SHARE WALK-A-THON '91
A BRIGHT FALL FUNDRAISER

A long walk in the bright autumn sunshine is a surefire way to raise anyone's spirits. But on Sunday, October 20, it will also go a long way toward helping communicatively disabled children and adults when SHARE holds its Sixth Annual Walk-A-Thon.

The Foundation's biggest fundraiser of the year, the Walk-A-Thon raises money to support the work of the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering. The Center provides communication systems, equipment and services for disabled people in local communities and around the country.

This year, SHARE President Les Cory says a strong turnout for the benefit is especially important.

"The economy is poor and, in turn, we are getting more requests for help than we ever have before," he says. "We are looking for people to walk, for people to recruit walkers, and for individuals who will sponsor walk-a-thon participants, especially our wheelchair participants."

SHARE hopes to recruit 425 walkers for the 10-kilometer walk, which will follow the same route as in previous years. Opening ceremonies will be held at the University's Athletic Center at 9 am; walkers may begin the course anytime between 9 am and 1 pm, and may cover any distance of their choice, from 2 to 10 kilometers. Each walker will receive a free commemorative tee shirt, hat or coffee mug.

In addition to plenty of refreshments, participants can enjoy performances throughout the day by ventriloquist Marsha Hjulstrom and her friends Billy Star and Crystal. Also a hand-knit, multi-colored afghan will be raffled at the Walk-A-Thon; raffle tickets may be purchased in advance through the SHARE office or at the Athletic Center during the event.

To obtain your Walker Registration kit, please call SHARE at (508) 999-8482.

SHARE CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

This past summer marked a milestone for SHARE, as we quietly celebrated ten years of service to communicatively disabled children and adults.

It seems hard to believe that so many years have passed since the summer of 1981, when we designed our first communication system for Linda Texeira. Our desire to help a young woman communicate with the world around her has grown into a ten-year-long commitment toward bettering the lives of disabled people.

And as long as the requests for help keep coming, SHARE will keep working to build brighter tomorrows for all our clients.

We extend a heartfelt thank-you to our many volunteers who have given so much of themselves to carry out the work of SHARE and the Rehabilitation Engineering Center. We couldn't have done it without you!
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Update from the
UMASS Rehabilitation Engineering Center Lab

This summer proved to be a busy one for the UMASS Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering. Some of our volunteers’ many projects were:

- Providing a computer system for a 14-year-old Falmouth, Massachusetts girl with physical and learning disabilities.
- Supplying information about our communication systems to a man with ALS in Vestal, New York.
- Building a head switch for a man in Spartanburg, South Carolina who is paralyzed from the neck down due to an accident. The switch interfaces with his call button, allowing him to buzz the nurses’ station.
- Providing an eye board for an Athol, Massachusetts woman with ALS.
- Assembling a WOLF communicator for a youngster with cerebral palsy in Goffstown, New Hampshire.
- Loaning a communication system with a touch-sensitive switch pad to a Dartmouth, Massachusetts youngster.
- Fabricating a “light pointer” for a girl with cerebral palsy in Wallingford, Connecticut.

The pointer straps onto her eyeglasses and allows her to point to words on a lap tray with a beam of light.

Your financial support has helped us reach over 450 children and adults since the inception of SHARE in 1981.

NEW GRANT TO BENEFIT SHARE CLIENTS

A Rhode Island agency recently awarded SHARE a $6,200 grant to support the work of the Rehabilitation Engineering Center. Those funds have been earmarked for four projects to benefit SHARE clients across Rhode Island.

Part of the money will be used to provide an Apple II GS to a 12-year-old youngster in Providence. A spastic quadraplegic with cerebral palsy, the boy is unable to write due to his spasticity. The computer will have a key guard to make typing possible; recreational software will be supplied as well.

A color graphics printer will be purchased for a disabled teenager in Tiverton. The printer will expand the boy’s capabilities when doing school work on his computer, allowing him to produce documents with enhancements such as graphs and charts.

A computer system will be supplied to a 19-year-old man in Jamestown, who sustained an upper spinal cord injury in a bicycle accident. The computer will serve as a writing tool when he enters college.

And finally, a WOLF communicator will be provided to Zambartano State Hospital in Pascoag. The portable speech prosthesis, which enables the user to express basic wants and needs, will be used as a diagnostic tool with multiply-impaired children.

SHARE CLIENTS STAR IN NEW VIDEOTAPE

Copies of an informational video on the work of the SHARE Foundation are available for loan.

Produced by Cable TV of East Providence, the 13-minute film retracts the history of SHARE and is suitable for viewing by clubs and civic organizations.

Anyone interested in learning more about our work may arrange to borrow a copy of the video by calling SHARE at (508) 999-8482.
SHARE NEEDS YOU!

To support the
1991 SHARE WALK-A-THON
on Sunday, October 20th!

Balloons Mugs Hats
Games Tee Shirts Popcorn
Prizes Raffle Billy Star & Crystal

SHARE Walk-A-Thon '91 Registration Form
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TODAY!

[ ] Yes, I will walk on October 20th. Please send me a Walk-A-Thon kit.
[ ] I can help find walkers. Send me ________ more walker's kits.
[ ] I would like to help sponsor a disabled walker. Here's $__________.

Please print your name clearly exactly as you would like it to appear on your SHARE Walk-A-Thon Certificate.

NAME ____________________________________________

STREET ___________________________________________ PHONE _______________________

CITY,TOWN _________________________________________ STATE ________ ZIP _________
SHARE’S FIRST CLIENT EARN HER G.E.D.

It was graduation night, and the lights on the stage of Newport’s Rogers High School were bright. But they were no match for the flashing eyes and beaming smile that lit up the stage as Linda Texeira accepted her diploma to the cheers of the entire auditorium.

After her four-year struggle to complete the G.E.D. program at the Newport Adult Learning Center, Linda had certainly earned the right to bask in her personal triumph.

“I really wanted to get my high school diploma,” says Linda. “I was willing to do anything I had to [to] get it.”

Linda encountered plenty of obstacles upon returning to school. Linda’s mother Martha says that it was a challenge just finding a teacher open to working with Linda, who has cerebral palsy — a prejudice that they didn’t expect to face in these enlightened times.

When Linda eventually found another teacher and began her G.E.D. studies, completing her course work required creative alternatives to typical study and test taking methods. Most of her homework and some testing were done on her SHARE computer.

She also took multiple choice tests using a special plexiglass eye board; to answer questions, she would look at the number on the board corresponding to the response she wished to give.

And her mother was beside her, quite literally, all the way — she attended classes with Linda and took notes for her.

“She worked very, very hard,” recalls Martha. “At times it got rough, but she wanted it bad enough that she stuck with it.”

Les Cory congratulates Linda on receiving her G.E.D.

“I feel very proud that I didn’t give up,” says Linda. “When I look at my diploma on the wall, it gives me courage to go on.”

Linda is doing just that — she is currently taking an English course at Bristol Community College.

SHARE SATELLITE PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bristol Community College and SHARE are currently enjoying a networking partnership thanks to a special satellite program at BCC to benefit visually impaired and blind individuals.

BCC has set up a computer lab with word processing equipment specially designed for use by people with visual impairments. A number of SHARE clients are already attending the lab and receiving tutoring from BCC volunteers to hone their computer skills.

Three SHARE clients now have similar systems in their homes and have formed their own networking group. BCC provides them with a meeting place and coordinates the group’s activities.

Anyone interested in more information about the SHARE Satellite Program at BCC is invited to contact Sue Boissonneau (BCC) at (508) 678-2811 or SHARE at (508) 999-8482.
REACH OUT EVERY DAY—PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT!

This fall, many of you will receive a charitable contributions campaign brochure through your workplace, inviting you to donate a portion of your earnings to charity. We ask you to please consider designating the SHARE Foundation to receive a portion of that contribution.

It's simple—just look for our name, SHARE Foundation, in your campaign brochure. To designate us to receive your contribution, write our number on your contribution card. If SHARE is not listed on your form, please write us in! Your contribution will help SHARE provide disabled people with the equipment and services they truly need.

When you fill out your campaign form this year, please remember SHARE. It takes only a minute and makes such a difference in someone else's life.

HELPING THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), more than 24 million children and adults in the United States require treatment for a speech, language or hearing disorder. Yet, notes ASHA, most healthcare insurance plans do not offer adequate coverage for treatment.

Consequently, most of the equipment and services SHARE provides to these clients are not covered by health insurance. Your contributions truly make the difference in these people’s lives. Thank you for your generosity to SHARE — and most of all, to them.

ATTENTION SHARE NOTES READERS!

Don't let our "new address" confuse you! On July 1, 1991, Southeastern Massachusetts University officially became the University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth Campus. Although the name has changed, our location on the University’s campus remains the same.

When sending us correspondence, please use our updated address:
SHARE Foundation
UMASS Dartmouth
North Dartmouth, MA 02747.

THREE CHEERS FOR K OF C WALK-A-THON

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the K of C “Share the Spirit” Walk-A-Thon a great success.

The April benefit, sponsored by the Tiverton, Rhode Island Knights of Columbus, attracted nearly 100 walkers and raised over $3,200 for SHARE!