TEAM UP FOR SHARE FUN WALK '95

Mark your calendars for a fundraiser newly designed with unlimited fun in mind! When SHARE hosts its annual walkathon on Sunday, October 22nd, expect the unexpected. FUN WALK '95 promises more fun, prizes and entertainment than ever before!

This year FUN WALK '95 is sporting a "Team Theme." Walkers are encouraged to form individual teams and undertake the walk together. On our end, we've got a lot planned to reward your group efforts. A special new prize will be awarded to the "Team with the Best Showing," so we challenge you to come up with a whole new style for walking the route.

Maybe you'll want to dress up as pirates or show up in your pajamas. Maybe your team will choose to travel the route in little red wagons, on roller skates, or by sailboat. Participants will get to vote for their favorite team, and the winning group will be flown by private plane to Martha's Vineyard for breakfast courtesy of the Friends of Fall River Airport.

Another team event is the Sidewalk Drawing competition. We'll provide the colored chalk and you supply the talent to produce a sidewalk mural that every other team will envy. All team members will get to vote on the winning creation. There are plenty of individual prizes in store as well. Our now-famous Hot Air Balloon Ride will be given away in a random drawing for all walkers. Prizes also will be given to the individuals and teams who turned in the highest totals and who have the most sponsors.

To keep things interesting, we've also changed this year's walk route and refreshment stops. But all in all, you can still count on a great day spent in support of a great cause—helping disabled children and adults lead richer, more productive lives.

You can make FUN WALK '95 a success in so many ways. Assemble friends, family and/or co-workers into a walking team, sign up as an individual walker, or sponsor a disabled walker who will be participating in the event. For a walker's kit or more information on supporting FUN WALK '95, just call SHARE Headquarters at (508) 999-8482. And let the fun begin!

Fun Walk Will Benefit Many Awaiting Help

Here are just some of the projects which will be supported by proceeds from the upcoming walkathon:

- For a young man who is paralyzed below the shoulders as a result of an auto accident, we are designing a device to enable him to control his TV, stereo, CD player and VCR from his computer console. The system will also control his telephone and the lock on his apartment door.
- For a local nursing home we are building a new interface to the call button system for use by patients who cannot use their hands. The system will enable a patient to call for help by means of a head tilt switch on the pillow.
- One of the most expensive parts of our systems for non-speaking people is the speech synthesizer. Commercial units cost upwards of $1,000. We are working on a new system employing an inexpensive audio card which should cut our cost in half. Several disabled youngsters and a man with Lou Gehrig's Disease will be among the users of the first prototype.
At Home On The Job With New Technology

Congratulations to SHARE administrative assistant Linda Vandal and her husband Mike on the birth of their second daughter, Meredith Marie, on July 27. With Meredith joining “big sister” Jillian, now two, Linda is planning to continue working for SHARE from home so that she can devote more time to her growing family.

To that end, Rehab Center engineers are now working on hardware and software interfaces that will allow Linda to receive and transmit her work between home and the SHARE office by modem, fax and voice mail. Once fully functional, this “telecommuting” system will serve as a prototype for similar systems that will enable disabled individuals to work from their homes as well.

Golf Tournament A Great Success

Many thanks to the Sunday Morning Golfers and the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club for another outstanding fundraiser! The 12th Annual Ben Boyle Golf Classic held in June raised more than $3,500 to support SHARE’s work. Thanks also to everyone who organized, sponsored and worked at the event for giving of themselves to benefit so many others.

With Our Sympathy

It is with deep regret that we note the death of Bart Albert, a dedicated SHARE volunteer. Bart was a valued presence both during newsletter mailings and at “Radio Central” during walkathons. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family and friends—his kindness and commitment will be greatly missed.

Update from the UMD REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CENTER LAB

Under the sponsorship of the Rehabilitation Engineering Center, a new research project is currently underway to develop a computer workstation which can be controlled solely through a person’s eye gaze.

The research project is under the direction of Dr. Lee Estes and will make use of the resources available at the Laser Optics facility located here at the UMass Dartmouth campus. The goal is to engineer a computer system which can be operated by individuals who are paralyzed from the neck down and do not have any use of their hands. Instead, the entire system would be controlled by eye gaze, enabling quadriplegic individuals to operate word processing software, answer phones, and control other environmental objects from the workstation.

SHARE is hopeful that a workstation of this design will offer severely disabled individuals greater independence in everyday living and enhance their opportunities for employment. Watch for updates on the project’s progress in future issues of SHARE Notes.

REHAB CENTER REPAIR PROJECT GETS WHEELCHAIRS ON THE MOVE

The SHARE Foundation recently received a donation of a number of used wheelchairs which will be provided to individuals currently awaiting replacement chairs. Before the chairs can be given away, they all require repairs or refurbishments to make them fully functional again, a project soon to be undertaken by volunteers at the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering.

To launch the project, SHARE is in need of financial support to purchase the replacement parts that will restore these wheelchairs to working condition. With donations of about $1,000, we can distribute $10,000 of vitally needed equipment to people throughout the community. Just one of the many individuals waiting for a replacement chair is a nursing home resident whose wheelchair needs $1,000 in repairs that are not covered by his insurance. With your assistance, we can help him and many others enjoy mobility and greater independence again.

Also, if you or someone you know is in need of a wheelchair, please call SHARE at (508) 999-8482.
RECYCLED COMPUTERS FIND NEW LIFE AS LEARNING TOOLS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

In January, the Department of Environmental Protection awarded SHARE a $5,000 grant to fund a special recycling project to benefit disabled children. Through the project, SHARE is soliciting donations of old computer equipment from area businesses and individuals, refurbishing the systems and placing them in special needs classrooms in local schools. The funds are being used to pay student interns who are working on the project, as well as to cover the purchase of necessary parts and supplies to repair and modify the equipment.

SHARE’s initial letter requesting computer donations has brought 500 pieces of equipment to the Rehab Center over the past six months. After being refurbished, about 200 complete systems have been given to local schools for use in special needs classrooms and to other individuals with disabilities.

The success of the project thus far has prompted plans to continue soliciting computer donations and recycling them to meet others’ educational and independent living needs. However, to keep the project moving, SHARE needs your help. New sponsors are needed to help fund the cost of repair parts and supplies so that we can continue to refurbish and place these systems.

SHARE also is seeking additional donations of computers and related equipment. Especially needed are:
• MS-DOS 286s, 386s and up
• Apples and Macintoshes

Your support will go a long way in helping enrich the lives and learning experiences of others. And as always—many, many thanks for all you do to keep our work alive and thriving!

With much appreciation, SHARE acknowledges the receipt of a grant from the New Bedford Exchange Club to purchase repair parts needed to fix computers through our “recycling” project. Exchange Club Immediate Past President Attorney David E. Russell (left) and President Leonard Poyant (right) recently stopped by the I. H. Schwartz Rehabilitation Center to take a look at one of two systems SHARE placed there through the project. Four-year-old Tyler Wright (front) is one of the many Schwartz students who will enjoy using these new learning tools in the classroom.

Our Gratitude...

goes out to these businesses who have helped support our recycling project with donations of computer equipment:

Adamowski and Adamowski CPA
A. W. Perry
The Big Picture
Center for Human Services
Credence Systems Corporation
Data Translations
EBM
First Federal Savings Bank
Furun Dixon
GTE
Hadley Insurance Agency
Hall Associates
Insurit Agency
John F. Stafford Insurance
Julius Koch USA, Inc.
Kennedy Donovan Center
Lapointe Insurance
M & T Salvage
Mayflower Rehab and Nursing Center
Mediplex
Metropolitan Life Insurance
Micro Ink
M. P. Printing
Narragansett Improvement Company
Neto Insurance
New Bedford Harbor Services
Paquin Insurance
PCI Group
Resendes Insurance
Sippican Ocean Systems
South Shore Cerebral Palsy
Van Heusen
Viveiros Insurance Agency
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
Invites you to bring the Whole Family to...

FALL RIVER AIRPORT DAY

Sunday, October 8, 1995
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Fall River Airport
(Rain Date – Monday, October 9th)

★ MODEL AIRCRAFT
★ RADIO-CONTROLLED AIRCRAFT DEMONSTRATION
★ AIRCRAFT DISPLAYS

See Fall River from the Air!
For only $5, enjoy a plane ride over Fall River. It's a great deal in support of a great cause!

All Proceeds to Benefit The SHARE Foundation

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