

## **Technology Access Foundation Established**

*Judie Lee, IPAT Director*

A group of North Dakota citizens interested in promoting the benefits of assistive technology for people with disabilities and those experiencing the effects of aging founded a non-profit organization whose sole focus is assistive technology. They established the Technology Access Foundation (TAF) in North Dakota for the purpose of increasing knowledge about and access to assistive technology for people within the state and its surrounding area.

The TAF Board of Directors works closely with IPAT to insure collaboration on AT activities. They have chosen the IPAT Equipment Loan Library, IPAT Technology Access Center, and IPAT regional offices as priority activities. With support from TAF, the IPAT Equipment Loan Library can expand equipment choices, continue to purchase new technology, and increase the number of items available to loan. A trial use of equipment prior to purchasing helps people to make better choices. This not only aids in selecting the appropriate device, it usually results in cost savings for everyone. The IPAT Technology Access Center is used for demonstrations, AT assessments, and training activities. Maintaining an adequate inventory of the most current technology for the TAC is financially challenging. Assistance from TAF will help to make this possible while expanding AT choices for North Dakotans. The IPAT regional offices have found video conferencing a successful way reach individuals in the rural areas of our state. Some types of AT assessments and training have worked well via the video conferencing and IPAT's goal is to have all the IPAT offices connected. TAF's financial support will help to make this a reality.

The TAF has received their first grant. This grant of \$40,000 was awarded to them from the North Dakota Association for the Disabled. They have also received memorials, honorariums, and other donations. You too, can be a part of this exciting endeavor. Gifts and donations will be an important source of funding. These funds will be used to support significant assistive technology activities to increase peoples' access to assistive technology. Access to this technology makes it possible for many people to live independently, to learn, to work, and to be a participating member of their community.

The next time you would like to honor someone, give a memorial, or make a charitable contribution, please consider the Technology Access Foundation. For more information please contact Mark Naumann, TAF treasurer, at 701-280-5073 or e-mail [mnaumann@alerusmail.com](mailto:mnaumann@alerusmail.com).

### **IPAT Equipment Available for Long-Term Loan**

The IPAT Equipment Loan Library has several pieces of equipment available for long-term loan. This equipment is available as-is and at no cost. However, the user will be responsible for shipping charges or for picking up the equipment. Many items available for loan are in excellent condition and worth checking out! To make arrangements, please contact Amanda at the IPAT Equipment Loan Library (1-800-895-4728) and refer to the item number where applicable.

#273	Pediatric Walker – Sunrise Medical 16” – 24” H, 15” W Two front wheels Two arm supports – resting and grabbers Condition: Good
#54	Tumbleform Corner Chair w/ Chair – Blue 22” base, 19 ½” H Adductor pad Condition: Excellent
#446	Headrest Condition: Good
#110	Tumbleform Jettmobile 30” L, 12” W Adductor pad and side bumpers Condition: Excellent
#272	Medium Feeder Seat H harness built in Condition: Excellent
#545	Peddle Master Hand Controls for Car Condition: Good
#929	Small Prone Support Walker Purple Foam Pieces Condition: Good
#265	Senior Pommel Walker Tray and Seat Condition: Good
#204	Standing Frame w/ Tray Model 1A Up to 62 LBS, 12”-22” Hip to Heel Joint Condition: Good
#276	27” Mobile Stander Up to 100 LBS, 11” W, 47” H Condition: Good
#743	Reverse Pediatric Walker 18” W, 20”-28” H Two blue wheels Condition: Good
#446	Kaye Posture Reverse Walker

	Four Wheels 21" W, +18" H Condition: Good
#415	Standing Frame w/ Table Thigh, shin, and chest pads 27" H Condition: Good
#416	Child Wheelchair Tray Black plastic Condition: Good

### **Happy Trails . . . .**

New trails will be forged as IPAT co-workers and consumers bid farewell to Dud Zimmerman. On May 28, 2004, Dud, IPAT's Northwest Regional Coordinator shut down his computer and turned off his alarm clock to become an official "retiree". He was a true pioneer in the field of AT and during his 11 years of service marked a trail for others to follow. We extend a sincere thank you to Dud for his dedication and continued belief in the importance of assistive technology services. May his new trails be happy ones. For those seeking AT services in the NW region, continue to call 1-800-265-IPAT (4728) for assistance.

### **Consumer Connection**

April 16, 2004

To Whom This May Concern;

My name is Alaina Moser. I am in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Baldwin School.

I have a learning disability in written language, which makes reading and spelling very hard.

I got my AlphaSmart and Franklin Language Master in December. I use my AlphaSmart each day to do assignments, and reports in Social Studies and Science. Since then I am able to write complete sentences and know that my spelling is correct. I am able to complete some of my assignments by myself and don't always need someone to write for me. The AlphaSmart has helped me remember information and has also taught me how to write sentences on paper. I can use the Franklin Language Master to correct my spelling when I do write on paper.

Thank – You IPAT program,  
Alaina Moser

**House Report on HR 4278 Filed**

On June 3rd, the Committee on Education and the Workforce filed the Committee report on the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004, HR 4278. It is Report 108-514 and can be accessed on <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Filing the Committee Report is the next step toward floor action. It is anticipated that HR 4278 will be on the suspension calendar in the House the week of June 7th. The bill is expected to pass without debate or amendment and by voice vote.

### **Rural Housing Programs**

Information obtained from the USDA ND Rural Housing Website

Programs are available from the USDA Rural Development in North Dakota to help people with disabilities or those who are elderly make their homes more accessible and/or safe. Some programs involve low interest loans and some are grants. Eligibility is determined by age, location and income status. These programs include:

#### **Housing Direct Loans (Single Family Housing-SFH)**

*Purpose:* Loans to aid low and very-low income rural residents to purchase, construct, repair, or relocate a single-family dwelling and related facilities. The loans are typically made with payment assistance depending on the income level to as low as 1 percent interest. Loans may be made for the market value of the property with improvements. The home must be located in rural areas, or towns under 20,000 residents.

#### **Housing Guaranteed Loans (SFH)**

*Purpose:* Single-family housing guaranteed loans are available to credit-worthy applicants. An eligible bank or lender makes the loans with guarantees by the Rural Housing Service. Loans are available for residents of rural areas and towns with a population of fewer than 25,000.

#### **Home Improvement and Repair Loans and Grants (SFH)**

*Purpose:* To enable very-low-income rural homeowners to remove health and safety hazards in their home and to make homes accessible for people with disabilities. Grants are available for people 62 years and older who cannot afford to repay a loan.

More information regarding these grants can be found at the Rural Development Website: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/nd/housing.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nd/housing.htm) or by calling Toll Free: 1-800-582-7584 or TTY-701-250-4794.

### **Equipment Spotlight Infrared Remote Control Deadbolt**

Many people have difficulty using keys to lock and unlock their doors. Because of this difficulty, they often choose to leave their doors unlocked, compromising their safety. Installing the Infrared Remote Control Deadbolt is one way to solve this problem. It installs easily and runs on 4AA batteries. To operate, one simply holds the remote up to the lock, pushes the button and voila, the deadbolt locks or unlocks. Individuals can use the included key as well.

This device is available for \$79.99 from [www.smarthome.com](http://www.smarthome.com) or by calling their toll free number 1-800-762-7846.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **CAC Welcomes New Member**

The IPAT Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) welcomed a new member at its April meeting - Mary Wahl, of Bismarck. Mary was looking for ways to help her mother remain safe and independent in her own home when her sister-in-law hooked her up with IPAT. Together, along with IPAT staff, they explored AT devices and information. Mary saw the benefits of AT immediately and was curious as to how to help others with aging parents discover AT. The workings of the IPAT CAC were discussed; she completed an application and was accepted. We are pleased to welcome Mary, and look forward to her enthusiasm and understanding of aging issues and the need for AT.

### **Rehabilitation and Consulting Services Looks to IPAT**

In an effort to increase the assistive technology awareness level of vocational rehabilitation counselors, a select number of persons were identified from around the state to participate in AT specific training. The IPAT staff delivered the first of six training sessions in March. The topic was an overview to assistive technology and included lecture, hands-on device use, video, and group discussion.

### **Booklet and Brochure Available**

Information on the "No Place Like Home" initiative to enhance and demystify community living options is now available. For your **free** copy call 1-800-895-4728 or 1-800-377-5114 today.