



PERSONAL ENERGY TRANSPORTATION TEXAS

PET San Antonio
P.O. Box 941, Helotes, TX 78023

Letter of Inquiry submitted by PET San Antonio

History and Mission

Wholly run by volunteers and donor-financed, PET San Antonio makes and distributes off-road wheelchairs for people in third-world, war-ravaged and natural disaster-torn countries who have lost their lower limbs or use of them. [Haiti has become an emergency target for PET productions as of Feb. 22, 2010.](#)

PET San Antonio is an affiliate of PET International, which was begun in 1995 by a retired missionary, a pastor and an airplane mechanic in Missouri and today has 15 affiliate workshops in 10 states, Mexico and South Africa. In addition to building PETs and promoting the need for PETs in developing countries, PET International and its affiliates including PET San Antonio oversee worksites where PETs are constructed, teach others how to build PETs, and help deliver PETs to international agencies and sponsors in 70 of the world's poorest countries.

PET San Antonio began operating informally in 2003 and then formally organized in 2005. In its infancy, PET San Antonio primarily supported and operated under PET Luling, which had acquired its 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Charity status. In 2009, PET San Antonio received its 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Charity status as Personal Energy Transportation of Texas, Inc. dba PET San Antonio.

PET San Antonio and its affiliates began focusing PET production on Haitian relief efforts after PET International established an alliance with the Haitian government and the World Trade Organization. On Feb. 26, 2010, PET San Antonio received word that 183 PET units are being shipped from PET International in Columbia, Missouri, directly to Haiti through La Porte, Texas, and another 100 PETs will be headed to La Porte from the Aurora, Missouri, PET workshop for direct shipment to Haiti within approximately 30 days or by mid-April 2010.

Product, Services and Audience Served

It is important to say upfront that while PET San Antonio produces PETs for underserved people in third-world countries, it is focused on mobilizing local volunteers—particularly marginalized groups—to enrich the local community while serving a global need. Such groups include juveniles court-ordered to fulfill community service hours, homeless and other veterans and wounded soldiers in recovery. Building PETs has already shown, with wounded soldiers for example, to build self-esteem and develop concrete vocational skills.

PET units are sturdy, three-wheeled, hand-cranked carriages engineered with wheelbarrow wheels and solid tires that do well in dirt and grass. Free to anyone without mobility due to birth defects, diabetes, spinal cord injuries, polio, land mines, war or natural disaster, PETs are widely accepted in the world's poorest places. A PET can raise a human being's dignity by raising him or her literally out of the dirt and rubble. PET San Antonio provides production, assembly,

packing and shipping of PETs to PET recipients. An estimated 21 million people worldwide, including 250,000 in northern Mexico, need a PET unit. But all the PET plants combined including those in Texas are able to build only about 2,000 units each year. Typically, Mexico and Central America constitute PET's primary geographic market. PET San Antonio, supported by the Mexican Consulate and government, helped open a workshop in Nuevo Progreso and taught people there how to build PET units.

Revenue Resources

To date, sources of cash and materials donations to PET San Antonio have come from more than 200 individuals, including members of two volunteer groups, three nonprofits, more than seven Lions Clubs, 12 churches, eight businesses and more than 125 individual donors, plus a small portion from PET International.

In 2009, donations totaling a little more than \$32,000 allowed PET San Antonio to make and ship 173 PETs to recipients in need. In 2010, PET is asking for \$60,000 in cash donations to build and ship nearly double that number. All donated funds go toward the purchase of equipment, materials, supplies and shipping. It is also asking for an additional \$30,000 for heavy production equipment and \$7,500 for a "PET-Mobile."

Facility

PET San Antonio's local volunteers build PET parts at home or in a 1,200 square-foot open-air hangar at San Geronimo Airport in northwest Bexar County. PET San Antonio needs a 4,000-4,500-square-foot facility to accommodate safe production and assembly of PETs, multiply efforts of volunteer carpenters, steelworkers and welders, and accommodate a workshop, storage area, administrative area and parking lot. PET prefers to acquire it at 100% donation or with a lease of \$1 per year. Otherwise, PET is prepared to continue budgeting up to \$200 per month or a maximum of \$2,400 per year to lease the needed facility. PET is prepared to lease 800 square feet of the acquired facility to a local nonprofit organization that rehabilitates former felons through vocational trade training, using PET manufacturing and assembly as an integral part of this training. PET San Antonio also serves as a centralized collection and distribution center for other U.S. PET affiliates.

Equipment and Product Production

PET San Antonio owns \$20,000 worth of production equipment, tools and materials necessary for PET production. In order to move beyond its current production of 14 units/month to achieve its 2010 goal of 20 units/month and 2013 goal of 30 units/month, PET San Antonio seeks \$37,500 in equipment funding in 2010. Of this \$37,500, \$30,000 would go toward production equipment, including a modest \$2,500 for office equipment, and \$7,500 for a "PET-mobile," which is a make-ready mobile PET-building and assembly unit that can be transported to on-site volunteer locations, such as the annual Wounded Warriors "Make A Difference Day" held at Fort Sam Houston. A fully outfitted PET-Mobile theoretically would double production by making it available on-site while workshop production would continue.

PET San Antonio increased production from 25 units in 2006 to 173 units in 2009. Its goal is to produce up to 360 units/year toward the global need for 21 million PETs. Upon acquiring its needed facility, PET San Antonio will be

capable of receiving and warehousing an additional 20 units or more/month from PET affiliates for distribution to Mexico and Central America—and more immediately to Haiti.

Volunteers and Community Involvement, Evaluation / Community Feedback

In late 2009, when PET San Antonio honored 55 volunteer members for their 2,078 hours of service, U. S. Representative **Ciro Rodriguez** placed a call to action to his constituents in San Antonio, other cities and Washington D.C., urging them to support the funding of PET for fiscal year 2011.

The San Antonio community is supplying small amounts of materials at cost or as donations or providing small groups of volunteers to help build PETs. A few examples are: Alpha & Omega Career Center, Jack Laurence Corp., Woodcraft Texas Store, Southwest Farm & Home Center, Kenworth Truck Company, and the National Alliance for Veterans and the San Antonio Coalition for Veterans. Interest in PET San Antonio is building. Judge-elect Deborah Sandheinrich wants to involve first-time juvenile offenders in community service with PET San Antonio. Judith Markelz, Program Manager of the Warrior and Family Support Center at Fort Sam Houston involved 15 wounded soldiers in PET San Antonio to build, test-drive and package PETs and plans to repeat the effort. Hector Villarreal, Lt. Col. U.S Army, Ret., National Alliance for Veterans, said of veterans' involvement with PET: "This is therapeutic for the soldiers..."

Project Budget

For approximately \$200 apiece (plus \$50-\$60 shipping apiece), PET San Antonio can manufacture, assemble, package and ship a PET anywhere in the world. (Shipping costs vary depending upon available donations and destination.) Cash donations in 2009 of \$32,636 allowed PET San Antonio to produce and ship 173 PETs. This amount, direct cost, covered \$25,721 for materials, including cost of acquiring the materials, and \$6,915 for insurance, rent, tools and consumables. The 2010 Budget Forecast (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2010) calls for \$60,000 in donations, which will accommodate production and shipment of 240 PET units. While \$48,000 of the total cash needed will account for direct cost, \$12,000 will be needed for insurance, rent, tools and consumables. These cash donations are in addition to funding requested for production and office equipment.

Staff and Membership, 2010 Board of Trustees, Volunteer Members

Led by President Thomas Martin, 10 board members support PET San Antonio in building and transporting PETs, with cash and materials donations, and in telling the PET story to raise awareness and funds. The PET San Antonio Board embodies more than 300 years of experience across PET-related disciplines and industries, including finance, manufacturing, production, engineering, construction, transportation, biomedical scientific research, real estate, energy, oil, aviation and marketing. Since 2005, PET San Antonio has been fine-tuning its operation to ensure its flawless commitment to the local community while pursuing its global mission, a clear chain of command, accountability and diligent devotion to its long-term success. As a result, PET San Antonio has positioned itself as a persuasive leader among local members, national affiliates, and its local and national network—and growing international network—of supporting organizations. Board members are elected by the PET membership to serve one-year terms September-August with unlimited re-elections.