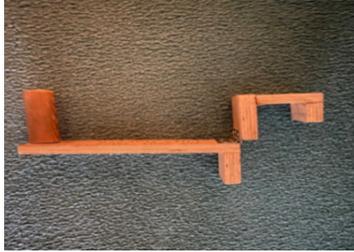




**The Inland North-West Trinity Project**  
 Home of the Rainbow Freedom Cart  
 15123 N Little Spokane Dr.  
 Spokane WA 99208

# Tri-Kin Trailways



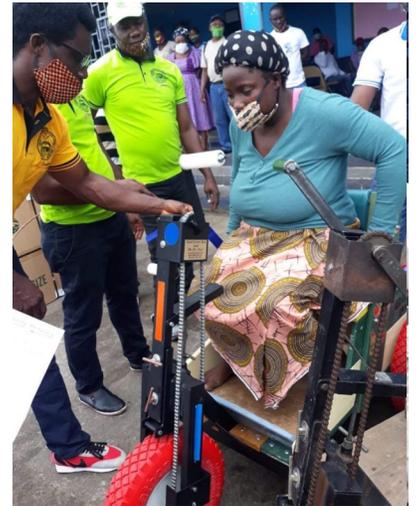
October 2020  
 Volume XII Number 3



## *New News ~ "Old" Carts for Liberia*

Almost two years ago now, we sent 160 Trinity Carts to Liberia. When the April 2019 newsletter was published we included an article about the beautiful country of Liberia, including a map of the country. Now after all this time we have received pictures of some of the recipients of our carts and while we're still

waiting for their stories, we'll include the pictures in this issue. The carts went to the County of Montserrado in north-western Liberia. You might notice that each cart has been stenciled with "Donated by Seed Faith Ministries, Greater Vision College" on it. We are so thankful the carts have gotten to those who need them and are very willing to give the Greater Vision College credit. The Greater Vision of Nursing and Health Services is in Montserrado County and is accredited by the Liberian Board for Nursing & Midwifery. Very appropriate organization for distributing our carts.



# Unloading Carts in Liberia



# Loading Carts in Spokane ~ for Malawi

Our second load for World Vision will be on its way to Malawi shortly. It was loaded under pretty difficult conditions (try to stay at least six feet away from your partner while pushing a 150 pound box up the ramp) by a very dedicated crew on August 18. (See page 5 for our wonderful pizza provider.)



Our spotlighted volunteer for this issue was not born in the United States, but was a United States citizen the minute she was born. Karen Tollackson was born in the territory of Alaska and proudly waved the United States flag which only had 48 stars on it when she graduated from kindergarten.



Karen was “adopted” twice...once into a family who homesteaded in Alaska, and once into God’s family as she became His child at a young age. (Karen has an identical twin sister, Sharon, who still lives in Alaska.) After the death of her dad when she was twelve, Karen’s family, moved to Spokane, where she attended church and met her husband, Chris Tollackson. Together they raised three children, Jennifer, Matthew and Peter. Karen and Chris were married 30 years, when he was diagnosed with cancer. It was a short battle and he passed away in 2006.



Karen has a heart for the elderly and a heart to serve her Savior. She moved to the Fairwood Retirement Village and has been blessed with a “family” there who she ministers to in many ways. Caring for her garden vegetables and baking special treats (she majored in home economics from Eastern Washington U)

The chief painter said “I stopped in this afternoon to see what was happening in the paint barn. An elf named Karen had been in early and painted 3 sets.”



is an area where Karen shares her bounty. She cares for those God has brought into her life and blesses them with her heart full of caring love.

Karen saw a flier about the Tri-Kin ministry, on the bulletin board at Fairwood. She volunteers as a painter for the project. Now she is working with a team who shares the same compassion for giving mobility to those around the world who are unable to walk. She truly enjoys her time at the paint shop as she paints and “flours” boards for each cart. She may need to use a step ladder to hang pieces she has painted, but one would never guess she is a “senior



citizen” since she has the enthusiasm and energy of a teenager.

Karen truly cares for those who receive these unique carts. We appreciate Karen very much and treasure her hard work, smiling face, and enthusiasm in the paint shop.

## *New Tools in the Shop*



Sore hands in the paint shop has been a problem for years since the hooks that hang each newly painted board on the drying line must be screwed in by hand. This might not be such an unsurmountable problem if one only needs to put in a hook or two, but on a busy day there may be a need for a couple hundred hooks, and for arthritic joints, that’s a problem. Ron McNamee found a tool in an old tool box to eliminate the hand work. When I first saw the picture (left), and nothing to judge its size, it looked like a large, heavy duty tool, for some unknown use.

After talking to Ron, its usefulness at the paint shop became apparent, especially when one sees it next to the hook we screw in each board. It’s used in an electric drill chuck and makes that part of our work a breeze. Thank you Ron.

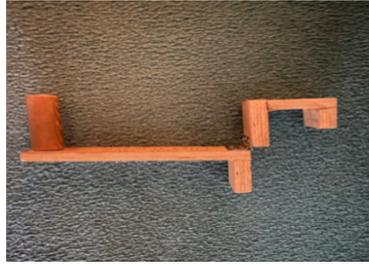


When we need to move a completed Trinity cart around in the shop, or take one outside to have its picture taken, you run into a dilemma. Just where on the cart does one get a grip firm enough on something that wants to “do its own thing” and go its own direction? (Picture on the left). Rotating the handles causes the chain to move, which in turn, causes the front wheel to rotate for normal mobility. To steer the cart, instead of rotating the handles, one pushes one of them forward and pulls the other one back, thus steering the whole front end.



The problem: where does one grab?

Now, that’s how a cart is “driven” in normal operation. But, if for some reason, you don’t want to “drive” it, but just pull it to a new location, what part do you grab that doesn’t try to tear the skin off of your hand? Enter the “Ugly Alligator” that Dick talks about on page 6.



The solution: an “Ugly Alligator”.



Two of the “alligators” in use.

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### *Family Connections at the Trinity Shop*

A special family we want to highlight (2 Granddads and a new apprentice) in the welding shop. John VanderBeek says we can call him anything as long as we don’t call him late to dinner ~ so we’ll call him “Gramps 1” for this article. Both of Nathan’s granddads are accomplished welders, as is our new apprentice. To have all of them in the shop welding really gets the work done fast and on-time. We appreciate all of them.



Gramps 1 ~ John



Gpa #2 ~ Dick Baldwin



Son & Intern ~ Nathan Baldwin



Just a small part of the good work they have accomplished.

Be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, tolerant of the weak, because someday in your life you will be all of these. ~ George Washington Carver

You cannot do a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it will be too late. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

There's a swamp behind the Trinity Shop, with something hiding in the tall green grass. This "thing" showed up in the shop one morning. We thought it must've crawled in probably seeking warmth and dryness.

It has this funny shape of a tall round tail, a wide open ugly mouth, front leg but no rear leg. The color was stained probably by the dirty swamp water.

We decided to let it stay in the shop. No harm done. It made a nice talking piece.

However the next morning, it had "birthed" into four! Four might soon become eight, could become sixteen, then it might even become a swarm! They had to be destroyed!

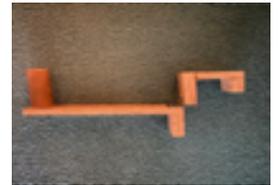
Then the creator of this "thing" came into the Shop howling with laughter.

"You Tri-Kin don't even know what a new tool looks like"! He told us with much delight.

He then slipped it over the head of the pedal post and demonstrated how it can be used to pull, and steer, a Freedom Cart much easier than with our hands.

We all tried them and quickly became convinced that the "Ugly Alligator" was a handy tool for managing Carts not yet packed. The four "alligators" now hang in a coveted position on their own rack, always ready to do it's job.

Many thanks to John VanderBeek, the creator.



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A recent Health magazine had a short article entitled "Volunteering Makes for Rewarding Retirement". They quoted a 92 year old man who said: "Staying physically active, busy, and volunteering is a good way to be rewarded." This 92 year old volunteer repairs wheelchairs and walkers and gives them freely to those who need them. He also volunteers once a week at the County Food Bank, as a handyman at his local church, and when he goes for a walk he picks up litter in the neighborhood. He says: "When I'm up and working, I feel so much better than just sitting around. My projects also keep my brain engaged. Volunteering surrounds me with the most wonderful people." Sounds like good advice. We strongly recommend following his example.

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### *Featured Again*

Our favorite Pizza Shop, Pizza Rita, who have been providing our pizza and drinks to our hungry crew each time we load 70 carts on a semi-truck trailer, has been featured in the Spokesman-Review again. In the April 2017 issue of the Tri-Kin Trailways, we told the story of how Brian and June Dickmann started Pizza Rita and their generosity when it comes to charitable giving. Now with four shops in the Spokane area, they are a real Spokane success story.

This time the newspaper featured the shop as one of the food providers who participate in a "fair food drive-through" event. Since both the Spokane Interstate Fair and the North Idaho Fair have been canceled this year due to COVID-19, this will give people the opportunity to buy food they are used to seeing at the fairs, and in a safe manner.

As we said in April 2017, "We sincerely appreciate Brian and June and their loving, generous hearts. Although we don't advertise in this newsletter, we would be remiss if we didn't tell you about this extremely wonderful and super couple and the great work they do for others." And, Oh Yes, they do make the best pizza in town.



**W**e all know exploding land mines are one of the primary causes of leg-disabling injuries to men, women, boys and girls. Unfortunately, even today, mines remain planted in the ground in 62 countries! Each day an average of 9 people become casualties of land mines.

Searching for land mines by people using metal detectors is extremely dangerous and expensive, so can you imagine using rats? In about nine months rats can be taught to detect the smell of TNT. When they find a mine, they stop and scratch the ground, then are rewarded with their favorite food, a piece of banana.

Now, take a number of the trained rats into a known land mine “grave yard” and send them, attached to a harness, across the ground. They work hard to get their reward. Feed it some banana and then watch as the experts harmlessly explode the mine. The trained rats can do in 20 minutes what would otherwise take 5 days for a human with a metal detector!! Why rats you say? They are trainable and too light weight to set off an underground mine. As a result of the efficiency of the rats, Mozambique declared itself to be free of land mines last November. (That’s going from 3 million in 1996 to 0 today).

That’s commitment but, what is the nature of “commitment”? A perfect illustration is in the book of Ruth in the Bible. Naomi vows to her Mother-in-law: “Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die and there I will be buried.” You can feel the love coming from her commitment.

How does commitment apply to Trinity? Commitment is a promise made from love without expecting a return. Actually returns do come to those who are committed to Trinity in at least two forms; the close relationships we make with other like-minded people, and the satisfaction of knowing what we are doing will instantly change the life of a person who is unable to walk.

If that is true, how is a commitment different from a contract? A person making a contract weighs the pros and cons of what’s in it for me? That’s not at all true for a committed Trinity volunteer. When a new volunteer comes aboard, they embed them self into a new relationship with the rest of us making Freedom Carts (all of us are know as Tri-Kin). It boils down to the fact that a commitment is really a relationship. The truth of this comes when you think back over 15 years and the number of men and women who have committed themselves to sharing their lives with passion for those men and women without legs who need their own Freedom Carts.



## *What other important tasks do we do besides building carts?*

**T**here is always a need to improve our facilities; the painting area, assembly area, welding shop, storage barn and especially lately the loading area. For the past 15 years we have walked on a dusty, sandy floor to get to the storage container where completed carts are stored until time to load them for shipment. The old sand floor is soft which makes it difficult to walk and drive on. It’s also dusty so one doesn’t want to come in with newly polished shoes. Our solution: 25 yards of gravel which will get the ultimate test when the next semi-truck backs in to load more carts. The new floor gives us a much more solid foundation to move tools, equipment, and boxes. It will get even better as it is used and is packed down. Another plus for the new floor is that we won’t have the previous muddy mess when trucks drop melting snow.

The panel at the bottom of this page explains several different ways you can donate to The Trinity Project. There are ways to give funds, leverage your assets, and at the same time save income/estate taxes.

We can't give you financial or tax advice; that needs to come from a professional tax advisor or tax attorney who will help you determine financial consequences of your charitable activities. What we can tell you is that if you have items such as stock, a 401(k), IRA's, or 403(b)s, you are able to donate up to \$100,000 to be transferred directly to the Trinity Project. {Inherited stock falls in another (even better) category.} One thing you do need to keep in mind is that, to avoid taxes, the funds need to be transferred directly from your account to the Trinity Project. Once you personally receive a check, tax is due. Again, different rules apply to different types of investments and timing as to when contributions to the investment were made, so please check with a tax advisor or attorney as you plan your personal charitable giving. There are many tax advantages when you give retirement assets to a qualified charity such as The Trinity Project.



Two additional ways of donating to The Trinity Project are through making a bequest of part, or all, of your estate, and setting up either a revocable living trust or an irrevocable trust (there are advantages and disadvantages to both).

Trinity has also established a Charles Schwab account which is funded for the future (3-5 years) costs for the production and shipping of Trinity carts. To get more specific details about this account, please contact Mike Larson at (509) 998-5517. This is a great way to keep from having to pay capital gains tax, and to reduce your tax liability at the same time.

**A new way to give to the Trinity Project:** We now have an account with Amazon.com where, when you purchase from Amazon, you can designate a part of their profit to come to us. When you sign in to Amazon, use **smile.amazon.com**. The first time you will be asked which charity you would like to support. Just find "The Inland Northwest Trinity Project", click on it and, as long as you use the "smile.amazon.com" to sign-in, a part of your purchase price goes to help those who cannot walk. There is no added expense to you.

Here are several other ways to make donating to The Trinity Project more convenient.

1) You can send checks, made payable to WCPC (or Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church). Put "Trinity Project" on the memo line, and mail to: 15123 N Little Spokane Dr., Spokane, WA 99208. Please be sure the only thing on the make payable to line is "WCPC".

2) Donate electronically through PayPal (you don't have to have a PayPal account). All you need is either a credit or a debit card. Go to our web-site: **www.nwtrinityproject.org** and click on the word "DONATE". That will take you to the image you see at the right. Just click on the yellow button. We'll gladly send you an official tax receipt (when you request one) when you donate via PayPal.

Tax changes, authorized by Congress last December, include changes which affect federal retirement laws. One provision raises the age when individuals must start making minimum distributions from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) from 70½ to 72 years of age. The tax law did not, however, alter the giving incentive known as the IRA charitable rollover. Individuals aged 70½ and older may still make tax-free distributions to nonprofits from their IRAs, even if they are not required to make distributions from their IRAs because they have not yet turned 72. The law, as far as giving a non-taxable donation to a qualified charity (such as The Trinity Project), once you reach 70½ remains the same. As we mentioned above, the one requirement you need to be careful of is that your check must go directly from your financial institution to the charity.





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## Freedom Cart Connection – Contact and Newsletter Information



For volunteer opportunities, visits to the Freedom Cart shop, or to request a presentation, please call Dick Carpenter at (509)466-3425 or send him an e-mail at [bebold@comcast.net](mailto:bebold@comcast.net). For address changes or comments about this newsletter, send to [8trikin@gmail.com](mailto:8trikin@gmail.com). Tax-deductible donations may be sent to WCPC-Trinity Project, 15123 Little Spokane Dr., Spokane, WA 99208. Our web-site is: [nwtrinityproject.org](http://nwtrinityproject.org) Please also see the article “Ways you can make a direct impact on the Trinity Project” on page 7. We are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/trinityfreedomcarts/> where we would appreciate a thumbs-up.

