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Moraga and Rossmoor Rotary Clubs Send Crutches to Africa

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Rotarians load mobility devices into a truck for eventual shipment to Kenya. From left, front row: Joy Aliadarous and sister Jill Doty; back row: Roger and wife Jan Gregory, Joe Goralka, John Rice, Igor Kapinski, Mark Roberts, and Candice Talbot of the Crutches4Africa charity. Photo David Talbot

charity with an initial shipment of 235 crutches that went to Uganda. In addition to their work with Crutches4Africa, David and Candice Talbot worked in a kibbutz in Israel in the 1960s. David Talbot was crippled by polio as a child and he uses two crutches and has a brace on his left leg. In Kenya, Uganda and Ghana, which seem to be the most served nations by this charity, Talbot is known as "The Hat." He rolls into town and he and Candice and the local Rotary distribute the mobility aids.

To date their organization has delivered 58,000 mobility devices to 15 countries in Africa and nine other destinations. The walking aids collected in Rossmoor and Moraga will be comingled with devices from elsewhere to fill a seagoing container that will be shipped to Houston to board a ship for Kenya. Target date for arrival in Kenya is early September.

Candice Talbot says she takes dresses along for the little girls. She told about groups in the USA who make dresses from pillowcases (although, with pounding on rocks for laundry, they've had to move to sturdier fabric because the plain pillow cases wouldn't last a year.) The little girls' eyes glow when they get both a walking aid and a new dress. Most have never had a new dress before.

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