

**IPAT Leadership Activities**

*Judie Lee, IPAT Executive Director*

Awareness of the potential of assistive technology for solutions at work, home, school, and community living continues to be a barrier for many people. The need for individual specific information regarding devices, services, and funding avenues is ongoing. Training on the use of specific equipment and other AT topics is consistently needed. As more and more agencies, both public and private, seek AT answers the benefits of coordination and collaboration become evident. IPAT is addressing these needs through a variety of activities.

IPAT works to increase the awareness of the benefits and availability of assistive technology. IPAT's newsletter, the AT KEY, is published bi-monthly. It is free and can be received by a simple request. It is also available on IPAT's website ([www.ndipat.org](http://www.ndipat.org)). IPAT's accessible website includes information on IPAT activities, products, and provides national AT resources and links. The website also provides a link to contact IPAT staff directly. IPAT develops and disseminates AT publications covering numerous topics for individuals with disabilities, their family members, professionals in the field of disability and other interested parties. The annual AT EXPO, held in Fargo in April, is an opportunity to hear speakers and see technology demonstrations by AT vendors.

IPAT staff responds to requests for information on any AT topic. Types of information requests include: identifying AT device options for individuals; how and where to obtain AT services; available funding sources; and troubleshooting specific AT equipment. This service is free, all types of questions are welcome and you can connect with an IPAT member by calling toll-free, going on-line, through the mail, via videoconference or person-to-person.

IPAT staff will deliver AT training upon request to individuals with disabilities, their family members and the professionals that support them. There is a fee schedule for the provision of AT training, including a sliding fee schedule for individuals not covered by an agency. IPAT will also consider special contracts to provide training based on staff's expertise and availability.

IPAT will engage in coordination and collaboration activities with public and private entities through participation as members of organizations and task forces to address emerging, new or changing AT policies and procedures. These organizations and task forces are sponsored by state agencies, hospitals, community groups and disability networks throughout the state.

For information on how to take advantage of these services, call 1-800-265-4728 or visit [www.ndipat.org](http://www.ndipat.org).

### **AT KEY Newsletter New Faces with IPAT**



Mike Haring has joined the Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) as a Program Coordinator in the Fargo office. Mike has spent a number of years working in the disability field, most recently as a disability services consultant for The Columbus Organization. He has had an involvement with assistive technology (AT) throughout all his years of service. He holds an MA degree in Counseling & Guidance from UND. Mike's office will be at the IPAT Technology Access Center in Fargo. Mike can be reached at 701-365-4728 or [mharing@ndipat.org](mailto:mharing@ndipat.org).



Scott Weissman has joined the Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) as a Program Coordinator in the Bismarck office. Prior to coming to IPAT, Scott was a high school business education/technology teacher in Reno, NV. He has a passion for learning and using new technology. He has had an involvement with assistive technology (AT) as needed for students in his classroom. He holds a BA degree from Idaho State University. Scott has relocated with his family to North Dakota and his office will be in the IPAT Technology Access Center in Bismarck. Scott can be reached at 701-258-4728, or [sweissman@ndipat.org](mailto:sweissman@ndipat.org).

Both Mike and Scott will be available to provide direct assistance to individuals seeking assistive technology solutions, train on various AT topics and equipment, and engage in public awareness activities. IPAT provides opportunities for people of all ages to learn about, try-out, and obtain the assistive technology devices and services they need for work, school, and home.

### **Having Trouble Hearing, Dialing or Answering Your Phone?**

IPAT has set-up six telephone equipment displays around the state through the ND Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Service (TEDS) program. The purpose of the displays is to provide an opportunity for people who are having difficulty using a standard telephone to explore a range of options available. The TEDS program is designed to provide free telephone equipment to meet the needs of people with speech, hearing and physical impairments who might

otherwise be disadvantaged in their ability to obtain such equipment. For more information, visit one of the sites below, or call IPAT at 1-800-265-4728.

MedCenter One Hearing Center  
Bone, Spine, Sports Clinic  
225 North Seventh Street  
Bismarck, ND

Hearing Solutions, Inc.  
2700-12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Suite D  
Fargo, ND

Audiocare Hearing Center  
1204 South Washington Street  
Grand Forks, ND

Schauer Hearing Aid Center  
615 South Broadway, #320  
Minot, ND

Fargo Technology Access Center  
3509 Interstate Avenue  
Fargo, ND 58103

Bismarck Technology Access Center  
400 East Broadway Ave. – Suite 306  
Bismarck, ND 58501

#### **UPDATE:**

IPAT's Bismarck office Toll-free number has changed to **1-888-540-4728**.

#### **CONSUMER CONNECTION**

##### **Swap 'n Shop + Free Shipping = Success Story**

Michele O'Kelley

My mother's name is Gertrude Dunham and she has Macular Degeneration. In the last year she has lost the ability to enjoy some of her favorite pastimes such as sewing. Most importantly she was no longer able to read the newspaper and the small print on her medicine bottles. She had looked at purchasing a CCTV locally but there was only one used one available and it was too expensive. With the help of her granddaughter-in-law, we were put in contact



with IPAT, they run a Swap 'n Shop that had a listing of available used CCTV's.



My mom was able to find a used CCTV in East Grand Forks at an affordable price and IPAT organized the shipping through CrossCountry Courier at no cost. This is a very heavy machine, at approximately 50 pounds, it would have been very expensive to ship. My mom is now able to enjoy reading the newspaper and be sure that she is taking the right medicine. The CCTV will give her back some of the freedom she has lost because of Macular Degeneration. Thank you to IPAT for helping us find the CCTV and organizing the free shipping. We are very grateful for your help.

## FUNDING NEWS

### Stay in Your Own Home with Environmental Modifications

(Information obtained from <http://www.state.nd.us/robo/projects/hcbs/hcbs.htm> under Covered Services-Environmental Modifications)

One way to obtain assistive technology (AT) under the Home and Community Service's (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver is under "Environmental Modifications".

If you own your home and qualify for the Medicaid Waiver, you may be eligible to receive adaptations to your home under HCBS's Medicaid Waiver-Environmental Modifications. Examples of adaptations are widened doorways, ramps, and bathroom and kitchen modifications. There are also some funds available for people who qualify for Service Payments for the Elderly and Disabled (SPED) and Expanded SPED (ExSPED).

"The purpose of Environmental Modification Service is to modify a recipient's home to enhance the recipient's ability to function as independently as possible in the home." The individual receiving Environmental Modification Service must meet the following service eligibility criteria:

1. Must be eligible for the programs of SPED, ExSPED, or Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services.
2. The recipient must own the home prior to application.
3. The individual has a need for a safer and/or adapted environment in which to live, such as the installation of grab bars in the individual's bathroom.
4. The home must be structurally sound.
5. The home modification must directly facilitate the applicant's/recipient's ability to complete his/her own cares independently or to receive care. It

- must be evident that without the home modifications, adequate care or the ability to perform self or environmental care is not possible.
6. The benefit outcome of the home modifications must be proportionate to the cost. Factors to consider are: the age of applicant/recipient, life expectancy, the value of the house, the applicant's/recipient's commitment to remain in the home including the family's commitment to assist.
  7. Documentation must be on file that alternative community programs or funding sources available to pay for the home modification costs were explored. Examples are: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Action (e.g. weatherization, rehab.), Community Development Grant (Housing) Funds, FmHA Loan and Grant Program.
  8. The informal network (family members, friends, or neighbors) are not available/willing/capable of completing or paying for the home modification(s).
  9. Physical adaptations to the home required which are necessary and without which, the recipient would require institutionalization.

For more information, please contact IPAT at 1-800-895-4728 or ND Protection & Advocacy at 1-800-472-2670.

## EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Read & Write Mobile



Read & Write 8.1 Gold Mobile is the latest reading and writing computer software tool from Text Help. Read & Write is a literacy support tool designed to help users who require extra assistance when reading or composing text. What sets this application apart from previous Read & Write versions is the ability to take the software with you and use it on any computer, because it is on a flash drive. With Read & Write Mobile a smooth transition can be made from school or work and then to home.

Read & Write offers a text prediction tool that is especially helpful for users who may have trouble with mobility or literacy skills. The text prediction tool places a dialog box on the screen and predicts what word you will use next and by pushing one button the word can be placed in your document. Another main feature is the ability to read text out loud. Not only can the program read what

you have written but it can also read scanned documents and internet web pages.

To purchase or receive more information about Read & Write Mobile 8.1 Gold Mobile you can contact Text Help at 888-248-0652, and on the internet at [www.texthelp.com](http://www.texthelp.com). If you would like to rent this item from the IPAT Equipment Loan Library, please call 1-800-895-4728 or email: [ipatinfo@ndipat.org](mailto:ipatinfo@ndipat.org).

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **Transition Fair**

October 9, 2007

Hazen High School 4:30pm – 6:30pm

#### **Overview of IPAT**

October 9, 2007

Bowman Public Library 1:30pm

#### **Transition Fair**

October 23, 2007

Bismarck High School 4:00pm – 5:30pm

#### **The More We Know About . . . Assistive Technology**

October 23, 2007

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Contact: ARC of Bismarck 222-1854

#### **NDVR Annual Conference**

October 24-26, 2007

Minot – Grand International

Contact: Brenda 1-888-470-6968

#### **Considering AT Devices**

November 8, 2007

Bismarck – Doublewood Inn 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Contact: Amanda 701-235-2678