suppose you were a child in one of the 125<sup>+</sup> Third World Countries. You cannot walk because you were born with polio, or

stepped on a land mine while fetching water from a nearby stream with the family. Your family is poor. There is virtually no assistance available for the handicapped in your country, much less for a child.

Statistics  
**984**  
PETs Built  
**10**  
PETs per wk

*Who will help you?*

PET International and PET Holland, with the help of generous supporters, will help you!

Al Kindig and I recently traveled to Moundridge, Kansas, for the PET International annual meeting. There a number of folks from PET around the U.S. shared a wide range of experiences with each other. Discussions ranged from how to start up an operation to new plans for distribution. However, conversations always came back to stories of how lives were improved ... *CHANGED IN A DRAMATIC WAY, BY A GIFT OF A PET.*

While there we learned, among other things:

- There are now 23 PET affiliates building adult and child PETs.
- PET International has shipped over 27,000 PETs to those in need in 92 countries. (PET Holland has shipped over 950 in our first 3 years!)
- 1200 PETs have been shipped throughout the world for free via the U.S. Navy's Operation Handclasp.
- 12 non-profit partners have been added overseas to assist with distribution.
- A partnership has been formed with Hope Haven International in

Guatemala to develop a warehouse, seating clinic and training center to better focus on that region.

PET International is a well established, well respected ministry with the goal of providing simple, dependable mobility to those in need ... for free.

A \$250 donation, the cost to build and ship a PET to a U.S. port, will change a life. It is clearly a *hand up*, not a *hand out*. A PET literally takes a person off the ground and gives them a new life. A life with mobility is a life changed.

Please help us help this child.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family in this *Holy Season of Christmas*.

### ***Visit to Haiti by Holland Volunteers***

#### **Jack Piers and Al Hoffmann**

On October 12 we went to Port au Prince, Haiti, to see how our PETs are performing. A shipment of our PETs left earlier this year via Rays of Hope for Haiti to Port au Prince.



**Haitian girl is very excited after receiving her PET.**

Never having been to Haiti I was totally unprepared for what we saw. Haiti has a population of about 9 Million with roughly 3 Million living in Port au Prince and its surroundings. Although Haiti was always considered the

poorest country in the western hemisphere the earthquake of January 12, 2010 dealt an additional blow to the country. Port au Prince is barely a functional city. The earthquake also increased the number of orphans in Haiti from about 300k to over 900k. Many of these children therefore are suffering from physical injuries and disabilities.

For this reason some of the PET's were given by our distribution partners to the "Notre Maison (Our House) Orphanage. Notre Maison is an orphanage for disabled children in Port au Prince. As we traveled throughout Port au Prince we saw several PETs from different PET affiliates cruising the streets. It was here that we found ourselves to be immensely rewarded.

### ***President's Corner***

#### **Keith Laidler**

So, 'gift-giving' time is here again. For the past few years we have used the practice of 'alternative' gifting for our older children and grand children. One year it was the Heifer project, another was The Society of St. Andrew, a third was PET. There are so many opportunities now to 'give a lift thru a gift' honoring some of the people on our gift list.



I strongly encourage you to check out the information about "Alternative Giving" of a PET. Christmas is about the Gift of New Life, and it's not a 'stretch' to say "A PET literally gives NEW LIFE" to one who has had the misfortune of crawling on the ground because of 'no legs'.

About a year and a half ago I subscribed to a daily affirmation service called 'Souleeds.' It was created by Ian Lawton and his wife Meg, and is available from the web site, [www.souleeds.com/grapevine](http://www.souleeds.com/grapevine). Here's a recent one on "Gratitude" that I want to share with you this holiday season.

***"Gratitude is one of the highest human responses (emotions) as it focuses you beyond yourself. Gratitude helps you to see that your life is connected on every side and all the way back, part of the 'web of life,' past, present and future that makes your life possible. Pay this gratitude forward with kindness that reminds someone else that they are not alone." Then the self affirming statement at the end is: 'I appreciate all the people, events and forces that support my life.'***

Say that over and over throughout the day until it becomes grooved into your brain.

A personal story reveals how close I came to 'not being' (at least not in my present family of ancestors). When my mother was 10 or 11 years old, which was 1920-21, she nearly died with acute appendicitis. The doctor came to the house with two nurses, performed the operation, and left the nurses to stay the night. He told my grandma and grandpa he didn't expect her to live through the night. No one could sleep that night. The adults did all they could, but mostly they prayed. Three times they thought they'd lost her, but she'd gasp and began breathing again. Around 6:30 A.M. word came that her fever had broken and she was finally sleeping. It was the turning point she needed to survive. They all believed it was a miracle, especially the doctor. She lived to marry and, with my dad Harold, raised five boys and two girls.



We occasionally need to "pick up" building materials from factories in the Holland area. With your help, we would not have to "pull" an active worker from their shift. If you have a pickup truck and are willing to help ... **WONDERFULL!** Contact the office and volunteer to be called when the need arises.

When I think of that story that has been told through three generations I wonder again about the 'web of life' and our connections with one another. Thinking of waaaayyy back ...

I'm evermore grateful for those who have gone before, and for those who have provided and guided since the day I was born. We who are reading this Newsletter are among the privileged in the world. Those in our 'connection' whose birth happened in an underdeveloped country are in our 'family' too. Some of the most unfortunate of them are the 'leg-handicapped.' We *DO* care about them and are working at PET Holland for their sake.

Have you ever wondered how close you came to 'not being'?

Well, it's a moot point now that you "ARE" ... can you see your connection to those who PET is working to help? I encourage you to think and pray about it.

Take another look at the 'Alternative Gifting' card. You might just want to give a *NEW LIFE* to a child less fortunate than you.

Thank You for '*being*' and  
Thank You for '*CARING!*'

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