The 1997 Annual Appeal was very successful thanks to your generosity. SHARE would not exist without your support.

Born in 1981 as a small grassroots effort to help local people with disabilities reach out to communicate, SHARE remains today a small charitable foundation whose work is highly personalized. Every computer system SHARE places with a client has been custom-designed to suit that person's capabilities.

When our supporters send contributions, they are assured those donations directly benefit SHARE's clients. SHARE's paid staff is not large; its facilities are not luxurious. Contributions do not dissipate within a bureaucratic maze. With this in mind, I thought as well as thanking you for your confidence in our organization, I'd update you on what SHARE has accomplished with the rewards from the annual appeal.

During the three months since we issued our holiday appeal, SHARE has provided services for ninety clients. A dozen people with cerebral palsy are now using computers to do things we take for granted -- speaking with loved ones, completing schoolwork, sending messages to friends. Fifteen people who are blind can now enjoy the world a computer can bring to them. Forty-eight more people whose abilities have been limited by conditions such as multiple sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease, or stroke have been given new opportunities for participating in life's conversations. Fifteen agencies have received equipment that their clients need.

We began the year with 97 people waiting for services. My goal was to see that list dwindle. During the semester break, volunteers and staff at the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering worked incredible hours to build the systems for those waiting patiently. This push paid off. Fewer than thirty clients were left on the waiting list.

But, the list continues to grow. The number of people we have helped so far this year is 33% larger than the number for the comparable time period last year.

The expanding capabilities of computers mean new challenges for our engineers. Right now, we are working on speech recognition software that would enable several clients who are unable to use their hands to use Windows 95 and to access the Internet.

When we discuss our services, we refer to clients because that is an efficient way to label the individuals who come to us. But, each client has a name; each name is a person whose life we touch. Speaking for all those individuals SHARE helps and for all the officers, directors, staff, and volunteers at SHARE, I again say, "Thank you!"

Sincerely,
Les Cory, President
Thanks to all who have donated to SHARE's Annual Appeal
(as of April 14, 1998)

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The inability to hear is a nuisance; the inability to communicate is the tragedy.

--- Lou Ann Walker

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Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

--Arthur C. Clarke

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of
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Ben Boyle Golf Classic
Sunday, July 26, 1998
Richmond Country Club
Richmond, RI

Sponsored by the
Sunday Morning
Golfers & the Pawtuxet
Valley Rotary Club

SHARE
Fun Walk '98

Sunday, October 18, 1998
UMass Dartmouth Campus

Save the date!
You can help make it our
best Fun Walk ever!

SHARE Foundation

c/o University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
285 Old Westport Road
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PLEASE CALL THE SHARE OFFICE AT (508) 999-8482

To keep a lamp burning we have to keep putting oil in it.

--- Mother Teresa

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