

AT KEY NEWSLETTER
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You Are Invited to Attend the Assistive Technology Expo!

Judie Lee, IPAT Executive Director

The AT Expo is of interest to anyone needing special equipment to help them live, learn, work or play independently. Whether you have a child with a learning disability, a parent dealing with memory loss, want to get back to work after an injury or need help staying in your own home, the AT Expo is for you!

The 6th Annual AT Expo to be held on April 30, 2009, at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo, North Dakota, will highlight AT devices and services for people of all ages and abilities. The AT Expo is an opportunity for people to visit with vendors of AT devices and services, see and tryout devices, and take part in presentations on various AT topics. Over 60 vendors and service organizations are expected to be represented. The Vendor Hall is open from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm on April 30th. It is **FREE** and the public is welcome anytime within those hours.

Concurrent educational sessions are available the morning of April 30th. There are 14 different sessions planned covering a wide range of topics. The cost to attend the educational sessions is \$25 (lunch included), pre-registration requested.

An exciting opportunity that is **NEW** to the Expo this year is a special pre-conference session to be held on April 29th. “*Accommodating Home Remodeling 101*” is a day long training that will provide a broad overview of how homes can be modified to meet both present and future needs of residents with a wide range of functional abilities. Diane Sprague, presenter, is the director of the Lifetime Home Project, which is based in Minneapolis, MN and promotes accessible home design and home tele-health technologies for long-term community living. Pre-registration is encouraged as there is limited seating for the pre-conference. Cost for this daylong training is \$50 (lunch included). Family members accompanying a person with a disability who is registered will be admitted free but must pay for their own lunch.

Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for individuals with disabilities to cover registration costs for both the pre-conference on the 29th and/or the concurrent educational sessions on the 30th. CEU's will be available for both.

Another **NEW** event at the Expo will be the opportunity to win a drawing for gently used equipment. Equipment is often still in excellent condition when the owner no longer needs it. Stop by the AT Expo Vendor Hall to see what is available and how you can sign up to win!

Go to www.atexpo.org or call 1-877-760-2939 for more information. See you at the AT Expo!!

AT Information Smorgasbord

The beauty and beast of assistive technology is that it helps so many people with functional limitations do the things they want to do. Because it has such a wide application, sometimes that makes it hard for people to find what they need. To help people tame the beast, IPAT offers a range of on-line and printed products to keep assistive technology information current and readily available.

To begin online, go to www.ndipat.org to discover all that IPAT has to offer. On IPAT's home page the major activities of the program are described, click each link to learn more about; funding available through an AT loan program, listing or purchasing used equipment on the swap and shop, borrowing an item to try in your own home from the equipment loan library, and visiting a technology access center either in person or virtually. If you would like to know more about these services but are not an internet user, call 800-895-4728 and request a newly developed IPAT brochure.

Unsure about what AT is, who uses it, or how it is funded? Visit the publications section on the website and click on the titles that interest you. Check out the most recent annual report under IPAT Annual Reports, or get some ideas about how AT can be used at home by clicking on Remaining at Home . . . Priceless.

Interested in more in-depth information? Check out the listing of trainings available under IPAT Services/Training – some sessions are free, call 800-895-4728 to inquire about those that interest you.

Consumer Connection

Hands-on, Interactive AT Training in Dickinson

Did you know that IPAT staff is available to speak about the activities of the IPAT program to service clubs, professional organizations, family support groups, and/or at local, regional, or statewide conferences throughout the state? Diane Mortenson did, and invited IPAT to present at an in-service organized for case-managers and in-home care specialists serving eight counties in southwestern North Dakota.

The in-service participants spent time exploring various assistive technology devices designed to help people continue to live safely in their homes and complete everyday tasks. Questions about funding, resources available through IPAT, and client specific solutions were addressed as well. This service is provided at no cost to the requestor and can be tailored to fit the needs of the audience. For more information call 1-800-895-4728 or visit www.ndipat.org

Thoughts from the participants:

“I learned that IPAT has a lot of programs to offer – a loan library for equipment, and a swap and shop with free shipping availability – wonderful!”

“I need the grab bar.”

“As most of my clients live alone and are in their 90’s, I felt this in-service was very informative.”

“I enjoyed trying out the different hearing amplifiers.”

“I didn’t know that there were so many things for people out there to help them and to keep them in their homes.”

“Loved the kitchen gadgets.”

“There were a lot of things that I learned about that could help my husband, he won’t always admit he needs these things.”



FUNDING NEWS

AT Funding for Veterans - Part Two

The Department of Veterans Affairs is the largest single medical care system in the United States and is one of the largest purchasers of assistive technology

(AT) for people with disabilities. This article will discuss two areas under which a veteran can obtain support for AT needs: housing, and independent living.

The VA has three (3) accessible-housing related grants programs.

1. The Specially Adapted Housing Grant may pay for 50% of the cost of an accessible home (up to \$50,000) for veterans with certain service-connected permanent and total disabilities.
2. The Special Home Adaptations Grant will pay for up to \$10,000 for home modifications for veterans with service-related permanent and total disabilities.
3. Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grants provide up to \$4,100 for service-connected veterans and up to \$1,200 for non service-connected veterans. The grants are for home modifications that are necessary for disability-related access to the home and lavatory/sanitary facilities or for the continuation of medical treatment at home.

Independent Living services (IL services), including AT, are available through the VA and their Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment division to eligible veterans with service-connected disabilities. IL services are made available to eligible veterans who are not able to work as determined by an evaluation. Veterans pursuing IL services work with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to create a plan for achieving goals for independent living.

To get further information on the benefits described above, contact your local Veteran's Service Officer, or visit North Dakota Veterans Affairs website www.nd.gov/veterans/

EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT



Moshi Voice Controlled Talking Alarm Clock

The Moshi talking clock is an alarm clock for individuals who are unable to see or manipulate buttons on a traditional clock. Once set, through voice commands, all available features can be activated with your voice. The indoor temperature can

be announced, and it is displayed in different colors corresponding to the temperature. Other features include: three different alarm sounds; sleep sounds (water, birds or waterfall) that play for five minutes; a night light; and it will also announce the date.

For an interactive demonstration about the Moshi Talking clock go to the webpage: <http://www.moshilifestyle.com/buy/Scripts/swf/master.swf>

For more information on this device please contact the manufacturer at: 1-877-55-MOSHI or visit their website at www.moshilifestyle.com . If you would like to rent this item from the IPAT loan library, please call 1-800-895-4728 or email: ipatinfo@ndipat.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Great American Bike Race

April 18, 2009

9 am – 2:15 pm

Century High School – BISMARCK

Contact: 701-323-8450

ND Assoc. for the Blind – WALK

April 25, 2009

9:30 am Registration

Tom O’Leary Golf Course – BISMARCK

Contact: Donna 701-854-7395

6th Annual AT Expo! & Pre-Conference: Accommodating Home Remodeling 101

April 29th & 30, 2009

Ramada Plaza Suites – FARGO

Contact: 877-760-2939 or visit

www.atexpo.org

Building Social Relationships/Teaching Social Interaction Skills to Children & Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum

April 28 & 29, 2009

Civic Center – BISMARCK

Contact: Julie 1-800-568-5175