

Final Announcements: July 2022

Access Exchange International

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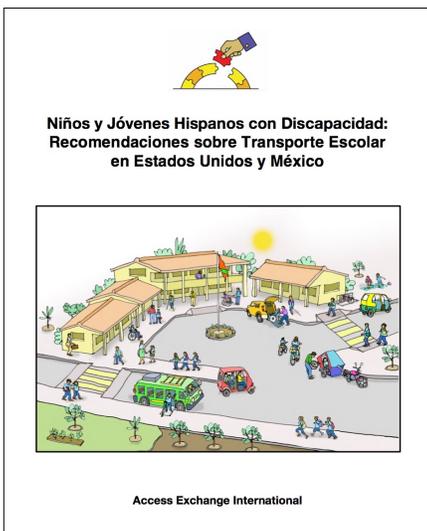
After thirty-one years of promoting inclusive public transportation in developing countries, AEI is laying down its work upon the retirement of Tom Rickert, our founder and Executive Director. Our final Newsletter was sent this past December. These announcements provide continuity to our mission as our formal work comes to an end.

Now available in English and Spanish

Hispanic Children with Disabilities: Recommendations on School Transportation in the United States and Mexico

We are pleased to remind our readers that our sixty-page report with recommendations for school transportation in the U.S. and Mexico was distributed as a PDF in December.

The Spanish version, *Niños y Jóvenes Hispanos con Discapacidad: Recomendaciones sobre Transporte Escolar en Estados Unidos y México*, was distributed to our readers in Mexico, Central America and South America in February.



The report is a product of a team of three Mexican and three USA colleagues and deals with concerns which tend to be unique among Hispanic children.

Providing continuity to our mission

AEI to distribute its remaining assets to Mobility Worldwide

by Tom Rickert

When a non-profit agency in the USA lays down its work, any remaining assets must be distributed by law to another tax-exempt non-profit agency in the USA. By unanimous vote of our Board of Directors, Access Exchange International will assist Mobility Worldwide as it broadens its own work in support of inclusive mobility for low-income persons with disability in developing regions around the world. This vote by our Board was taken in January. However, it was not until earlier this current month that the state of California – faced with slowdowns due to the pandemic – gave us a green light to proceed.

Like AEI, Mobility Worldwide is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation. It has substantial roots in agencies with a calling to help people with leg injuries, for example those who have lost limbs through land-mines. Mobility Worldwide approaches this challenge by manufacturing and distributing hand-powered three-wheeled trikes originally called "personal energy devices" or "PETs." An article in our Newsletter discussed Mobility Worldwide's conference in Missouri last year, bringing together both secular and faith-based agencies to scale up the production and distribution of these and other personal mobility aids to address this critical need. The



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'travel chain' for persons with a disability begins with the ability to journey from where



they live to where they work, go to school, worship, or carry out any other life activity. That chain should not be broken at its first link when leaving one's home. AEI is proud to have been

'part of the story' when it comes to urban transportation, but the need in rural areas has often not even been touched. We see Mobility Worldwide as an important response to this need, and we applaud them for recruiting volunteers in many countries to make and distribute these devices.

AEI encourages readers of this announcement to consider becoming donors to Mobility Worldwide. Donations may be sent via their website, or mailed to
Mobility Worldwide
503 East Nifong Blvd., Ste. H # 186
Columbia, MO 65201, USA

We have asked Mobility Worldwide to send their newsletter to selected friends and colleagues of AEI to further introduce their work.

A response from Mobility Worldwide

by Scott Walters, Executive Director

Mobility Worldwide is honored to continue Access Exchange International's proud legacy of promoting accessible transportation around the world. Our two organizations' visions complement each other nicely. Mobility Worldwide seeks a vision of ending immobility in the world while AEI sought to *ensure accessible transport in developing countries.*

What a great collaboration!

For its part, Mobility Worldwide has been working tirelessly the past several years to form an association of like-minded organizations who are willing to share their time, talent, or treasure so that together we are better able to help more people in need. Our thinking is that, too often, NGOs and nonprofits view each other as competitors when in fact we frequently experience the same challenges and enjoy the same successes as we work to help others who are physically disabled.

To better illustrate Mobility Worldwide's goal of greater collaboration, we took the lead last September when we hosted an international forum of NGOs and charities that provide mobility devices to those in low and middle income countries. Several dozen agencies were represented. Our goal is simple: let's find a way to work together to help more people to live independently.

As part of our collaboration with AEI, **Mobility Worldwide is posting key AEI guides and reports on our website at www.MobilityWorldwide.org** to help



Mobility Worldwide is successfully testing this lighter weight mobility cart in Kenya

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more people to access public transport. We are including AEI's publications on school transportation, paratransit, and the World Bank's *Transit Access Training Toolkit* authored by Tom Rickert of AEI. This will increase the impact of AEI's materials on their own archival website (see story at right).

AEI thanks these recent donors for gifts to our work not previously acknowledged

The Humphrey Family Trust

The Robert & Sharon Roper Fund of Schwab Charitable

The Angelo Figone Fund of Schwab Charitable

Susan M. Worts

Meimei Chang via Temple United Methodist Church

Steven Birdlebough & Sally Davis

Larry & Joy O'Rourke

David B. Spring

Harvey Katz

Peter Axelson

Cheryl Damico

In memory of Adrienne & Griffith Humphrey

Adrienne Humphrey, a dear friend of AEI and of the cause of "mobility for all" around the world, passed away in early 2021. Adrienne was predeceased several years ago by her husband, Griffith, a pioneer in promoting access to public transportation and a long-time member of the San Francisco Muni's accessible transportation advisory committee. We appreciate a recent bequest to Access Exchange International from their estate.

Notice to those researching the history of inclusive transportation

Throughout the past thirty-one years, AEI's Newsletters have been a unique source of information on the work of agencies in our field around the world. We have issued some sixty newsletters totaling nearly 500 pages of documentation focused on the development of public transport for persons with disabilities, seniors, and other vulnerable groups in low-income regions around the world. Researchers or colleagues interested in accessing this unique repository of information are invited to visit our English and Spanish reports on **our archival website at www.globalride-sf.org**.

New report recognizes the work of AEI's retired Exec. Director

The Institute for Transportation Development and Policy (ITDP) and World Enabled published a new report, *Access and Persons with Disabilities in Urban Areas* in June. **Go to the ITDP website at <https://www.itdp.org>** to download a copy of this timely update in our field.

The report begins with a "recognition of outstanding contribution for Tom Rickert," as follows:

"ITDP and World Enabled would like to celebrate the career and contributions of Tom Rickert, Executive Director of Access Exchange International, to the Transportation and Accessibility fields. Since the founding of AEI in 1990, he has provided foundational research and tools, and pushed the conversation of accessibility in transport forward for over three decades. Without his tireless advocacy and critical engagement, sustainable transportation research would not have advanced as far. Tom led pioneering technical assistance and advocacy to make cities more accessible and inclusive, and we owe him a debt of gratitude. We wish him well in his retirement, and thank him for his invaluable contributions."