

SHARE Notes

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Walkers Needed for 20th Anniversary SHARE Fun Walk

SHARE supporters—**WE NEED YOU!!!** The SHARE Foundation needs walkers to join us for our 20th annual Fun Walk on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at the UMass Dartmouth campus.

This year's event promises plenty of games, entertainment and prizes for the entire family. The walk will begin at UMass Dartmouth's Athletic Center, with parking available in Lots 8 and 9. The walk's official start time is 9 a.m., but come early and fuel up on coffee and donuts starting at 8:30 a.m. Walkers may begin the walk any time between 9 a.m. and noon, and may choose from either the 5K or 10K course.

Walkers who raise at least \$50 will receive either a T-shirt or mug and the opportunity to select a special "Treasure Chest" prize. This year, walkers who turn in \$250 or more will receive a custom-embroidered pullover zip sweatshirt.



Walkers team up to support SHARE at one of our many Fun Walks held during the past 20 years.

SHARE will give a prize to the first person to correctly identify five or more of these 1986 walkers.

Top fundraising individuals and teams also will earn valuable prizes donated by local merchants.

Games are planned along the route for the young and young-at-heart. Back on campus, enjoy sand art, pumpkin painting, and the last cookout of the season from 11 a.m.

to 1 p.m. In honor of the event's 20th anniversary, other special features are planned for participants. Recruit a team or come as you are, but please sign up for Fun Walk 2005—we truly need your help to make this fundraiser a major success!

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Rehabilitation Engineering Center Expands Headquarters to New Site on UMass Dartmouth Campus

In August, the UMass Dartmouth Rehabilitation Engineering Center relocated its client service center and administrative offices to a new site on campus, a move that promises clients easier, more convenient access to the center's evaluation and training services.

The client service center is now located in modular building #3 just

outside the Group 2 campus building that has housed the Center's engineering lab since its inception. The Center annex is a ground level unit located just a short distance from Parking Lots 15 and 17, with handicap parking spaces adjacent to the paved walkways leading to the building. ■

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SHARE Board Chair Promoted to Top Position in RI National Guard

Colonel James D'Agostino, chairperson of the SHARE Foundation Board of Directors, has been selected for promotion to Brigadier General in the Rhode Island Air National Guard. His new title will be Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Rhode Island National Guard.

On behalf of everyone at SHARE, we extend our congratulations to General D'Agostino upon his advancement to this position of high distinction.



Summer Fundraisers Wow the Crowds in Support of SHARE

Three summer fundraisers to benefit SHARE generated much-needed funding to provide services and equipment to children and adults with disabilities.

SHARE extends its gratitude to SHARE Board member emeritus Ron Kostyla, the Sunday Morning Golfers and the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club for sponsoring the **22nd Annual Ben Boyle Golf Classic** this past July.

Held at the Richmond Country Club in Hope Valley, Rhode Island, the tournament raised more than \$3,500 to benefit SHARE.

In August, a **benefit golf tournament** was sponsored by the Bristol County Estate Planning Council. We extend our thanks to the Council and to the many supporters who made this fundraiser a success!

On August 7, car lovers flocked to the UMass Dartmouth campus to check out more than 100 classic and antique cars on display at the **11th Annual Auto Show and Fun Day** to benefit SHARE.

The car show and flea market



Some of the hot rods and vintage cars showcased at the 11th Annual Auto Show and Fun Day

extravaganza raised over \$5,000 to support the work of the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering. SHARE would like to thank event organizers Dave Martin and the Bristol County Street Rod Association for their hard work and determination in sponsoring this special summer fundraiser!

Our thanks also go out to the many golfers, businesses and organizations that participated in these benefits this summer—as always, your support is truly needed and greatly appreciated. ■

SHARE Receives \$10,000 Verizon Foundation Grant

The SHARE Foundation recently was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation to refurbish used computer equipment to meet the communication needs of children and adults with disabilities.

The grant funds will be used to establish a program that gives student engineers the opportunity to refurbish previously donated computer equipment to provide a means of communication for people with spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), multiple sclerosis, and a host of other conditions. The program will operate from a laboratory at the UMD Rehabilitation Engineering Center, and faculty advisors will assist the young engineers with project assignments.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant from the Verizon Foundation," says Professor Les Cory, SHARE president. "The funds will allow us to design and adapt equipment tailored specifically to meet the unique needs of the people who seek our help." ■

VOLUNTEERS

The UMD Center for Rehabilitation Engineering is looking for a few "**computer buddies**" for some of SHARE's clients. Computer buddies would exchange e-mail and visit periodically with a client to ensure that the equipment the Center has provided is working properly and to make simple modifications and repairs. The Center will provide introductions and training. Volunteer opportunities are available now in Newport, RI, Boston and Cape Cod.

E-mail SHARE@UMassd.edu to see if help is needed in your area.

FILENE'S

Discount Shopping Event to Benefit SHARE

Again this November, SHARE will be participating in Filene's Charity Day, a special fundraising event at the Filene's department store located at the Dartmouth Mall. For the purchase of a \$5 ticket, shoppers can enjoy an all-day, private Charity Shopping Day and Celebration at Filene's on Tuesday, November 15 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., with all ticket sale proceeds to benefit SHARE.

In return, ticket holders will receive an All-Day 25% Off Shopping Pass, good on all regular- and sale-priced apparel, shoes, accessories, and jewelry. In addition, they will be eligible to win a \$1,000 shopping spree.

The day will include entertainment, food, and the chance to get great buys before the holiday rush begins. At the same time, you will be helping SHARE to raise much-needed funds.

Last year, shoppers received far more in discounts than the \$5 cost of these tickets. In fact, many SHARE supporters made the most of a great deal and bought a few extra passes to hand out to family and friends. The 2004 event was a wonderful success for SHARE—with your help, we can raise even more money through this year's event!

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the SHARE office at 508-999-8482 as soon as possible. Don't miss out on this spectacular sales event!!

Fun Walk 2005

Continued from page 1

SHARE's fundraising efforts support the UMD Center for Rehabilitation Engineering, which provides customized computer equipment for children and adults with disabilities such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), and other neuromuscular conditions. Since 1981, more than 2,400 children and adults have been able to communicate using devices built by Center engineers that make computers accessible in alternative ways, such as sipping on a straw, moving an eyebrow, or blinking an eye.

For 24 years, your support has made it possible for SHARE to provide the gifts of communication and independence to those who have turned to SHARE for assistance. Now more than ever, your help can make a real difference in the lives of others.



These UMD students enjoy the day at SHARE's Fun Walk 1987.

To register as a Fun Walk 2005 participant or to sponsor a SHARE client who will be covering the walkathon route via wheelchair, please see the enclosed form or call SHARE at (508) 999-8482. ■

SHARE Awarded \$7,500 Grant from John W. Alden Trust

The SHARE Foundation received a \$7,500 grant from the John W. Alden Trust this summer to purchase switches and voice recognition software to customize computer systems for use by children and adults with disabilities.

The funds will allow SHARE to purchase switch devices that give users with limited muscle control the ability to operate a computer independently. These switches can be operated in a variety of alternative ways, such as by moving a hand, finger, or facial muscles, or by sipping through a straw. Switches for use by children contain kid-friendly, cause and effect features, such as lights, music, and vibrations.

"Thanks to this grant award, our rehab engineers will have key resources they need to design and build computers geared to our clients' individual abilities," says SHARE president Les Cory. "We are grateful to the John W. Alden Trust for their support of our ongoing work." ■

Hurricane Relief Efforts

SHARE has received a request for equipment from USSAAC, the United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, to replace equipment lost by disabled victims of Hurricane Katrina. SHARE will be working through USSAAC and our colleagues at the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at Mississippi State University, who visited with us at UMD this past week. Early requests are for simple talking devices that we expect to be able to supply as soon as we can coordinate shipping and receiving, which are somewhat chaotic in that area right now.

Thank You. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many supporters who have donated to SHARE over the past several months. Your generous gifts are making it possible for us to provide the opportunity for independent communication to more children and adults with disabilities.

The following donations were received from March 31, 2005 through September 15, 2005.

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