SHARE FUN WALK ’95 RAISES $30,000 TO SUPPORT UMD REHAB ENGINEERING CENTER’S WORK

Many thanks to everyone whose energies and talents contributed to the huge success of SHARE Fun Walk 1995, which raised $30,000 to support the work of SHARE and the UMass Dartmouth Rehabilitation Engineering Center! Held on October 22, our annual fall fundraiser drew 350 participants, with 295 individuals taking part in the Walk. The day-long event offered plenty of fun and festivities for everyone, including food, music, entertainment, and a Classic Car Show right here on campus.

Perhaps best of all, it was a wonderful opportunity for SHARE’s many friends to join together to help better the lives of the children and adults the Foundation serves. Our deepest thanks again to each and every one of you for your concern and commitment—we couldn’t do what we do without your unfailing support!

Walkers gather at FunWalk ’95 to enjoy the festivities and fine autumn weather. At right, pals Elizabeth Blom (left) and Sarah Viall decorate the day with their bright smiles.

Ongoing Donor Support Makes SHARE Miracles Possible

Looking back on the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, we at SHARE reflect upon a milestone year of service to disabled adults and children both in our community and across the country.

During that time, the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering provided 140 new clients with high technology services and equipment, while 188 clients received services ranging from equipment repair and modification to professional consultation.

One of the many individuals we assisted was an elderly gentleman who has lost his sight. He lives with his daughter who is deaf, visually impaired and does not speak. Consequently, communication between the two had become nearly impossible. To address the problem, Center volunteers provided them with a pair of interconnected terminals—one with a large screen display for easier viewing and one which

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SHARE Miracles
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produces synthesized speech.
Since establishing the SHARE Foundation in 1981, we have provided services to more than 875 individuals in 36 different states across America. From Massachusetts to Kansas to California, children and adults with disabilities have come to experience new levels of independence and personal achievement through the work of SHARE and the Rehab Engineering Center.
These many years of service could never have been accomplished without the continued support of so many of you who have so graciously shared your skills, time and financial resources for the benefit of others. Although we can never truly express the joy and fulfillment your gifts have brought to our many clients, please know that their lives are fuller, richer, happier because of the generosity you’ve shown.
So once again, we thank you all for your steadfast commitment to SHARE’s mission. Every day, you make miracles possible.

Free Stuff!
These free items are available through SHARE headquarters:
➢ Two motorized wheelchairs for long-term loan
➢ A large quantity of 5-inch high density diskettes (The disks have been recorded once but can be erased and/or reformatted.)
➢ An adult supine stander
➢ Apple IIe computers
For more information, contact SHARE at (508) 999-8482.

Update from the
UMD REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CENTER LAB
Rehab engineer Steve Rowell recently developed a new speech synthesizer for use by nonvocal individuals which offers improved speech quality and significant cost savings over commercially available models.
Previously existing systems generate “speech” through hardware, which can make these units costly. For example, standard speech synthesizers featuring a robotic male voice average about $500, while those with more realistic male or female synthesized voices range from $1,200 to $2,000. Steve’s system utilizes sophisticated software algorithms and a minimal amount of hardware, producing synthesized speech of a more realistic quality without the high unit cost of similar commercial models.
Still in development, the current prototype speaks in a male voice and runs on IBM-compatible systems (286 or higher). With plans to develop a companion model which speaks in a female voice, the Rehab Engineering Center anticipates the advanced technology will make improved speech affordable for many SHARE clients using first and second generation speech systems.

Students Explore Rehabilitation Engineering through New UMD Internship
This semester UMass Dartmouth began offering a new Computer Engineering Internship which exposes students to the specialty of rehabilitation engineering. The six students currently enrolled in the undergraduate course spend six hours each week in the Rehab Engineering Center learning about the field of rehabilitation engineering and working on computer systems to assist SHARE clients.
Professor Les Cory, the Center’s director, notes that with the department receiving three times as many applications for the number of internship spots available this semester, the course clearly is generating strong interest among today’s engineering students. And, just perhaps, the new learning experience will inspire tomorrow’s professionals to pursue high tech careers with a heart for the needs of others.

About Our Memorial Insert
Almost every day throughout the year, SHARE receives special donations with heartstrings attached. They are gifts made in memory of a loved one, in recognition of a person or achievement, or simply in concern and support for the disabled children and adults who vitally need SHARE’s help. This issue’s memorial insert acknowledges the thoughtful contributions SHARE has received during the past year. On behalf of the many individuals who benefit from your kind generosity, we extend our deepest thanks.
Thank You
to all who responded to SHARE’s Annual Appeal

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Computer Recycling Project Gives Back to the Community

January 18, 1996

Dear Professor Cory:

On behalf of the members of the Clubhouse After-School Project at Meeting Street Center, School Program, I’d like to convey our appreciation for the computers, printers, and modems the SHARE Foundation reconditioned and gave to our program.

It is hoped we can return the favor in the future by donating any equipment to SHARE Foundation when no longer needed by Meeting Street.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Robert E. Fricklas, Ph.D.
Vice President/Principal

Since SHARE’s computer recycling project began last year about this time, we have reaped quite a technological harvest thanks to many generous donations of equipment from area businesses and individuals.

In the last six months alone, Rehab Engineering Center volunteers have reconditioned more than 100 computer systems and distributed them to area schools, clubs and nonprofit organizations.

This thank-you letter reflects just some of the many ways these “new” systems are enhancing the learning experiences of children in our communities. On behalf of the many youngsters touched by this project, we’d like to express our deep appreciation to everyone who has supported the program—both donors and volunteers alike.

If you have computer systems and/or related equipment you’d like to donate to our recycling project, please contact SHARE at (508) 999-8482.

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

SHARE is actively seeking volunteers to help support a number of special projects.
We need...

* Individuals with access to a van or truck to pick up equipment donations within a 50-mile radius of SHARE headquarters
* Volunteers with grant writing and fundraising experience
* Golfers (especially foursomes) to take part in the 13th Annual Ben Boyle Golf Classic
* Workers to help organize SHARE Fun Walk 1996

If you’ve got time and talents to spare, call SHARE today at (508) 999-8482!

Les Cory accepts a check from Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club president Dr. Pamela Blodgett and fellow Rotarian Bob Bjorklund, one of the coordinators of the Ben Boyle Golf Classic. Sponsored by the Rotary Club and the Sunday Morning Golfers, the 1995 golf tournament raised more than $3,600 to benefit the SHARE Foundation.
FRIENDS OF FALL RIVER AIRPORT HOLD
HIGH-FLYING FUNDRAISER FOR SHARE

The sky was the limit when the Friends of Fall River Airport held a high-flying fundraiser on October 8 to benefit SHARE. The Fall River Airport was a bustling center of activity, attracting hundreds of people who enjoyed plane rides, a model aircraft display and an aerobatics demonstration. SHARE co-founder Les Cory notes that the line for $5 plane rides over Fall River was 100 people long from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the airport averaging one takeoff or landing every 45 seconds throughout the day.

We’d like to express much gratitude to the Friends of Fall River Airport for all their hard work in sponsoring and organizing the event, which raised $1,700 for SHARE. Our warmest thanks also go out to members of the Old Colony & Fall River Railroad Museum, who sold popcorn during Airport Day and donated the money they raised to support SHARE’s work. And of course, thank you to everyone who stopped by and made the day such a great success!

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