

AT KEY NEWSLETTER
September 2011 **Vol. 16 No. 5**

Congratulations to the First Recipients of P4P Funds!!

Judie Lee, IPAT CEO

IPAT hosted the first Pedaling for Possibilities (P4P) stationary bike race last February. Its sole purpose was to raise money to purchase assistive technology devices and services for people with disabilities, and those who are experiencing the effects of aging. Cyclists, sponsors, contributors, and volunteers made the event a roaring success. The final count of money raised was \$20,000.

A Pedaling for Possibilities (P4P) selection committee was formed for the purpose of awarding the P4P funds to individuals. Policies and procedures were adopted. The committee met in August to screen, review and choose the applicants to receive the first round of funding awards.

Everyone was very pleased about the number of applicants as well as the diversity represented within them. There were 15 applications for the first round. They came from all regions of the state as well as from cities, small towns, and farms. The types of assistive technology requested included: communication devices, computers, vision or hearing devices, mobility aids, and various types of devices for daily living. One of the reviewers made the following comment, "the application we just reviewed was for a 2 year old, and now we are looking at one from someone who is 99 years old. AT really can be for people of any age or type of disability."

Some applications were approved that day, some needed further information and/or clarification and others did not meet the eligibility criteria – particularly the policy that states these funds cannot replace the funds from other programs responsible for purchasing AT, such as education or vocational rehabilitation. The equipment is in the process of being purchased, delivered and/or set up for the approved individuals. Congratulations to all of them; and we know the equipment they receive will make new things possible in their lives.

The next round of applications will be reviewed in late November. The deadline for those applications is November 15, 2011. You can find the application on the IPAT website www.ndipat.org/pedaling or by calling 800-895-4728.

HOLD the date for the next P4P event, **February 11, 2012**. YOU can help by being a captain of a bike team, being a bike team member, being a sponsor, volunteering, and/or donating to the cause. Check out www.ndipat.org and click on Pedaling for Possibilities for more details or e-mail info@pedalingpossibilities.org with your questions.

Technology makes life easier for everyone. Technology for people with disabilities makes things possible! Get involved!

eReader Training Offered

IPAT's next scheduled noon time AT training session is set for Wednesday, October 19 in Bismarck, and Wednesday, October 26 in Fargo, and will cover the topic of eReaders. Scott Weissman and Mike Haring, AT Coordinators with IPAT, will be the respective presenters. You are welcome to bring your brown bag or carry-out lunch and beverage. Further details and registration information can be obtained by checking our website www.ndipat.org, by calling IPAT at (800) 895-4728, or by emailing sweissman@ndipat.org for the Bismarck presentation and mharing@ndipat.org for the Fargo presentation.



Pedal Up!

Are you ready for some fun? How about an opportunity to network while supporting a great cause? Pedaling for Possibilities, IPAT's annual assistive technology (AT) fund raising event is a chance to do all three! Join others on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at the NDSU Wellness Center, as they pedal to raise money to purchase AT devices for individuals who do not qualify for AT purchases through other funding programs.

Bike Teams – how do they work?

Teams can be made up of co-workers, neighborhood friends, serious cyclists, church groups or any combination thereof. Interested parties create a team of 10 riders and select a team captain. Team captains contact IPAT (800-895-4728) to get bike team packets. Captains then distribute materials, hold a team meeting, and set fund raising goals. All team members seek donations prior to race day, and on race day turn in donations, and ride a stationary bike for 25 minutes. All participants compete for prizes for most miles logged and most money raised while having fun for a great cause.

Event Sponsors – what is available?

Sponsorship packages are available to recognize your contribution to the event, ranging from In-kind, to Friend (\$25-\$499), Believer (\$500 - \$999) and Visionary (\$1,000 and up). For questions contact Jenny Davis at info@pedalingpossibilities.org or at 701-526-3454.

Donate – how to?

To make a donation, go to www.ndipat.org/pedaling and use your credit card.



CONSUMER CONNECTION

IPAT Delivers Customized Assistive Technology Trainings

Did you know that IPAT creates customized assistive technology trainings upon request? Friendship, Inc., a non-profit organization serving individuals with developmental disabilities, was interested in learning about the iPad, and asked IPAT for help.

As a result, their administrative staff spent time together learning how the iPad works through hands-on instruction. In addition, an overview of applications specific to their target population was presented, to include; task completion, communication, sign language, medication reminders and more. At sessions end, the staff was provided a detailed handout on the iPad and the applications covered to use as a resource to foster continued learning.

If you would like a training of this type, or something completely different for your company, group, class, or conference, give IPAT a call at 800-895-4728.



FUNDING NEWS

Computer Resource

If you have vision loss, and are in need of a computer, the Texas Center for the Visually Challenged (TCVC) may be just the resource for you! Started by Bob Langford in 1995, the Center served as a general resource center for those with blindness, but it now has a new mission – to deliver computers donated by corporations and individuals to people with vision challenges. The donated computers are rebuilt and refurbished; and come with specialized software already loaded based on individual need and degree of vision loss.

To qualify for the TCVC computer distribution program, you must be partially sighted, have low vision, be legally blind, or be totally blind. To express an interest in receiving a computer, all you have to do is call TCVC at 214-340-6328 or email them at info@computersfortheblind.net . A representative will then contact you to discuss your needs and specific computer configurations. This program is available to all eligible U.S. residents, and at least one North Dakotan has received a computer.

To receive a computer, recipients will need to have an Internet Service Provider subscription for internet and email use. In addition, a \$100 “partnership gift” to the TCVC is requested to show a personal commitment. Once the gift is received, the computer is delivered within 2 to 4 weeks.

EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT



ErgoRest Arm Support

The ErgoRest arm support is an articulating ergonomic support for elbows, forearms, and wrists that may be needed because of a repetitive stress injury, an acquired disease, or general weakness in the arms.

ErgoRest will support the arm and can provide a full range of motion across a keyboard. Other applications include using the ErgoRest for support while eating or reading a book. The ErgoRest comes in a standard or extra-long forearm pad and can be clamped to a table or chair that has a flat surface.

For more information on this device contact The Comfort Keyboard Company, Inc. at: (414) 434-1022 or visit their website at www.comfortkeyboard.com. If you would like to rent this item from IPAT, please call 800-895-4728 or email: ipatinfo@ndipat.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ND Conference of Social Welfare

September 28-30, 2011

Best Western Doublewood Inn

Fargo, ND

<http://ndcsw.camp9.org/registrationinfo>

ND Vocational Rehabilitation Conference

October 12-14, 2011

Seven Seas Hotel

Mandan, ND

Inider@nd.gov ; phone 701-328-8916

29th Annual Closing the Gap Conference

October 10 & 11 – Preconference

October 12-14 – Conference

Sheraton Bloomington Hotel

Mpls., MN

<http://www.closingthegap.com/conference/> 507-248-3294

eReaders Training

October 19 – Bismarck IPAT Office

October 26 – Fargo IPAT Office

Noon – 1:00

www.ndipat.org 800-895-4728

3rd Annual Independent Living Fair

October 26, 2011

11:00 am – 3:00pm

Sleep Inn & Suites

Dakota Square Mall – Minot, ND

Therese 701-839-4724

2nd Annual Pedaling for Possibilities

February 11, 2012

NDSU Wellness Center

www.ndipat.org/pedaling 800-895-4728