

If you would like to know more about **SHARE** or if you would like

to show your support by becoming a volunteer or by making a donation, please fill in the information below and return to:

**SHARE Foundation**

**UMass Dartmouth**

**285 Old Westport Road**

**North Dartmouth, MA 02747**

**508-999-8482**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

E-MAIL

I am pleased to make a donation and have enclosed my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I can give a few hours as a volunteer. Call me at ( ) \_\_\_\_\_.

Please send me your newsletter, SHARE Notes.

Please send me a copy of the award-winning SHARE DVD.

## The Story of **SHARE**

*A newspaper article called "Linda's Window on the World" started it all.*

Les Cory, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at UMass Dartmouth, read this incredible story of a young woman who communicated with her family by gazing at individual letters on a Plexiglas board. Linda Texceira, born with cerebral palsy, could not speak or use her hands; yet, she could spell out her thoughts to her mother, who tracked the movement of Linda's eyes.

Convinced that a computer system could be created to enable Linda to communicate more effectively, Professor Cory enlisted the expertise of colleague Phil Viall. The two designed a unique system tailored to Linda's abilities and needs. Equipped with a voice synthesizer, the system not only made Linda a writer, but allowed her to "speak."

Soon more systems for other people with disabilities followed. The growing demand for such equipment led Cory, Viall and another engineering professor, Richard Walder, to incorporate the nonprofit foundation SHARE, which today supports the innovative work done at the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering.

Since its beginnings in 1981, SHARE and the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering have helped more than 3,000 children and adults communicate with the world around them by providing them with adaptive equipment and services.

# SHARE

FOUNDATION, INC.

Society for Human Advancement  
through Rehabilitation Engineering



*Dedicated to improving  
the quality of life for  
people with disabilities  
through technology*

# SHARE

Imagine the frustration of having ideas and dreams that you cannot express to others. Imagine being unable to tell someone your needs, get an education or earn a living.

The SHARE Foundation has imagined those scenarios and, for more than 28 years, has been putting the imaginations of engineers to work to enable people with physical disabilities to express their thoughts and needs through the power of computers.



Linda Texceira at her first SHARE-provided system in 1982. On the cover, Linda is working with her latest equipment, a dual-computer system that allows her to use any Windows-based software. Advancements in technology have opened up new opportunities for Linda, including those afforded by the Internet.

## What SHARE Does

We help people with many different disabilities, including cerebral palsy, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), multiple sclerosis, visual impairments, and accident or stroke-related conditions.

When a person with disabilities comes to us for help, we evaluate that person's abilities and needs in consultation with the individual and members of the individual's support group.

Then our Client Services staff either recommends appropriate commercial equipment or works with the engineers and technicians of the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering to design or modify equipment to meet the abilities and needs of the person who has asked for our help.

Each system is controlled by a user-suitable set of switches. Some switches are hand or finger operated. Some are controlled by facial muscles; others are activated by the raising of an eyebrow or by sipping on a drinking straw. Some people control their systems by talking to them or simply by gazing at a special control screen. New systems and new ways of controlling systems are being developed as new technology becomes available.

## Helping SHARE Help Others

As a non-endowed, nonprofit organization, SHARE relies upon donations of money and equipment from individuals, businesses and organizations.

SHARE also depends on its dedicated volunteers, who help with technical work, fundraisers and client services.



Engineering students learn hands-on skills while helping SHARE provide adaptive computers for children and adults with disabilities.

To find out more about SHARE, become a volunteer, become a supporter, or have us speak to a civic group, send in the form on the other side or e-mail us at [share@umassd.edu](mailto:share@umassd.edu). Visit us online at [www.share.umassd.edu](http://www.share.umassd.edu)