

SHARE Notes

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Take that Step—Join Us for SHARE Fun Walk 2008

We know that times are tough, but there are some quick and easy steps that you can take to support the SHARE Foundation in its mission to provide equipment and services to people with disabilities.

On Sunday, October 19, Fun Walk 2008—SHARE's largest fundraising event of the year—will be held beginning at 9 a.m. on the UMass Dartmouth campus.

We rely on the walk-a-thon and other fundraisers to help our clients with cerebral palsy, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, and many other conditions. They turn to SHARE for a means to communicate, and that's why we're turning to you.

The walk starts and ends at the Dion Building, with parking available in Lot 17. You can start whenever you want between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. If you come a little earlier, compli-



Linda Egan and her mom Connie Karnasiewicz stop 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!

mentary doughnuts and coffee will be ready by 8:30 a.m. A cookout with hamburgers, hot dogs, and other treats starts at 10:30 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 the Treasure Chest. Our top 10 walkers will earn valuable gift certificates to local restaurants and other establishments thanks to the generosity of neighboring merchants. As always, we'll also have a raffle with some great prizes. The best prize, of course, will be knowing that you are helping people of all ages with disabilities.

If walking is not possible, there's an important way you can help without leaving the comfort of your home. All you have to do is tell your

family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors about our event. Or, you can recruit a team of people to walk on your behalf. If you can't participate on October 19 but still want to support SHARE, the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering, and the walk, that's great, too. Just send in the enclosed "support form" to sponsor one of our students or disabled Fun walkers as they walk or wheel their way around the beautiful UMass Dartmouth campus. The choice is yours!

To register, mail the enclosed registration form as soon as possible, or call (508) 999-8482 to sign up. You also can email your registration information to SHARE@umassd.edu.

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SHARE Pilot Project Reaches Out to Area Nursing Homes

Through a pilot project funded by the United Way of Greater Fall River, SHARE is reaching out to find potential clients at area nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

The program, which began in August, involves locating individuals who may benefit from the technology created and adapted at the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering. Center staff members are meeting with caregivers to make them aware of our organization's work. It is hoped that the Center's available equipment can greatly enhance the independence of people living in these facilities.

Center staff members will continue to conduct demonstrations and training sessions throughout the fall at area nursing homes to get the word out about SHARE. ■

New Staff Member Joins Center for Rehabilitation Engineering

In February, Tom Meggison from Dartmouth joined the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering staff as a computer technologist. In that role, Tom will deliver and set up computer equipment in clients' homes and other living spaces, as well as teach clients how to use the Internet and office software.

He previously was employed as a senior systems analyst at Multilayer Coating Technologies and Polaroid Corporation. ■



Photo by Jennifer White



SHARE President Les Cory (center) accepts a United Way Community Impact grant from Robert Horne, executive director of the Greater Fall River United Way, as Lisa Lundy of Dominion Energy, host of the awards ceremony, looks on.

Memorial Donations Touch Lives

We are deeply indebted to so many of our donors who have adopted the habit of making donations to SHARE in lieu of sending bereavement flowers and to those families who have requested that donations be sent to SHARE in memory of a loved one who has passed on.

Flowers are surely a wonderful and comforting tribute, but so too is a thoughtful charitable contribution that may have a more tangible and long-lasting effect. SHARE acknowledges memorial donations both to the donor and to the family of the deceased. ■

Remembering Donna O'Connor



We are deeply saddened to note the passing of long-time SHARE supporter Donna O'Connor. During her lifetime, Donna was among SHARE's most generous benefactors.

Her bequest to SHARE is the single largest that SHARE has ever received. SHARE's Board of Directors is carefully evaluating how to best use Donna's gift to improve the quality of life of those who turn to us for help, while honoring the memory of this heroic young woman.

August Fundraisers in Support of SHARE Raise \$10,000

August was a busy month for two generous groups of people who organized fundraisers to benefit SHARE.

The 25th Annual Ben Boyle/Ron Kostyla Golf Classic, postponed because of rainy weather in July, went off without a hitch the following month. At the helm of the event again this year were Bill Pimental, Bob Bjorklund, the Sunday Morning Golfers, and the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club. We want to thank them for their efforts!



Photo by Gregory Germanowski

Bob Bjorklund, executive vice president of Centreville Savings Bank and Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club board member, is shown with Stanley Hull, the "closest to the pin" winner of the Jet Blue Challenge.

Organizer Dave Martin and the rest of his organization's crew must be commended for putting together such an enjoyable and first-rate fundraiser.

We'd also like to thank all of the golfers, businesses, groups, and individuals who participated in these events. Without them, SHARE could not make a difference in people's lives. ■



Photo by Gregory Germanowski

Todd Jendzjec and Doug St. Jean were among the participants in the Ben Boyle/Ron Kostyla Golf Classic fundraiser in August to benefit the SHARE Foundation.

The tournament, held at the Richmond Country Club in Hope Valley, Rhode Island, raised approximately \$5,000 to provide services and equipment to children and adults with disabilities.

Also in August, the 14th Annual Auto Show and Fun Day, sponsored by the Bristol County Street Rod Association, featured 170 classic and antique cars and trucks on display, as well as a number of flea market vendors. The event also raised about \$5,000 to help continue the work being done at the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering.



Carol MacDonald of Newport, Rhode Island, was the "Best in Show" winner at the car show to benefit SHARE sponsored by the Bristol County Street Rod Association in August. Her 1934 Ford Roadster will be featured on the 2009 Car Show dash plaque.

SHARE Board Member's Invention Gets News Attention

An invention by Sid Martin, the vice chairman/clerk of the SHARE Board of Directors, made headlines following Martin's July appearance on NBC's *Today Show*.

Martin, director of technology at Northeast Maritime Institute in Fairhaven, demonstrated his "Golden Shellback" creation, a way to waterproof a multitude of devices by using a special, thin invisible coating. On the show, he dropped a Blackberry phone, an iPod playing music, and a portable VHF 2-way

radio into a fish tank. The devices all continued to work.

When news spread on yahoo.com and other media outlets, it set off a firestorm of activity, including 70,000 hits to the company's server in one day and thousands of e-mails. Martin noted that the invention initially was intended for the marine services to help mariners contend with salt-water infiltration of their communications gear and radar.

In addition to cell phones and computers, he has successfully

waterproofed other items, including a 300-year-old letter from a mariner to his wife. The invention has possible uses in medicine, as a means to protect historic documents, and in the technology world.

Currently, the way the coating works is the subject of a handful of pending patents. The goal is to make it commercially available to both businesses and consumers in the future. ■

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 April 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008.

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