

7th Annual AT Expo!

Judie Lee, IPAT CEO

Wow! Seven years of the AT Expo in North Dakota. Hats off to the Expo Committee for keeping this event alive and growing! Every year there is something new and innovative. If you have not attended before, mark your calendars! If you have attended before, you have no doubt already marked your calendars. 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 7th Annual AT Expo to be held on April 15, 2010, 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 15th. It is FREE and the public is welcome anytime within those hours.

Concurrent educational sessions are available the morning of April 15th. There are 14 different sessions planned covering a wide range of AT topics. The cost to attend the educational sessions is \$30 (lunch included), pre-registration requested.

An exciting opportunity this year is a special preconference session to be held on April 14th, 2010. "Using the iPod Touch as an Assistive Technology Tool" is a daylong training that will provide participants with an in-depth, hands-on experience with iPhone and iPod touch assistive technology and will demonstrate the best options currently available for the new platform. Mark Coppin, the presenter, has 23 years of experience working in various capacities at Anne Carlsen Center, Jamestown, N.D. As Director of Assistive Technology, he coordinates the provision of assistive technology services for the Center. He is also a member of the outreach technology team, which provides evaluations and consultation services throughout North Dakota. Mark is a certified ATP (Assistive Technology Practitioner), and in 2009, Coppin was chosen as an Apple Distinguished educator. Cost for this daylong training is \$60 (lunch included). Seating is limited for this pre-conference session, so pre-registration is recommended.

NEW event: "Specialized Telephones Demonstrated". Is it difficult for you to use a telephone due to a hearing, speech or physical limitation? A separate room will be designated as a demonstration site for specialized telephones. You will be able to try a variety of different telephones and IPAT staff will be available to answer your questions.

Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for individuals with disabilities to cover registration costs for the morning concurrent educational sessions on the 15th. CEU's will be available for both pre-conference and the morning sessions.

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

Find the Phone That's Right for You

In today's fast-paced, stay-connected society, a telephone is the go-to device for staying in touch with family and friends, and it is also a person's quick link to services and emergency help. For those finding it difficult to use a standard telephone due to a hearing, speech or physical limitation, there will be a new event at the 7th Annual AT Expo – a drop-in telephone center. The center will be set up with a number of alternative phones and phone accessories for people to try. In addition, there will be information about the North Dakota Telephone Equipment Distribution Service, which provides alternative telephones to eligible state residents at no cost. Members of the IPAT staff will be available to answer questions and provide demonstrations.

So, if using a phone is problematic for you or someone you know, please join the IPAT staff at the Ramada Plaza Suites on April 15, 2010. Come to the telephone center between 9am and 11am to try out, and ask questions about, the different types of phones and phone accessories that make calling and receiving calls easier. Options will include, but not limited to: amplified desktop and portable phones; phones that have pre-programmed numbers that can be dialed via voice, the touch of a picture, or a switch; phones with large keypads and auditory feedback; devices that work with telephones to contact friends and/or 911 when trouble arises; and in-line amplifiers, ring signalers and bed-shakers.

Don't miss this opportunity to stay-connected using a phone that's right for you. The IPAT staff looks forward to helping you explore telephone options at the AT Expo – see you April 15th in Fargo.

iPod Touch

Looking back at the last decade, Apple Inc. could lay claim to providing the biggest innovations in portable technology. In 2001 the first iPod was introduced and it changed the way music was used. In 2007 the iPod Touch appeared and gave all the functions of the iPod and so much more!

Basically, the iPod Touch is a music player, movie and video player, and game player. Oh, and the applications, the ENORMOUS amount of applications, also known as apps. An app is like a software program on your computer that does a specific job. At present there are over 150,000 apps available for download for free and a fee.

When talking about assistive technology, the apps may be clearly developed for use by an individual with a disability, or not. Augmentative and Alternative Communication apps may be the most clearly defined. Examples are Proloquo2Go (see Equipment Spotlight on p.4), Look2Learn, and Locabulary. Each provides varying complexity, design, and customization. For a person who is hard of hearing an app like soundAmp or Amplify'd can provide

customized sound amplification. Dragon Dictation and Dragon Search provide a person with physical limitations the option to use their voice for email and search options. Individuals with learning or cognitive disabilities have the option of choosing an app to help with daily tasks and reminders.

As you can see the iPod touch is a very powerful device in a small package. Who knows what the future will bring, but for now the iPod Touch is a great companion.



CONSUMER CONNECTION

Assistive Technology With a Wagging Tail!

I took a hiatus from IPAT's Consumer Advisory Council to concentrate on training my own assistance animal. Rudy is my beloved 3 year old Bichon Papillon mix dog who has learned to assist me with many tasks throughout the day. Tipping the scales at 13 lbs, Rudy is different from his much admired working dog brethren, but my little tail wagging AT device has a big heart and works hard to earn his designation as service dog. Rudy was honored by the North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association with the 2009 Professional Pet of the Year Award for his dedicated service to me. Please check out the IPAT website at www.ndipat.org under News and Events for video links to view Rudy at work. We wish to thank IPAT for their support and the great job they do to in providing AT services to consumers in our state!



AT retrieving AT: Service dog, Rudy brings reacher device to his partner Francine McClendon.

FUNDING NEWS



Cyclists pedal to fund patients' adaptive and therapy needs

The Medcenter One Great American Bike Race (GABR) is an annual fundraising event created to help patients with cerebral palsy and related disabilities and their families purchase adaptive equipment and services. Since its inception, GABR has raised \$1 million for this cause. It has grown to be the largest fundraising event of its kind in the United States.

To be eligible for GABR funds, the applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

- Be a child or young adult (under the age of 22), or be 22 or older during a year when the Foundation has available funds after the granting of awards to children and young adults. To date, funds have been available for applicants 22 and older.
- Reside in one of the geographic locations identified on the application.
- Have a diagnosis of cerebral palsy or another childhood onset developmental delay and meet the medical necessity criteria.
- Meet financial need criteria.

The GABR disbursement committee meets four times a year to review application forms. Application deadlines for each disbursement are: Feb. 10, May 10, Aug. 10 and Nov. 10.

Applications are available at medcenterone.com/gabr or by calling Beth Thune, director of rehabilitation services, at 323-6197. The 2010 race is Saturday, April 10 at Century High School, Bismarck, ND.

EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

Proloquo2Go

This edition of the equipment spotlight is going to take a look at a software application for the iPhone and iPod Touch. Proloquo2Go is a product from AssistiveWare that provides a voice for individuals that have difficulty speaking.

Proloquo2Go is a symbols and text based Augmentative and Alternative Communication software application. The application works by touching items to either speak a single word, or select several items to build sentences and have them spoken by one of four voices, adult male and female, and boy and girl. Customizing to a specific user's needs is where the application really shines. Commonly used sentences can be preprogrammed for quick retrieval. The application comes preinstalled with a vocabulary of over 7000 items and can be viewed as a list or grid, with several appearances and speech options.

This spotlight has been a very, very brief explanation of the power of the Proloquo2Go application. Check it out for yourself at www.proloquo2go.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

Parent to Parent

February 15, 2010 – 7 pm

Veterans Memorial Library – Room B

Bismarck, ND

Contact: Vicki 258-2237 or vickiasdc@bis.midco.net

Parent to Parent & Parent Navigator Workshop

February 20, 2010 – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

BECEP – 720 North 14th Street

Bismarck, ND

Contact: Missi 290-8711 or missi.baranko@gmail.com

AT Expo Pre-Conference Workshop

April 14, 2010 – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Using the iPod Touch as an Assistive Technology Tool

Presenter, Mark Coppin, ATP

Ramada Plaza Suites – Fargo, ND

*Registration Required – \$60

Contact: Daphne 1-877-760-2939, daphne@atexpo.org or www.atexpo.org

7th Annual Assistive Technology Expo

April 15, 2010

8 am – 1 pm Educational Sessions & Lunch

Registration – \$30

11 am – 6 pm AT Expo Exhibit Hall Open

FREE

Ramada Plaza Suites – Fargo, ND

Contact: Daphne 1-877-760-2939, daphne@atexpo.org or www.atexpo.org