WALKERS SET TO "SHARE THE SPIRIT" AT THIRD ANNUAL K. OF C. WALK-A-THON

SHARE supporters will be hitting the road this month — when they turn out for the Third Annual "SHARE the Spirit" Walk-A-Thon sponsored by the Tiverton, Rhode Island Knights of Columbus.

Slated for April 28, the Walk-A-Thon will begin at 9 a.m. when all walkers will set out as a group from the Father Bohr Council K. of C. Home at 28 Fish Road in Tiverton. The route primarily will follow the town’s Main Road. Refreshments will be offered throughout the course of the day — coffee and donuts will be available to walkers before the start of the Walk-A-Thon, and a lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers will be served upon completion of the route.

The Walk-A-Thon promises plenty of prizes for walkers, too. A $50 savings bond will be awarded to the top pledge-getter younger than 11 years old. The top pledge-getter between the ages of 11 and 17 also will receive a $50 savings bond. The two highest pledge-getters over 18 years old will win gift certificates to a local restaurant. And all participants may choose from a Walk-A-Thon hat, mug or T-shirt.

Over the past three years, the Tiverton Knights of Columbus has raised nearly $10,000 to benefit SHARE, with over 200 people participating in the annual fundraisers.

To make this year’s Walk-A-Thon another successful event, more walkers are still needed. Both SHARE and the Tiverton K. of C invite anyone interested in participating to contact them for more information or a walker’s kit.

Call SHARE at (508) 999-8482 or the Knights of Columbus at (401) 624-4924 between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. ■

It was a productive year for SHARE, and one that, hopefully, led to fuller, happier, more productive lives for the many children and adults we served. ■

ANNUAL REPORT 1990: What We’ve Accomplished

After all the phone calls and letters requesting assistance, after all the hours working in the Rehabilitation Engineering Lab — it’s rewarding to look back and see where we’ve been and how far we’ve come. Here is a summary of our 1990 annual report.

Overall, 191 service transactions directly benefited 115 different clients located in 15 different states. SHARE built 50 new systems, and modified or repaired 35 others. We provided evaluation and consulting services to 13 clients, and loaned communication systems (for short-term use) to 14 individuals. Other services ranged from building switches to locating equipment to providing eyewards to tutoring in the use of new equipment.

Although the majority of our work is done for clients with cerebral palsy or ALS, we also have served: clients with muscular dystrophy and cancer; deaf, blind, and deaf/blind individuals; and accident and drowning victims.

Walk-A-Thon chairman Louis Mauano and SHARE client Brett Sorensen look on as Senator Bill Enos signs Brett’s pledge form.
We sadly note the passing of Mr. Isaiah Avila, the "Honorary Mayor" of Fall River's Flint district and an avid SHARE supporter.

Isaiah was a very active fund raiser and spokesperson not only for SHARE, but also for "We Love Children" — the Fall River children's aid organization he helped found.

His generosity and selflessness will inspire us always.

SHARE
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The following are just a few of the systems now under development for SHARE clients.

A scanning remote TV controller for a Middleboro man with cerebral palsy, to enable him to operate his TV from his bed by moving his knee against a switch.

An adaptive computer system for a Providence youth recently graduated from Meeting Street School and now in a special needs classroom in public school.

A computer system for a college student who had an accident with his bicycle and is now paralyzed and unable to use his hands to write.

A large-screen scanning communicator for a woman in Illinois who is non-verbal and visually-impaired that will enable her to speak and write.

A human-sounding, wheelchair-mounted digitized speech system for a 12-year-old boy who is blind and cannot speak.

A new graphics printer for an area boy who is recovering from serious burns sustained in a gasoline fire.

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

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

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

SHARE named three new members to the Board of Directors at its annual Appreciation Banquet this past January.

Joining the board for the 1990/1991 term are Mr. Mark Montigny, President of the Fall River Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Kermit W. Dewey, a Fall River physician; and Dr. Donald J. Mulcare, a professor of Biology at Southeastern Massachusetts University.

A warm welcome to all!

Over 400 clients have been served since the inception of SHARE in 1981.
**PRODUCTS NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH SHARE**

**Wireless Appliance Controller**

A wireless appliance controller enables a disabled person to control a single electrical appliance, such as a lamp, TV, or even a blender.

It works in much the same way that a VCR remote control works, except that the controller can be used with any single switch in the user's environment. For example, it can control a communication system in one room, and a blender in another room. A special advantage of this controller is user safety; because there is no wire between the user and the device being controlled, the user has no contact with the electricity source.

This device can be reproduced by SHARE for approximately $50.

**Scanning Environmental Controller**

A scanning environmental controller allows the user to control as many as eight electrical appliances.

The control unit superimposes supersonic control signals on the building's electrical wiring. These signals are received by wireless control modules attached to the appliance(s) to be controlled. Each of the eight switches on the control unit is programmed to control different appliances in the room or house. The control unit displays eight small red lights, each corresponding to one of the switches.

When the user turns on the controller (it can be controlled by a single switch mounted to a wheelchair, etc.), it scans the eight switches, blinking each corresponding light as it scans. To turn on or off a given appliance, the user must watch the control unit and then hit his switch when the light corresponding to the appliance blinks.

Conventional scanning units on the market require all the appliances to be connected directly to the control unit by wires. With this controller, the user is isolated electronically from both the controller and the appliances.

SHARE expects to be able to duplicate the controller for a few hundred dollars.

**ROM Pack**

The ROM Pack is a converter unit that, when plugged into a regular Radio Shack color computer, turns it into a communications system.

The Pack contains a program that allows the user to scan menus and select words, phrases, etc. by hitting a single switch. A modified version of the ROM Pack enables the user to control a keyboard in order to select from a large array of sentences. It is also programmed to control an attached printer and/or speech synthesizer for output of the user's message.

About the size of a computer game cartridge, the ROM Pack can be easily removed and returned to SHARE for repair or program modification. Before the ROM Pack's development, an individual often needed a specially designed computer system for communicating, and the entire system had to be serviced to repair the equipment or adapt the program. As a safety feature, special circuitry in the Pack isolates the user from both the computer and its electricity source.

The ROM Pack is designed to work with a Radio Shack Color Computer (about $100 at Radio Shack stores) and a speech synthesizer (under $450). The ROM Pack can be duplicated by SHARE for about $200.
SHARE Founders Honored

Les Cory recently was elected Chairman of the Rhode Island Telecommunications Distribution Committee. He also was recognized as a "person of inspiration" in a citation presented by former Mayor of Fall River Carlton Viveiros. In December, he received a Hometown Service Award from the Fall River Chamber of Commerce.

Phil Viall was awarded a "Citation for Outstanding Performance" in November by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In December, Rick Walder, Phil Viall and Les Cory each were presented a "Distinguished Citizen Award" at the Statehouse in Boston.

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ROLLER SKATING PARTY

to Benefit SHARE

Tuesday, April 16, 1991
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Hot Wheels
Nash Road, New Bedford

Admission $2.00 Skate Rental $1.00

For information, call SHARE at (508) 999-8482.

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