REV UP FOR SHARE WALK-A-THON 1989!

Q. What will you be doing on October 15, 1989?

A. a. Enjoying the autumn weather  
    b. Having fun with friends  
    c. Supporting a good cause

There's one easy way to have "d. All of the above"—come to the Fourth Annual SHARE Walk-A-Thon! Slated for October 15, 1989, the fund raiser promises fun in the autumn sun as SHARE supporters step out in support of the cause.

As in past years, Walk-A-Thon '89 will follow its dependable formula for success. Walkers will cover a 10-kilometer route, leaving from the Southeastern Massachusetts University Athletic Center anytime between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Dartmouth course will take them along Ring, Old Westport and Lucy Little Roads and back. Refreshments and relaxation will await walkers as they cross the finish line.

The Walk-A-Thon offers a little something for everyone wanting to support SHARE's fundraising efforts. In the mood to kick up some autumn leaves?—walker registration kits are available through SHARE headquarters. Willing to lend a hand at a route check point or a refreshment table?—volunteer your help behind the scenes the day of the event. Unable to make the Walk-A-Thon but still want to be a vital part of it all?—offer your pledge to a disabled walker planning to cover the route by wheelchair. To join the Walk-A-Thon '89 team, whether as a walker, a volunteer or a sponsor, contact SHARE at (508) 999-8482.

Last year, thanks to the overwhelming response by walkers and by all those who filled their pledge sheets, the Walk-A-Thon

SHARE SYSTEM BRINGS A WORLD OF GOOD NEWS TO JAMES RYAN

By Jo-An Bettencourt and Karen Pragana

"I want to watch TV."

James Ryan's request might seem simple enough. Most people just flick the switch, plop into an easy chair and enjoy the sights and sounds coming from that magical box.

But watching TV was no easy thing for James. Deaf and blind, the 22-year-old Swansea man could take in programs only if someone else joined him, signing the words and action into his hand. James came to SHARE looking for a technological solution that would give him the freedom to watch TV independently.

This past summer, James got his wish. The Rehabilitation Engineering Center (R.E.C.) combined the technologies of a closed caption decoder, a computer and a Telebrailer to create a system that converts closed captioning into six-cell Braille symbols that James can read with his fingers.

"It makes me feel more equal to hearing people," says James, of the new system.

James says one of the biggest changes the system has made in his life is that it gives him a sense of immediacy, the ability to

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A Publication of the Society for Human Advancement Through Rehabilitation Engineering Foundation, Inc.
KNIGHTS "SHARE THE SPIRIT" OF GIVING WITH TIVERTON WALK-A-THON

Hark, the herald angels sing . . .

to benefit SHARE when the Newport Navy Choristers offer a Christmas concert at the First Baptist Church in Fall River, Mass. on December 3, 1989.

SHARE invites you to come and listen to the music of these well-known performers and enjoy the spirit of the season.

Look for ticket and program information in the winter issue of SHARE Notes!

Walkers start out on the 10-kilometer hike through Tiverton, Rhode Island.

On June 25, the Tiverton Knights of Columbus (Father Boehr Council #4753) launched the First Annual "SHARE the Spirit" Walk-A-Thon and raised over $6,500 to benefit the SHARE Foundation. Grand Knight John DeCosta led 125 walkers who stepped off at 9 a.m. to begin the 10-kilometer route through the Tiverton countryside.

Along the path, walkers enjoyed the sunny weather and warm companionship of fellow SHARE supporters as they worked their way to the finish line, where a summer feast of hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream awaited them. Participants and volunteers later took home their choice of T-shirts, hats, or coffee mugs as souvenirs of the successful fund raiser.

"The Knights were very gracious hosts," says SHARE president Les Cory. "It was a beautiful day."

A number of SHARE clients now awaiting service could be helped by the gift of an Apple IIe computer—we could immediately place three or four of these units.

If anyone has an Apple IIe they no longer need or want, SHARE will be happy to put it in the hands of someone who can truly benefit from it. Just contact us at (508) 999-8482.

SHARE client Brett Sorensen makes the trip with a little help from his friends. Rumor had it that Brett's entourage grew with each kilometer as he offered rides to pretty co-walkers.

Photo by Les Cory
JAMES RYAN
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learn about the world firsthand. Before he received his system, he "used to have to wait until the New York Times [Braille edition] came in," often learning about major world events after they had already become old news. Now James says the system keeps him "more attuned" to things as they happen. Recently, James closely followed the track of Hurricane Hugo and its effect on New England's weather.

"I love getting weather reports and some news about major happenings in the world," he says.

SHARE president Les Cory says the system itself is major news in technology for deaf and blind people. Central to the system is a telecaptioning decoder which receives closed captioning information and converts it to printed text displayed across the TV screen. Typically used by hearing-impaired viewers, this device allows them to read the program's spoken elements. Since James is also blind, he needed to have the captioning information modified into tactile symbols.

With his system, the specially modified decoder (supplied by a Maryland firm) transmits its telecaptioning information to a computer which first strips away unnecessary information (color and positioning data for visual display), and then converts the textual information into signals readable by a Telebrailer. The Telebrailer then displays the words in Braille symbols which can be read with the fingertips. Both the computer and the Telebrailer can store incoming data, allowing James to control the rate at which he receives the textual information.

Cory says that although SHARE has "gone down a lot of dead ends trying to make something go," they finally found success with the help of the Swansea Lion's Club. Once the Lions purchased the hardware needed in building the system, the R.E.C. interfaced the units to create a technological triumph that keeps James in the news.

PATTI SWIFT FINDS DECMATE II COMPUTER SYSTEM JUST HER TYPE

Patti Swift is a familiar face in the seaside neighborhoods of Fairhaven and Padanaram, Mass. Neighbors often see her there as she passes by in her wheelchair to breathe in the salt air and say hello to friends. They know her for the American flags that bedeck her wheelchair and the colorful hats she wears during her carefree jaunts through the quiet towns.

"She's a delightfully independent individual," says Les Cory.

Although she has cerebral palsy, Patti maintains two homes and runs a successful home-based business selling magazine subscriptions. To help Patti with her business, SHARE recently gave her a DECMATE II, a computer system that has word processing capabilities, a spell checker and a hard drive. The system allows Patti to more efficiently create and store the many documents she generates--business correspondence, personal letters and short stories.

When Patti first contacted SHARE, she was using an IBM Selectric typewriter, but found it difficult to correct errors and time-consuming to create multiple copies of her correspondence. Through the Massachusetts Easter Seals Society, SHARE first acquired a DECMATE III word processing system for Patti.

In using the computer, she soon realized its capabilities were limited--it didn't have a hard drive for storing a large volume of information, nor could one be installed. The system could not keep a spell checker or dictionary on-line either.

That's when SHARE changed the system for the older model, a DECMATE II, which surprisingly had more capabilities.

And for Patti, that change was just write!
WHAT IS SHARE?
SHARE is a non-endowed, nonprofit foundation combining high technology with a heart for the world of the disabled.

Founded by Professors Les Cory, Philip Viall and Richard Walder of Southeastern Massachusetts University, SHARE is a resource agency working with the SMU’s Center for Rehabilitation Engineering to provide equipment and services to physically disabled people, particularly those unable to communicate independently.

SHARE’s fundraising efforts support the work of Rehabilitation Engineering Center volunteers who tailor computer software and equipment so that nonvocal people can "speak" through voice synthesizers and "write" with computers. Since 1981, hundreds of clients across the country have benefited from SHARE’s endeavors.

If you’d like more information about SHARE, write us in care of Southeastern Massachusetts University, North Dartmouth, MA 02747.

WALK-A-THON '89
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raised over $37,000 to fund communication systems and equipment for the disabled. SHARE invites your generosity again this year—by being a part of the day’s event you can help make a waiting client’s dream a wonderful reality.

SUMMER GOLF TOURNAMENTS SUIT SHARE TO A TEE
Nearly 200 good sports turned out for the competition, but SHARE came away the biggest winner of them all after two golf tournaments raised $5,800 to help the disabled.

On June 4, SHARE supporter Bob Martin hosted the third running of the SHARE Foundation Golf Tournament. Held at the New Bedford (Mass.) Municipal Golf Club, the tournament attracted 56 players, who teed off at 1 p.m. under bright skies.

"We had some great golfers," says Martin.

Golfers and volunteers celebrated together at a banquet at the Club that evening, where dinner, prizes and fun topped the menu.

The event raised $1,200 for SHARE, and Martin credits its success to the support of co-organizer Paul Medeiros and New Bedford businesses like Harborline Engineering, Davy’s Locker Restaurant and many others who donated prizes. "It was excellent—one of the best tournaments yet!"

The Sixth Annual Ben Boyle Golf Classic broke some records of its own, raising $3,600 in proceeds from the two-day tournament. Hosted by the Sunday Morning Golfers and the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club, the tournament took place on July 29 and 30 at the North Kingstown Municipal Golf Course in Quonset, R.I. Warm, sunny weather greeted the 135 players who teed off that weekend. On August 6, a banquet at the West Warwick Elks Club—complete with a prize raffle—capped the traditional fund raiser.

Ron Kostyla, who organized the event with Bob Bjorkland, was thrilled with the outcome of his pet project. "It was the best year ever!" he says.

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New Bedford, Mass.

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