

IPAT's Year at a Glance

By Judie Lee, IPAT CEO

IPAT made a significant change this past year in its organizational structure; it became a non-profit corporation in North Dakota with 501(c)(3) status. IPAT was founded in 1993 and has had several administrative structures. Now, for the first time, there is a Board of Directors governing IPAT with the single focus of assistive technology!

While administrative changes were happening for IPAT, AT services were not interrupted. IPAT staff continued to deliver essential programs which provided the following services during the program year October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

Equipment Demonstration Centers

IPAT has AT demonstration centers in Fargo and Bismarck to showcase AT. These Centers offer individuals an opportunity for hands-on device exploration in an interactive setting. In FY'09, 224 people came to IPAT's Centers for equipment demonstration.

Equipment Loan Library (ELL)

The ELL provides an avenue for all ND residents to borrow and try AT equipment before buying. It is also used by clinicians and educators who borrow equipment for AT assessments, and individuals who borrow devices while they wait for device replacement or repair. In FY'09 IPAT made 188 equipment loans.

Assistive Technology Swap 'n Shop

IPAT manages an online used equipment classified ad that includes a partnership with Cross County Courier to transport items. In FY'09, 29 devices were exchanged with a retail value of \$127,545 saving users \$71,877.

Alternative Financial Loan Program

IPAT offers an alternative financial loan program for people with disabilities to purchase assistive technology. This loan program makes borrowing easier by providing lower interest rates and flexible terms on loans ranging from \$500-\$50,000. In FY'09 the program made 10 loans for a total of \$161,767.

Information Requests

IPAT responds to individual requests for AT information via phone, e-mail, mail, videoconferencing, and/or in person. In FY'09 IPAT responded to 1,275 requests from people with disabilities, family members and/or service providers.

Training

IPAT conducts AT training within conferences, at staff in-services, support groups, and college classes, in addition to individual specific device training. In FY'09 IPAT trained 499 individuals.

Public Awareness

IPAT takes the lead in sponsoring the annual AT Expo, and disseminates information regularly through a newsletter, an accessible website, and other print materials. Staff provides AT information at health fairs, transition events, and numerous disability related conferences. In FY'09 IPAT participated in 87 exhibits reaching 4,587 people.

Coordination and Collaboration

IPAT serves the state as a no-cost resource by participating on various task forces and committees, in addition to providing AT expertise to agencies and organizations.

Additional Services

Under contracts with the Division of Aging Services, IPAT provided assistive safety devices to 1,533 seniors, and specialized telephones to 583 ND residents. IPAT contracted with Sprint and provided 32 trainings across ND to increase knowledge about ND Relay, and specialized phones, including the Cap-Tel.

The need for assistive technology is expected to increase as our population ages and demands to be productive and independent. If you or someone you know is interested in AT call 800-895-IPAT(4728).

They Came, They Saw, They Learned

The 570 attendees at the 7th Annual AT Expo broadened their assistive technology horizons through participation in training sessions and one-to-one time with the 58 vendors in the exhibit hall. The presenters and vendors provided information about a wide range of AT options for individuals with disabilities and those impacted by aging. The event was held at the Ramada Inn and Suites in Fargo, ND and will be held there again next year – so mark your calendars now for the 8th Annual AT Expo on April 28th, 2011.

TAF Door Prize Winner!

Miranda Meiers was the lucky winner of a door prize drawing at the 7th Annual AT Expo. She won an iPod touch, donated by the Technology Access Foundation.

Sprint WebCapTel



Sprint Relay WebCapTel is a free web-based service. It allows a person who has difficulty hearing over the phone to read word-for-word captions of their call on a web browser, and hear their conversation partner speak.

Calls can be made using any phone (cell, desktop, cordless) and a web browser simultaneously. The caller places their call using the Sprint Relay service. This service converts speech to text, thereby allowing the person with a hearing loss to read what the other party is saying on a web browser. The user (if they have enough residual hearing) can also hear the person speaking through their telephone, but not through the Internet or web browser. This service is free upon registration to anyone.

For more information on this service, please contact CapTel at: 888-269-7477 or visit the Sprint CapTel website at www.sprintcaptel.com. If you would like a demonstration of the WebCapTel application call one of the IPAT offices to set up a time to check it out.

FUNDING NEWS

Senior Safety Program

The Aging Services Division of the North Dakota Department of Human Services uses federal Older Americans Act funds for informal support services that assist individuals in maintaining their independence. One specific service that IPAT partners with Aging Services to promote independence is known as the Assistive Safety Devices Distribution Service (ASDDS) program. During the year from July, 2008 through June, 2009, 1,735 North Dakotans received 2,838 pieces of equipment through this senior safety program.

If you, or someone you know, experience(s) difficulty putting away groceries, preparing meals, grooming yourself, doing laundry, collecting or sending mail, getting from place to place, taking medication, or feeling safe anywhere in your home; you or they could benefit from this program. Devices such as grab bars, magnifiers, reachers, medication dispensers, or seat-lifts may be purchased and distributed through the ASDDS program. This service is available to North Dakota residents who are 60 years of age and older

and do not live in a nursing facility. In addition to receiving needed devices at no cost, initial consultation and any necessary equipment installation are also provided at no charge under this program.

To find out more about the senior assistive safety device program and how it can help you, or those close to you remain at home, call IPAT at 866-673-6703 or 701-265-3165. You may also visit the IPAT website at www.ndipat.org and click on the menu selections IPAT Services/ASDDS to get more information online.

CONSUMER CONNECTION

A TAC Visit Leads to an Enriched Life

I lost some hearing during radiation treatments on my neck as a result of a tumor at the base of my tongue. People got tired of me asking them to repeat all the time. I had to sit so close to the TV and raised the volume so loud. It was hard to hear at meetings, movies and in the church.

Judie Lee talked to our group at Olivet Lutheran Church in Fargo and to me, one-on-one, about assistive technology devices. She told me about the Duett and amplified phones. She arranged for me to go to the IPAT Technology Access Center (TAC) in Fargo and visit with Mike, an AT Coordinator. He showed me a number of things and I ended up borrowing a Comfort Duett, an assistive living listening aid from the equipment loan library for 6 weeks. I could scarcely believe the difference in my ability to hear. I am more comfortable using the headphones rather than the ear buds and use them in church, during meetings, movies, or when watching TV with others.

I also learned there are a lot of different types of amplified phones. I now use the cordless Krown phone which has a flashing light call indicator as well as an amplified ring and volume control. The phone also features caller ID and 3 one-touch emergency buttons. Last, but not least, I have 2 grab bars in my bath/shower to help insure my safety in my home.

I've let interested other parties try my headphones and cordless phone and they're also pleased at being able to hear more clearly. I will definitely continue to spread the word about how much these tools from IPAT have enriched my life. What blessings they have been.

Carla Locket

Fargo, ND

Add pictures of the Comfort Duett

http://www.harriscomm.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=18812

And Krown amplified phone

<http://www.101phones.com/details/14479-8713/krown-kcs50i.html>

EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

CapTel 800i



Communicating with friends and family is an important part of life. For individuals who have a hearing impairment, communication via phone can be discouraging. Ultratec, Inc. has a new phone, the CapTel 800i which provides captions of what the other party is saying. The 5 1/2" LCD display allows for easy customizing through straight forward yes or no questions. The screen color and font size can also be personalized for viewing. Multiple lines of text can be read during the call and are automatically saved for review after the call. The phone must plug into both a phone and internet line to receive captions quickly; no relay service is needed.

For more information on this device please contact CapTel at: 888-269-7477 or visit their website at www.captel.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

May 5-7, 2010

NDACF Annual Conference
Ramkota - Bismarck
Mary: 800-233-1737

May 10, 2010

Open House – Multiple Sclerosis and AT
IPAT Technology Access Center
400 E Broadway Avenue - Bismarck
11am – 1pm

May 11, 2010

Bismarck Senior Center Health Fair
Bismarck Senior Center

8 am-12pm
Susan- 701-255-4648

May 21, 2010

Symposium on Brain Injury
Comfort Inn - Bismarck
9am – 3pm

May 22, 23, 2010

Indigenous People's Brain Injury Association
877-525-2724

June 27- July 2, 2010

Techno Camp
Anne Carlsen Center – Jamestown
Theresa: 800-568-5175