



# HGI Newsletter

*Helmer Global Initiatives exists to promote a culture of generosity by using our resources to engage our people to their highest level of capability in order to provide aid and justice to the poor and vulnerable.*

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 7

OCTOBER 31, 2011

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN NOVEMBER:

November 17

Operation Christmas Child Wrapping Party

November 23, 24

Good Samaritan of Hamilton County Thanksgiving Day Dinner

November 28 - December 2

Rwandan Azizi Crafts Sale

More details on [Page 6](#)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Word From David Helmer 2

First Time Ever 2

Update From Emily 3

Networking Goes A Long Way 3

MS Bike Ride - \$5,070! 4

Ride With Us Next Year! 4

New Employee Joins MS Ride 5

'Thank You' From Hoosier Patients 5

Calendar of Events - November 6

## On Behalf Of The Liberian People



Written by Alvin Sehkar,  
Materials Handling at Helmer Inc.

**When Alvin, originally from Liberia, learned that Helmer refrigerators were being donated to a hospital in Sierra Leone, he saw an opportunity and took action to make a difference for his native country also.**

and I began to talk about Sierra Leone and Liberia. I spoke to Dan about the relationship between these two countries, what they have in common, and the needs of the Liberian people. After our conversation, inquiry was made and three under-counter freezers for Liberia began to be processed. The equipment will be shipped to Global Ministries (The United Methodist Church) to be distributed to local Liberian hospitals.

States. Liberia was founded in 1847 by freed American and Caribbean slaves. The country has a predominate indigenous African population, with the slaves' descendants comprising 5%. Sadly, it suffered 14 years of civil war 1989-2003 that claimed the lives of more than 250,000 people. The conflict left the country overrun with weapons, in economic ruin, with 80% unemployment and extreme poverty – average income of \$1 a

day, no electricity, no landlines, no running water, and no sewage system.

I personally identify with the people of Liberia, as I was born in Liberia and



**Dan Etchison and Alvin Sehkar with the under-counter freezer shipping to Liberia.**

I was asked by Dan Etchison to load a couple of refrigerators that were going to Sierra Leone. During the loading process, Dan

Liberia is located on the west coast of Africa. It is bordered by Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Ivory Coast. It has a very unique historic relationship with the United

grew up in Ivory Coast. On behalf of the Liberian people I say, "Thank You," for the donation, sincerely believing that this equipment will save lives and be of great help to the doctors and nurses who are aiding the Liberian people with their medical needs.

# Life Impacts Life

Word from David Helmer

"What is sufficient for us?". This was a question posed in a discussion with a friend who had recently attended a Swedish conference on the topic of Corporate Social Responsibility. This brought me to think of many additional questions. At what point does what we "need" to live a meaningful life move into the realm of what we "want" in life? How do we engage fully in life for others, rather than at the expense of others, both as individuals and as a company? Is waste (waste of resources, waste of time, squandering of talent...of our lives) something we consider as just a personal choice or does it have broader ramifications in society? Were we designed to be consumers or givers? Do we consider the "common good" when we make choices? Do we even understand the term "common good"? Why does a purchase or experience leave us wanting the next purchase or experience, but giving of ourselves

leaves a deep satisfaction...that "warm feeling"? Do we listen to what our soul is speaking to us in those moments when it says, "this is what is satisfying. Feed me more of that!"?

Over the course of the past few years we have experimented with different ways to become individually and communally generous. Some initiatives have seen significant success in engagement and outcomes. Others have seen little identifiable value. However, each effort when accompanied by sincerity and humility gives expression to a deeper part of who we are. And, most importantly, they take us closer to our original design. We were actually made to not need much in order to be generous.

Life impacts life, but usually only when in the giving there is an element of dying. Dying to live? Strange concept! There is something about letting go of what we so desperately cling to that actually brings freedom and graciousness.

There is a secret recipe in there, which is extremely powerful.

In order to further our HGI efforts we will be asking those who have interest to engage further to begin leading new initiatives or expanding existing ones. In doing so the desire is to allow you to creatively express your capabilities while aiding others. We will soon begin to improve the design and manufacturing methods for a vehicle used in rural developing countries. We are also initiating efforts to aid other businesses to build their own models of generosity. We are also interested in additional ways to help our own people at Helmer, as they struggle through life's challenges.

We have so much more to do together. People and nations continue to need us to care. And so we will, one generous, others-centered act at a time, until change takes place... mostly in us, as we learn what is really sufficient.



A typical day of a woman living in the rural area of Rwanda.

"...each effort when accompanied by sincerity and humility gives expression to a deeper part of who we are."

# First Time Ever



[www.missiontoulkraine.net](http://www.missiontoulkraine.net)

Written by Tetiana Bortnik,  
Communications Manager at  
Mission To Ukraine

"Ducks, I love ducks" exclaimed Stasik, a mentally challenged young man from Romaniv Orphanage. For the first time in his life, Stasik left the boundaries of the orphanage to visit the Kiev Zoo.

Three hours of travel, unknown reactions to the animals, toilet stops, snacks, possible health issues – lots of concerns for the boys with disabilities who have never

travelled that far before. The risk was well worth it! The boys impressed all of us with their exemplary behavior. In public places among healthy people, they did better than many healthy kids raised in families! Hand-in-hand with their volunteers – new friends – they entered unknown surroundings of the Zoo, saw unusual animals, and even ate "Happy Meals" at McDonalds!

# Update From Emily



[www.missiontoukraine.net](http://www.missiontoukraine.net)

*Written by Emily Wallace,  
HGI Senior Fellow - International  
Disability Program*

“Are you ready? You should sit down for this!” As I read these words in the email that Penny had sent me, announcing the final count of provisions that Helmer people had donated for Mission to Ukraine, my heart began to race and tears came to my eyes. I was stunned...shocked. Amazed at the

generosity that Helmer employees have shown to a group of disabled boys living half a world away. What an honor it is to be working with such generous and compassionate people here at Helmer!

I left for Ukraine on Monday September 19th with purpose and fearless determination in my heart. Since landing in Kiev I have been swept up into a whirlwind of work, meetings, and reunions with friends. I have been telling everyone at MTU about your donations and giving hearts. Myself as well as everyone at MTU sends their warmest wishes and deepest gratitude for

**Emily Wallace with Seriozha, a boy from Romaniv orphanage.**



your thoughtfulness. If you are not aware of the final total of provisions collected this time, I encourage you to look below. But I will give you the same advice that I was given. Get ready. You should sit down for this: **126 toothbrushes, 104 tubes of toothpaste, 149 washcloths, 53 bars of soap, 24 universal cuffs (an assistive device for children with limited use of their hands), and 38\$ donated for supplies.**

*“...with a little networking through friends, family, or the community, even a minimal amount of effort can go a long way.”*

# Networking Goes A Long Way



[www.missiontoukraine.net](http://www.missiontoukraine.net)

*Written by Jeff Conway,  
Technical Service Engineer at Helmer Inc.*

When I received the email from Penny about HGI collecting supplies for Dr. Emily Wallace to take to the orphanage in Ukraine to work with the kids hygiene, I forwarded it to my wife, as I usually do because she goes to the store every Saturday and I knew she would pick some things up for them. Later that day, I received an appointment

reminder from Stony Creek Dentistry that I had a dentist appointment that week for a cleaning. The wheels started turning and I wondered if I sent them an email and a copy of Penny’s request for supplies if they would be willing to donate some tooth brushes and tooth paste like the ones they give out every time I go to the dentist. I figured the worst that could happen is they would say ‘no’ or not respond and that would be the end of it. Worth a try, right? I drafted a quick email explaining what HGI does and included a copy of the supply request and within the hour, I had an email response that Dr. Ratliff would be glad to donate some tooth brushes and tooth paste. I went that day on my way home and picked up the supplies.

They gave me over 40 toothbrushes and a case of 72 tubes of Crest toothpaste. I dropped off a couple of the HGI newsletters for them, so they could see some of the kids and know exactly who they were helping and how Helmer is involved.

The reason for this letter is to show that with a little networking through friends, family, or the community, even a minimal amount of effort can go a long way. Ask yourself what you can do to get involved, every little bit helps! Special thanks to Dr. Ratliff and the staff at Stony Creek Dentistry for their generous donation!



**Boys at Romaniv Orphanage, recipients of donated supplies.**

# MS Bike Ride - \$5,070!



bike to  
create a world  
free of MS

[www.nationalmssociety.org](http://www.nationalmssociety.org)

Written by Penny Witzke,  
HGI Administrator

The 2011 Helmer MS Bike Team would like to say, "Thank you," to everyone for their support and encouragement in making this year's event a success! Our team grew to 11 riders, including Gaile Menhennett and her husband Robbie, Shannon Heavilin, Angela Acrey, Terri Claytor, Rebecca Anderson, Penny Witzke, Rick Witzke, Dan Crowe, Bill Elder and Paul Tackett. During the four weeks prior to the event, the team trained by riding their bicycles a combined 1,420 miles! This is equivalent to travel distance

from Indianapolis to Albuquerque, New Mexico! That is a lot of tread left of the roads! During the 2 day MS Bike Ride event, our team strapped on their helmets and rode a combined 746 miles. They traveled the country roads up and down hills between Carmel, Westfield, Sheridan and Lebanon, Indiana.

**The team's fund raising goal was \$5,000, and they raised \$5,070!**

lunch, raffle tickets and trike races. Where else would you have the opportunity to see grown men on small tricycles! The team would also like to thank Helmer for its \$1 per mile match! The Indiana chapter of the MS Society has a goal of raising \$185,000 this year and they are currently at \$175,410. These funds will be used by the Society for research and financial assistance for patients with the MS disease.



**Bike Week activity:**  
Rick Witzke is ready to race.

*"I chose to ride because my college roommate's father is struggling with MS and I've seen how it has affected his life."*



**Greeting Frankie Biggs, the winner of the trike race.**

Activities during Bike Week consisted of a bake sale, 50/50 drawing, hamburger / hot dog

Thank you for supporting *Pedaling for a Cure!*



**Bill Elder participating in the MS ride.**

## Ride With Us Next Year!

Written by Bill Elder,  
Engineering Tech at Helmer Inc.

Participating in the MS Ride was an inspiring experience. Seeing the outpouring of support for this cause was very motivating during the ride which helped push me through the 104 miles. I chose to ride because my college roommate's father is struggling with

MS and I've seen how it has affected his life.

The temporary discomfort of riding 7 hours is a small price to pay to raise money to provide for MS research, and to support individuals and families who are living with MS.

I challenge everyone with a bicycle to get out and ride next year!

# New Employee Joins MS Ride



[www.nationalmssociety.org](http://www.nationalmssociety.org)

Written by Dan Crowe,  
Manufacturing Engineer at Helmer Inc.

I learned about the MS Bike ride from watching the information monitors in the office. As a new employee, I figured going to the fund-raising meeting would be a good way to meet people at Helmer, not realizing that our team captain (Gaile) was a survivor of



MS. When Gaile told us about her fight against MS, the costs of medical treatment, the pain and weakness she experienced, it was just what I needed to become motivated and involved. We started training the same week I joined Bike MS. I was riding with new friends after work, and riding alone on long distances over the weekends. I even started riding to-and-from work a few days a week. Retelling Gaile's stories to friends and

**Dan Crowe's first MS Ride with Helmer**

family motivated them to send donations. While preparing for the big day, I also helped where I could with the other fundraising activities. It was interesting to

see the MS facts on the monitors each day, and exciting to watch the group training miles add up.

I'm showing my four children the importance of staying healthy and helping those around us. I also made a few new friends along the way.

Thanks to my new friend Gaile. Together we can raise awareness of the affects of MS and raise enough funding to stamp out the disease for good.

**“By hosting blood drives since 2006 Helmer has impacted more than 1404 Hoosier patients.”**

## ‘Thank You’ From Hoosier Patients



[www.indianablood.org](http://www.indianablood.org)

Word of appreciation from  
Indiana Blood Center

**Dear Helmer Blood Donors,**  
Indiana Blood Center wants to thank each and every one of you for donating blood at the blood drives at Helmer. **Helmer has been hosting blood drives since 2006, and since 2006, Helmer has donated 468 units of blood**

**to Indiana Hospitals.** Each of those one units of blood has potential to save up to three Hoosier patient lives – therefore Helmer has impacted more than 1404 Hoosier patients. You truly are a great group of civic minded employees; you make a difference in our community!

In 2010 Indiana Blood Center supplied all 204 units of blood used in transfusion services to Riverview Hospital. This year, Indiana Blood

Center has supplied 96 units of blood so far. Indiana Blood Center is the only supplier to Riverview Hospital so it is very important that area organizations like Helmer to continue to support Indiana Blood Center and their local hospital by hosting blood drives.

On behalf of the Hoosier patients who have received your kind blood donations, thank you.

**One pint of blood can save up to three lives.**



# A Child Knows What A Child Likes!

For the past several years Helmer team members have partnered with Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child to provide gifts (shoeboxes filled with hygiene items, school supplies, toys and treats) to underprivileged children (between the ages of 2 and 14) around the world.

**This year your children have the opportunity to fill up a shoe box full of goodies from the Santa Secret Table for their peers in a developing country!**

You and your family are invited to join us on **Thursday, November 17** to our **Shoe Box Wrapping Party from 3:30 – 6:00 pm**. Supplies will also be available to write a letter to include in the shoebox. If you include your name and address, the child may write you back.

Your contributions and support will be greatly appreciated! In 2010 Helmer volunteers filled 60 shoe boxes! Sixty empty shoe boxes have already been donated and are ready to be filled with your donations! How many will we send this year?

Look for more information as we approach Collection Week, **November 7 – 17**.



## Calendar of Events - November

### Operation Christmas Child Wrapping Party

Come fill and wrap Christmas boxes filled with treats for children around the world on **Thursday, November 17 from 3:30 – 6:00 pm** in the break room. Your family is also welcome.

[www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)



### Good Samaritan Thanksgiving Day Dinner

We will be partnering with Good Samaritan again this year to cook, serve and deliver Thanksgiving Day dinner to the elderly of Hamilton County on **Wednesday and Thursday, November 23, 24**.

[www.gsnlive.org](http://www.gsnlive.org)



### Rwandan Azizi Crafts Sale

Looking for a unique hand crafted Christmas gift? Catalogs will be available for the Rwandan Azizi Crafts Sale **November 28 – December 2**. Proceeds contribute to the development of Rwandan communities and fair wages in Eastern Africa.

<http://azizilife.com>



To get more information on HGI activity please contact Penny Witzke:

[pwitzke@helmerinc.com](mailto:pwitzke@helmerinc.com)

[www.helmerinc.com/newhgi.aspx](http://www.helmerinc.com/newhgi.aspx)