

# SHARE Notes

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## SHARE Walk-A-Thon 2007 Needs Your Help!

**N**ow more than ever, SHARE needs your help! We have a number of projects in the works and also must keep up with the demand for equipment and services to assist the children and adults with disabilities who turn to us daily for a means to communicate.

So how can you help us? There are a number of ways.

First, we welcome your support for SHARE's largest fundraising event of the year—Fun Walk 2007—on Sunday, October 21. Volunteering a couple of hours of your time to walk the route is a quick and easy way to make a profound difference in someone's life.

The walk starts and ends at the Dion Building on the UMass Dartmouth campus, with parking available in Lot 17. You can start whenever you choose between 9 a.m. and noon. Complimentary doughnuts and coffee will be ready by 8:30 a.m. A cookout with



*The Hill family stops to pose for a photo along the walk route at Fun Walk 2006.*

SHARE truly needs your help to make this special fundraiser a major success! PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY!

hamburgers, hot dogs, and other treats will start at 11 a.m.

Anyone who turns in \$50 or more can choose either a free T-shirt or coffee mug, as well as an item from our Treasure Chest. Our top ten walkers will earn valuable gift certificates to local restaurants and other establishments, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of neigh-

boring merchants. We'll also have a free drawing with some great prizes, including signed sports memorabilia from your favorite teams. Best of all, you will be helping people of all ages with disabilities.

If you can't participate that day, you can still support Fun Walk 2007

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## How Your Support Changes Lives

In recent months, your support has helped the Rehabilitation Engineering Center provide equipment and services to these clients and many others:

- A woman with post-polio syndrome received a call button system and a scanning TV controller that she can operate independently using a foot switch.

- A gentleman with ALS who had minimal arm mobility received an onscreen keyboard that enabled him to control all the functions of his computer using only a mouse.

- A woman with multiple sclerosis who operates her computer entirely by speech received an upgrade to her discreet voice recognition software that now allows her to speak in a more natural voice. ■

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# Two Grants Yield \$10,000 in Support for Rehab Engineering Center Projects

This past spring, two civic-minded organizations each awarded \$5,000 to the SHARE Foundation to support the work of the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering at UMass Dartmouth.

A \$5,000 grant from the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation will help fund the work of student engineers at the Center. These students work with technicians to refurbish and build adaptive computer systems for clients' use.

A \$5,000 Boston Bruins Foundation grant will allow SHARE to purchase hardware and software programs specifically to benefit children with disabilities who cannot see, speak, and/or use their hands. Representatives from the Bruins Foundation, including Development Director Bob Sweeney, a former Bruins center, recently visited our facilities. They toured the Center office and laboratory, met a client, and learned more about our organization's history and current projects. ■



D. Confar/UMass Dartmouth photo

*Shown (left to right): SHARE President Lester W. Cory and SHARE client Katherine Morais, 9, of Seekonk, accept a \$5,000 check from former Bruins Center Bob Sweeney, who serves as director of development for the Boston Bruins Foundation.*

*The Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation (BCSCF) presented SHARE with a \$5,000 check this past spring. Shown left to right are: Bob Boyden, BCSCF board member; Dennis Cody, bank board chairman; Paula Freitas, regional branch administrator/Dartmouth branch manager; Susan Gonsalves, SHARE development officer; Charles Terry, BCSCF chairman; and Dennis Kelly, bank president.*



## SHARE Teams Up with Macy's for Fall Shopping Fundraiser

Once again, SHARE will be participating in "Shop for a Cause" Day, and we're asking for your help! On Saturday, October 13, from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m., Macy's at the North Dartmouth Mall will celebrate a national day of support for local nonprofit organizations.

SHARE is selling \$5 tickets that will allow shoppers to receive all-day savings of 10 percent off rugs and

furniture and 20 percent off items such as apparel and accessories, bed and bath items, luggage, personal care electronics, fashion jewelry, and more. The ticket also enters participants into a drawing to win a \$500 gift card. All proceeds from these ticket sales will directly benefit SHARE. For more information or to purchase a ticket, please call SHARE at (508) 999-8482. ■

## SHARE Walk 2007

*Continued from page 1*

by sending in the enclosed support form in honor of one of SHARE's clients who will be covering the route by wheelchair.

**To register, mail the enclosed registration form to SHARE as soon as you can, or call (508) 999-8482 to sign up. You also can e-mail your registration information to [SHARE@umassd.edu](mailto:SHARE@umassd.edu). ■**

# CVS Grant Funds Help Launch Special Rehab Engineering Center Project to Help Children with Disabilities

A \$2,500 grant from CVS Caremark has enabled the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering to take its first steps toward a special project to assist children with disabilities.

The grant funds have been used to purchase a tool called "Surface Electromyography," an EMG system used to pick up muscle impulses from the surface of a person's skin.

Rehabilitation Designer Mark Whittaker hopes to lead the planned project, which is currently \$17,500 short of its funding goal. SHARE President Lester W. Cory explained that the work would target four children with disabilities who cannot walk or talk, but who appear to be cognitively aware of their surround-

ings. To date, they have no identified means to control a computer system or to express themselves.

"Extensive evaluation of these clients is essential," said Professor Cory. "If we can pick up electrical impulses of speech generation and then develop a mechanism to allow them to operate a switch and cause-and-effect software, these children could select from pictures and indicate their wants and needs."

The Center plans to hire a graduate student with expertise in bioengineering, electrical engineering, and/or computer engineering to conduct the testing over two semesters. This individual would both

search for information on the Internet and interact with the children in their home environments.

"Ultimately, the knowledge gained from this project could be adapted for use by other clients with difficult-to-determine abilities," Professor Cory said.

If you would like to help the Center accomplish this project, please send your donations to the SHARE Foundation, UMass Dartmouth, 285 Old Westport Road, North Dartmouth, MA 02747 with the notation "EMG Project" on the check. ■

## Summer Benefits Raise over \$13,000 in Support of SHARE

Again this summer, two long-running fundraisers generated funding critically needed to provide services and equipment to children and adults with disabilities.

Our sincere thanks go out to Bill Pimental, Bob Bjorklund, the Sunday Morning Golfers, and the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club for organizing the



Event organizers Bob Bjorklund (far left) and Bill Pimental (far right) pose with "closest-to-the-pin" winner Fred Bayha, and fellow golfers Roland Coutu, Jim Dion, and Fred Hartman.

24th Annual Ben Boyle/Ron Kostyla Golf Classic this past July.

Held at the Richmond Country Club in Hope Valley, Rhode Island, the tournament raised more than \$8,000 to benefit SHARE, an all-time high for the event.

In August, more than 150 classic and antique cars were on display at the 13th Annual Auto Show and Fun Day to benefit SHARE.

The car show and flea market 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 sponsoring this popular summer fundraiser again this year!

As always, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the many golfers, businesses, organizations, and individuals that participated in

each of these events—your support continues to make a real difference in the lives of the many children and adults who turn to SHARE for assistance. Thank you for making our work possible. ■



This beautifully restored 1955 Chevy was one of more than 150 cars competing for trophies at the 2007 SHARE Foundation Auto Show and Fun Day sponsored by the Bristol County Street Rod Association. Nearly 1,000 spectators visited the car show and shopped at 50 vendor booths on the UMass Dartmouth campus.

**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 24, 2007 through August 31, 2007.*

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