

**IPAT Receives “HERO” Award**

*Judie Lee, IPAT Executive Director*

This fall IPAT was honored to receive the *2009 HERO Agency Service Award* from the Moorhead based Healthcare Equipment Recycling Organization, HERO. Project HERO collects and redistributes donated healthcare materials to benefit those in need.

HERO and IPAT share some similar services as well as challenges in delivering those services. HERO supplies donated durable medical equipment (DME) and unused medical supplies to those in need in regions of Minnesota, North Dakota and Third World countries. HERO works with several agency and healthcare partners to redistribute viable medical products, saving them from area landfills and getting them to those with health needs. IPAT operates the AT Swap and Shop program which is an opportunity for people to buy, sell, swap, or give away used assistive technology equipment. It has been in operation since 1996 and has connected many individuals with affordable equipment.

A common challenge for both entities is transporting the equipment. In 2007, IPAT met with CrossCountry Courier to discuss the problem, and they offered a solution. CrossCountry Courier is a freight carrier headquartered in Bismarck. They have a network of 16 shipping terminals and provide delivery service to most cities throughout North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. They were founded in 1980 and celebrate 29 years of service excellence and growth. When the problem was explained to them regarding the difficulty of transporting AT devices between communities, they volunteered their services.

IPAT and HERO have worked out a process so the end users of both programs can benefit from the generosity of CrossCountry Courier. The trucking company continues to transport at a nominal charge the used assistive technology devices being exchanged via the IPAT Swap & Shop and HERO to people in North Dakota. It can be confusing as to what “durable medical equipment” is and what “assistive technology” is to the end user. Some types of used devices fit within both categories, others do not. Because of the collaboration between IPAT and HERO, both programs help individuals seeking equipment get to the appropriate resource and CrossCountry Courier helps transport it to the individual. This collaborative effort has resulted in numerous people receiving the equipment they need.

IPAT would like to thank HERO for recognizing them with the HERO Agency Service Award and commend HERO on all of their efforts to get equipment and medical supplies to individuals in need.

## Free ZAM Communicators Available

IPAT is pleased to announce the donation of 100 ZAM Communicators from AstraZeneca, a Delaware-based pharmaceutical company. IPAT will be making the ZAM Communicators available for long-term loan to North Dakotans of all ages with temporary or permanent communication difficulties (i.e. speech and hearing). These loans will be free of charge. However, if the device cannot be picked up from either the Fargo, Cavalier or Bismarck IPAT offices, there will be a \$12 shipping charge.



The ZAM is a portable, rechargeable communication device that allows the user to communicate by typing on the keypad or by using the several built-in, basic picture message buttons such as “Thirsty”, “Hungry”, and “What Time is it”. These messages are sent to a dual LCD display with no speech output or programming capabilities. In order to be able to make use of the ZAM, the individual will need to be able to use at least one finger or some type of mouth or head stick to access the buttons. As stated above, there are some pictures to communicate basic needs; however, to communicate further, the individual will need to know how to spell words or at least be able to spell well enough for another person to guess their meaning.

The ZAM Communicators can only be given directly to individuals or their friends/ family members on their behalf. They cannot be sold or distributed to medical facilities, healthcare personnel, locations, or organizations. When they are no longer needed by the individual, they are to be returned to IPAT.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this device, please have them, a friend or family member contact IPAT at 1-800-895-4728.

## Disability Transportation Survey

The Small Urban and Rural Transit Center at North Dakota State University, with the support of the North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium, is conducting a research project on the transportation needs of people with disabilities in North Dakota. If you live in North Dakota and have a disability, you are invited to take a survey about your transportation needs. The survey results can be used by transportation providers to review their existing services, identify needs, and plan improvements. If you would like to contribute to this study and have your opinions represented, you can take the survey

online by going to [www.surtc.org](http://www.surtc.org). You can also take the survey by phone by calling Jeremy Mattson at 701-231-5496. All responses will remain confidential.

## **CONSUMER CONNECTION**

### **Power Seat Gives Consumer a ‘Lift’**

What started out as a routine family visit in October, turned out to be a Godsend for me. My two sisters-in-law and niece were coming for a visit, as we don't see each other often enough. I had been having difficulties getting out of a chair due to bursitis in my hip and it wasn't getting any better. As we spent more time together, my visitors could see the trouble I was having getting out of a chair, sometimes needing assistance. During the course of the conversation I was talking about a lift chair to aid me getting out of a chair, and I was told about a product called an Uplift Power Seat, which was available through the Assistive Safety Device Distribution Service through IPAT. At first I was skeptical because, as we all know, you don't often get something for nothing. Lo and behold, the next week in the mail, I received information on the power seat, which helps lift a person out of a chair. I ordered one and can't believe the difference it has made in my mobility. My family doesn't have to worry about helping me up because of this wonderful device and the nice thing about it is that's it's totally portable – I can pick it up and take it anywhere! I can't thank IPAT and Aging Services enough for providing me with such a life changing device!



Mickey Gibson,  
Bottineau, ND

## **FUNDING NEWS**

### **Senior Safety Devices for Home**

Safety concerns often are a primary issue for seniors wishing to remain in their home. To address this need the Aging Services Division of the North Dakota Department of Human Services contracts with IPAT to carry out the Assistive Safety Devices Distribution Service (ASDDS) program.

You may benefit from this program if you have difficulty putting away groceries, preparing meals, grooming yourself, doing laundry, collecting or sending mail, getting from place to place, taking medication, or feeling safe in your home. Assistive safety

devices covered under this program include equipment that will assist individuals in their activities of daily living. Such devices as grab bars, magnifiers, reachers, medication dispensers, and seat-lifts can be obtained through the ASDDS program, up to a maximum of \$300 per person. The program serves all ND residents age 60 and older, not living in a nursing facility. In addition; initial consultation and equipment installation are provided at no charge.

The need for institutional services can be delayed for many people and possibly even eliminated with today's Assistive Technology and the funding from this program. To find out more about the ASDDS program call IPAT at 1-866-673-6703 or 1-701-265-3165, or visit [www.ndipat.org](http://www.ndipat.org) and click on the menu selections IPAT Services/ASDDS.

## EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

### MedReady



The MedReady Automatic Medication Dispenser is a medication manager that stores medication under lock and key and holds up to 7 days of 4 times-a-day dosing. The user is notified when it is time to take medication with a high frequency alarm. The unit will continue to beep until the medication has been taken from the compartment.

The MedReady Medication Dispenser operates on AC wall power and also has a battery backup for power outages. The alarms on this medication manager are easy to set, making the MedReady simple to take along when traveling. A lock and key make the MedReady completely tamper-proof. This is a great option for individuals who need help remembering to take medication and also lets a caregiver know if medication has or has not been taken.

For more information on this device please contact the manufacturer at 310-328-7557 or on their website: [www.medreadyinc.com](http://www.medreadyinc.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](mailto:ipatinfo@ndipat.org)

### Mark Your Calendar

January 6, 2010  
Working with Autism: An Inside View  
9 am - 4 pm  
Comfort Inn - Bismarck, ND  
\$75  
Contact: Cheryl 1-800-233-1737

January 12, 2010  
Living Real Lives: Tools for Self Direction  
1 pm - 4 pm  
\$30 per site  
Contact: Cheryl 1-800-233-1737

January 21, 2010  
4th Healthy Transition Learning Collaborative  
8 a.m.-12 Noon  
Sleep Inn and Suites-Minot, ND  
Contact: 701-837-3100

January 28-30, 2010  
ND Council for Exceptional Children Conference  
Seven Seas Inn and Conference Center - Mandan, ND  
Contact: Jill: 701-323-4018

April 14, 2010  
Pre-AT Expo Workshop  
April 15, 2010  
7th Annual Assistive Technology Expo  
Ramada Plaza Suites - Fargo, ND  
Contact: Daphne 1-877-760-2939