

## **Pedaling for Possibilities: Bringing Technology to Those in Need**

Judie Lee, IPAT CEO

*Pedaling for Possibilities* is a fundraiser for people who need assistive technology, such as adapted computers, vision equipment, and communication devices. IPAT is hosting this event to raise money to purchase devices for people who need them, but are not able to purchase them on their own. The event is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, February 26, 2011, at the Fercho YMCA in Fargo, ND.

Teams of ten cyclists will compete against each other to log the most miles and raise the most money. They do this by having each team member ride a stationary bicycle for 25 minutes with a five-minute break to change riders. Each cyclist seeks funding to support his or her ride prior to race day, and all funds are donated to *Pedaling for Possibilities* on race day for future disbursement.

These funds will be used to purchase AT for eligible state residents of any age representing any disability. However, only individuals with disabilities or their family members who do not qualify for AT through other programs such as Medicaid, Vocational Rehabilitation, or Special Education, and cannot pay for a device on their own will be eligible.

IPAT, in partnership with the Technology Access Foundation (TAF), has been sponsoring grants to individuals for assistive technology for the past three years. This popular program has been very successful and clearly identified a need, but the funds available have been quite limited. In response to the growing need for AT, the Board of Directors of TAF and the Board of Directors of IPAT decided to team up to sponsor the *Pedaling for Possibilities* in an effort to significantly increase the funding available to purchase it.

We need your help. Do you know a potential sponsor? Do you want to be part of a Team? Check out [www.ndipat.org](http://www.ndipat.org) and click on News & Events for more details, or email [info@pedalingpossibilities.org](mailto:info@pedalingpossibilities.org) with your questions.

Why should you participate?

- Help raise funds to purchase AT for people in need.
- Exercise in a fun, warm environment in February.
- Get together with friends and co-workers while raising money for a good cause.
- Win some fantastic prizes.
- More people participating = greater success = more people getting the AT they need.

Technology makes life easier for everyone. Technology for people with disabilities makes things possible! Be a 'possibility pedaler' - get involved!

### **Learn, Eat, and Earn 2011**

IPAT's next scheduled noon time AT training session is set for Wednesday, February 16, 2011 and will cover the topic of assistive technology and hearing. Mike Haring, a Fargo-based AT Coordinator will be the presenter. Lunch will be on your own, so bring your brown bag or carry-out food and beverage items. Further details and registration information can be obtained by checking our website [www.ndipat.org](http://www.ndipat.org) by calling IPAT at (800) 895-4728, or by emailing [mharing@ndipat.org](mailto:mharing@ndipat.org).

### **Used AT Available**

Looking for gently used assistive technology? IPAT may be able to help as they make room for new devices. Look for items to be given away now and in the coming months on the IPAT website [www.ndipat.org](http://www.ndipat.org) – click News and Events then Reassigned Equipment, or call 1-800-895-4728 to learn about what is available. There will be no charge for the items; however shipping will be the recipients' responsibility.

### **Save the Date!**

Save Wednesday, April 27, 2011, for the AT Expo Preconference.

Diana M. Straube, Esq., will conduct a full day presentation on obtaining funding for assistive technology. Her workshop, "Funding Through the Ages" will cover various AT funding sources for children and adults to include the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program, special education, vocational rehabilitation, Home and Community Based Services waivers, private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and other public and private funding sources. Diana is an attorney with National Assistive Technology Advocacy Project, A Project of Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc., Buffalo, New York.

Our second presentation will be a half day workshop, "Mounting Communication Devices to Power and Manual Wheelchairs". It will offer a comparison among commonly used mount manufacturers (e.g. Daessy, CJT, and Mount N' Mover), and will provide hands-on labs to attach the mounts to power wheelchairs. Three wheelchair manufacturers' chairs: Permobil, Pride, and Invacare will be present. A comparison of rolling, desktop, static, and dynamic wheelchair mounts will be provided. Solutions for positioning AAC devices will also be explored, and funding options for mounts will be discussed. Presenters are Ann Hoffman, with the ALS Association of ND-MN and the Hrbek-Sing Communication and Assistive Device Program; Linda Lorentzen, with the ALS Association MN-ND, and Susan Hanson, with Sanford Health Systems.

Look for more information on the AT Expo website: [www.atexpo.org](http://www.atexpo.org). You can also call or email Jenny Davis, AT Expo Coordinator, for more information: 1-877-760-2939 or [jenny@atexpo.org](mailto:jenny@atexpo.org).

## **CONSUMER CONNECTION**

Hello, my name is Geraldine Holien and I'm from Cando, ND. I have used an amplified telephone for quite a few years, then about 5 years ago my hearing got so bad, I applied for and received a Dialogue VCO (voice carry over) phone from IPAT through the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Service. Using the VCO phone, I would call Relay ND, give the operator the number I wished to call, and she would connect me to the person I wanted to speak to. I would then speak to the other party and their part of the conversation would be converted to print by Relay ND, which I would read on a screen on the top of my telephone.

Earlier this year, I was having difficulty with my VCO phone, so IPAT replaced it but I had trouble with the new phone, as well. I was then given additional options for an adapted telephone – CapTel 800 (used with a regular phone line), CapTel 800i (used with a computer DSL hook-up), or WebCapTel (a Sprint program I access on-line). Given these options, and as I am 83 years young, very active and like to keep my mind busy, and have relied on the computer for about 20 years to keep in touch with family and friends, I opted for WebCapTel. I was given instructions on how to sign-up for the service, so I make my calls right on the computer.

With the WebCapTel, I place the call on the computer, talk to the other party through my telephone handset, then read what the other party says right on my computer screen, as their conversation is converted to text. In my specific case, I have run into a few minor “snags” with the service, such as, if the person speaking isn't clear enough for Relay to understand their part of the conversation or if the electricity goes out, I have to begin the process all over. But, all in all, I like the service.

I guess I would like to stress the importance that people who don't have hearing impairments should try to be patient with us who have hearing impairments, because through this system it takes a while for the other person's conversation to be converted to text before I am able to read it and answer them. I liked my VCO phone, but the WebCapTel service is good because I can read conversations right on the computer screen. Best of all, this is a free service; all I have to pay for is my regular service through my local telephone company. Thank you, IPAT and the Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Service!

## **FUNDING NEWS**

### **Vision Device Resource**

This past fall the Lions approved a Video Magnifier Program in North Dakota to support residents, the majority to be 18 and over. You don't have to be “Legally Blind” to be eligible for their program, but your vision loss does have to significantly impair your ability to read printed material to the degree that use of a video magnifier is warranted.

What the Lions program will provide you with is a video magnifier under a lease arrangement. Under this agreement, you would be expected to put down a non-refundable \$50 deposit and to pay a \$20 per month lease fee. The first payment is due at the time of delivery of the video magnifier; payment options are available. The video magnifiers will be delivered and set-up for use by vision service providers.

To receive consideration for the Lions program you will need to complete an application, which requires a signature from a qualified Vision Loss Professional and a recent vision acuity exam. An agency with qualifying individuals may also apply and would be subject to the same lease and cost requirements. Once an application is received by the program, an eight person committee that meets on a quarterly basis will either approve or deny your application. For further details you may call Kevin Vannett at 701-426-8050; email the program at [videomagnifier@gmail.com](mailto:videomagnifier@gmail.com); or write The Lions Foundation of ND Video Magnifier Program at P.O. Box 761, Mandan, ND 58554.

## EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT



### Attainment Talker AT6

Communication is an essential part of everyday life. When the ability to communicate breaks down for an individual, research shows there is an increased risk for depression, behavior problems, and general unhappiness. There are many Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices available to help with communication, with a wide range of complexity and price. In this edition, the Equipment Spotlight features an inexpensive, easy to set up, AAC device that may open the doors of communication.

The Attainment Talker is a communication device that works by recording messages to corresponding buttons that have a picture. The message is activated by pushing the picture. The AT6 has six message locations each measuring 2" x 2". By touching an area a prerecorded message is played. Image overlays can be created and customized to suit a user's needs and messages can be up to 10 seconds long.

For more information on this device please contact Attainment Company at: 888-327-4269 or visit their website at [www.attainmentcompany.com](http://www.attainmentcompany.com). If you would like to rent this item from the IPAT loan library, please call 800-895-4728 or email: [ipatinfo@ndipat.org](mailto:ipatinfo@ndipat.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CEC Conference – “The Art of Teaching”  
February 3-5, 2011  
Alerus Center  
1200 42<sup>nd</sup> St. South  
Grand Forks, ND

20<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Housing Conference  
February 9 & 10, 2011  
Ramkota Hotel  
Bismarck, ND

Assistive Technology and Hearing  
February 16, 2011 – Noon Hour  
IPAT's Fargo Technology Access Center  
3240 15<sup>th</sup> St. S  
Fargo, ND  
800-895-4728

Pedaling for Possibilities  
*IPAT's AT Fund Raising Event*  
February 26, 2011  
Fercho YMCA Downtown  
400 – 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S  
Fargo, ND  
[www.ndipat.org](http://www.ndipat.org)

Disability Awareness Day  
March 30, 2011  
Memorial & Legislative Halls  
State Capitol Building  
Bismarck, ND

8<sup>th</sup> Annual AT Expo  
Preconference  
April 27, 2011  
AT Expo  
April 28, 2011  
Ramada Plaza Suites  
1635 42<sup>nd</sup> Street S  
Fargo, ND  
[www.atexpo.org](http://www.atexpo.org)