

SHARE Notes

OCTOBER 2003

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EXERCISE YOUR GOOD HEART — JOIN FUN WALK 2003!

Everybody knows that walking is an exercise that's good for your heart. But when does taking a walk become an exercise in good-heartedness? When every step you take promises a brighter future for children and adults with disabilities!

That's the simple goal behind SHARE Fun Walk 2003. Our biggest fundraiser of the year helps garner much-needed financial support for the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering, making it possible to provide adaptive computer equipment and related services to the many individuals still on SHARE's waiting list.

This year's success depends on you! Recruit a team or come as you are, but please sign up to walk on Sunday, October 19, 2003. As always, Fun Walk 2003 will be packed with plenty of games, entertainment and prizes for the entire family.

The walk's official start time from UMass Dartmouth's Tripp



SHARE's supporters really know how to put the "fun" in Fun Walk!

Athletic Center is 9 a.m., but early arrivals can warm up on coffee and donuts at 8:30 a.m. Walkers may begin the walk anytime between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, and may choose from several different routes covering distances between 2 and 10 kilometers.

Walkers who turn in \$50 or more will receive their choice of a mug or T-shirt "reward" and qualify for a prize from our Treasure Chest. Our top fundraising individuals and team will earn special recognition. Along the route, walkers can play poker, with a prize to be awarded for the "best hand." And participants will take home dozens of gift certificates from local sponsors to be given away during our random drawings.

Back on campus, enjoy sand art, pumpkin painting and the last cookout of the season from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.!

Through your dedication and ongoing support, SHARE has been able to provide the gifts of communication and greater independence to nearly 2,200 children and adults with disabilities. Now more than ever, your help can make a real difference in the lives of others.

If you are interested in being a team captain or walker, or in running an activity, please call SHARE at 508-999-8482 for your Fun Walk kit today! ■

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Fun Walk Prize Alert!

Here are some great prizes you could win in our random drawings during Fun Walk 2003!

- Oil lube and filter
- Chinese lunches
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Theatre tickets
- Video rentals
- Fruit baskets
- Pizzas
- Health spa membership
- And more!!!

Ben Boyle Golf Classic Celebrates 20 Years of Teeing Off to Support SHARE

In 1983, a group of Rhode Island golfers decided to honor their friend and colleague Ben Boyle by creating a golf tournament fundraiser to benefit others with disabilities. On July 27, the 20th Annual Ben Boyle Golf Classic capped two decades of good sportsmanship in support of SHARE and the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering.

Held at the Richmond Country Club in Hope Valley, Rhode Island, this year's tournament attracted 70 players and raised more than \$3,000. Throughout the tournament's history, the event has generated nearly \$70,000 to benefit SHARE and provide adaptive equipment to enrich the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

SHARE wishes to express its deepest thanks to SHARE Board member emeritus Ron Kostyla, the Sunday Morning Golfers and the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club for their unwavering dedication to this very special tournament. They have organized and sponsored this fundraiser proudly for the past 20 years, and we are incredibly grateful for their hard work, determination and ongoing support. ■

A Great Set of Wheels

SHARE has a child-sized motorized wheelchair and charger available for loan. In excellent condition, it is currently equipped with left-hand controls, but can easily be adjusted for right-hand use if needed. For more information, please call SHARE at 508-999-8482.

A Resounding Success for UMass Dartmouth Gala Silent Auction



Guests at UMass Dartmouth's Sixth Annual Gala Dinner Dance in May peruse the impressive array of merchandise, gift certificates and entertainment packages on auction that evening. The success of the first-time fundraising event was unparalleled—more than \$10,000 was raised to support SHARE and the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering's work to improve the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

Auto Show Fundraiser Really Shines



Mint-condition vintage cars like these steal the spotlight at the Auto Show and Fun Day for SHARE each summer.

Cool cars, hot fundraiser! On August 17, car lovers and the curious at heart flocked to the UMass Dartmouth campus to check out more than 100 classic and antique cars on display at the Ninth Annual Auto Show and Fun Day to benefit SHARE.

With an unprecedented 30 vendors at the show's "flea market," there was plenty for the crowds to see and enjoy. Although an afternoon downpour brought the event

to a close earlier than planned, it certainly didn't dampen the fundraiser's success—over \$3,500 was raised to support the work of the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering!

Once again, SHARE would like to thank event organizers Joe Rebeiro and the Bristol County Street Rod Association for their behind-the-scenes dedication in sponsoring this special summer fundraiser—great job, one and all! ■

Local Legislative Efforts Restore \$200,000 in State Funding for UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering

In July, the Massachusetts state Legislature earmarked \$200,000 in the fiscal year 2004 state budget to support the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering and the SHARE Foundation's ongoing work on behalf of individuals with disabilities.

The funding restores a service contract between the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, allowing the Center to provide adaptive technology equipment, training and related services that will enhance communication and independent living opportunities for children and adults with disabilities across Massachusetts.

State Senator Mark Montigny, a longtime SHARE advocate, led the

effort in the state Senate to restore state funding for the Center and rallied the legislative support of the region's state representatives to win both Senate and House approval for the funding.

"It was really the staunch support of my close friend and longtime SHARE board member Donald C. Howard that opened my eyes to the Center's critical work," said Senator Montigny. "They truly work to unleash the full potential of every human being."

"This funding would not have been possible without the entire local delegation acting as advocates for the program," Senator Montigny said. "We owe a real debt of gratitude

to Representatives Robert Correia, John Quinn, Michael Rodrigues, David Sullivan, Robert Koczera, Tony Cabral and Bill Strauss."

SHARE president and Center director Les Cory says the funding will help revitalize the Center's work, allowing it to restore services the Center had been forced to cut due to lack of funding.

"The delegation's support is a strong endorsement of the work being done by SHARE and the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering," said Cory. "For this, we—and our clients—are eternally grateful." ■

Center for Rehabilitation Engineering to Host Teachers' Workshop on Using Adaptive Technologies in the Classroom

During October, the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering will host an educational program at UMass Dartmouth to introduce the field of adaptive technologies and equipment to special education teachers and other educators who work with children who are physically disabled.

Funded through a \$3,000 Chancellor's Public Service Fund/UMass Public Service Endowment grant awarded by UMass Dartmouth, the five-session workshop series aims to enrich the educational opportunities offered to students with special learning needs by giving area educators hands-on exposure to the array of adaptive equipment and computer technologies available for use in the classroom.

Beverly Thorn, the Center's client services coordinator, will lead the 10-hour program, which is open to educators in Grades K-12 from area school systems. Professor Les

Cory will co-present the series, sharing his expertise in building adaptive technologies to meet the learning and communication needs of a diverse population of individuals with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, blindness, multiple sclerosis and other conditions.

"Our goal is to give local educators an introduction to the world of adaptive technologies so they can take advantage of these wonderful tools in the classroom."

Topics will include: speech recognition; devices for students who are spinal cord injured, autistic or unable to write; single switch communication devices for nonverbal students; word prediction

software packages for students who are learning disabled; talking screen readers for students who are blind or visually impaired; and adaptive technologies for students with other special needs.

The workshop will offer hands-on demonstrations in the uses of adaptive equipment, as well as an opportunity for educators to explore how their classroom needs can be met with adaptive technologies available through the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering and commercial vendors.

"Our goal is to give local educators an introduction to the world of adaptive technologies so they can take advantage of these wonderful tools in the classroom," says Professor Cory. "It's our way of reaching out to the educational community to help ensure that these invaluable resources reach greater numbers of the children who need them to learn and grow." ■

Thank you

to each individual, family, business and organization that has donated to SHARE's mission of providing communication opportunities to children and adults with disabilities. Your unfailing generosity is enhancing people's lives every day.

Donations listed were received from April 14 through September 22, 2003.

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