Mark your calendar for the SHARE Foundation's largest fundraiser of the year! You are all invited to the Buttonwood Park Zoo in New Bedford on Saturday, September 28, 2013 for our annual day of fun, food and surprises.

Registration begins at 9:15 a.m. at the zoo and runs through 9:45 a.m. when the doors open for your free admission to visit the animals and enjoy a great time with your entire family.

This year’s Fun Walk around Buttonwood Park will leave from the carousel at 10 a.m. and will be back about 10:45 a.m. Those who prefer to only walk inside the zoo may set their own course and pace. One lap of the outer walkway of the zoo is equal to about a quarter of a mile.

Of course, before you set off, you’ll still get a chance to catch up with familiar faces and enjoy coffee and doughnuts courtesy of Towne Donut Shoppe. When you turn in $50 or more in pledges, you’ll receive a SHARE Fun Walk t-shirt or mug and you’ll also get a ticket for lunch in the zoo cafeteria. If you bring your family, we will provide an extra lunch ticket for every additional $50 you turn in that day.

There’s more! You also will receive a raffle ticket in our gigantic raffle featuring the zoo’s most famous resident, Emily the Elephant. About 12 noon, Emily will once again select the first prize winner. Last year, attendees had a blast watching Emily choose the lucky winner, so you won’t want to miss a minute of the action.

As always, you’ll have the chance to win valuable gift certificates to local restaurants and other local businesses that are generously supporting SHARE in this effort. And bringing in donations of $250 or more will put you into SHARE’s special winners’ circle with more opportunities to win several fine gifts.

To register, please fill out the enclosed registration form or call SHARE at 508-999-8482. If you can’t make it, you can still show your support by sending in a donation or sponsoring a friend. Would you like to be a virtual walker? Visit www.sharefunwalk.kintera.org/2013. Spread the word! We look forward to seeing you there.
Equipment Gives Client Greater Independence

By Susan Gonsalves

The ability to control the television set, make and receive phone calls and communicate with family members when they are in another room are activities that people often take for granted. Elsie Nuss is not one of those people.

Because of multiple sclerosis, Elsie spends most of her time in a bed that is set up in her living room. She is able to move her head slightly as well as her finger and speaks softly. Beverly Thorn, client services coordinator at the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering, reports that after much testing and several trial runs, the CRE provided Elsie with suitable equipment to meet her needs.

For example, using a Voice ME IR device, Elsie can now independently operate her TV set. Voice ME is a commercial device that is controlled by voice. Once it is programmed to recognize specific commands such as “TV Channel Up,” it produces Infrared signals that are identical to the signals that come from a hand-held TV remote control.

Mark Whittaker, the Center’s rehabilitation designer, custom built a device that works with the “Voice ME” system. Mark’s device receives Infrared signals from the Voice ME and converts those signals into switch closures that Mark has interfaced into Elsie’s phone. Now Elsie can control her phone and answer and place calls. With vocal commands, Elsie also can ring a remote doorbell chime for help or call for a family member in another part of the house.

“It’s wonderful,” says Elsie of the setup. “I don’t have to ask other people to change TV channels or raise or lower the volume anymore. And the phone is very handy. Instead of having to go through other people relaying messages, I can talk and do it myself.”

Elsie adds that she is very pleased by the help she received from Center staff members. “It’s been just wonderful. It (the equipment) has made a big difference.”

Readers who would like to know more about the Voice ME can find information online. An early review of the technology may be found at http://www.audioholics.com/universal-remote-reviews/hotech-voice-me-home-control-system-first-look.

Become a Fun Walk Virtual Walker!

Join the Virtual Walk from anywhere without ever leaving your home! Compete for prizes, involve your friends and watch as your totals accumulate, while never setting foot out your door! Anyone who can use a computer can be a virtual walker. It’s easy. Just go to www.sharefunwalk.kintera.org/2013 or send an e-mail to SHARE@umassd.edu, and we will walk you through the registration process and help you to participate.

On the day of the Walk, we will check out your totals online. Remember, you will qualify for the same great incentives and have exactly the same opportunities to win gift certificates and prizes as if you had attended in person.

So, if you can’t make it to the zoo in person, please consider joining us via the Internet. Your participation, whether in person or online, will have the same great effect of helping those who turn to SHARE for assistance.

Congress.Authorizes Tax-free IRA Distributions

If you own an IRA and are older than 70½, you have the option in 2013 to make qualified charitable distributions to organizations such as SHARE from your IRA without the need to declare the distribution as income.

Gifts count toward satisfying the minimum distribution requirement and therefore can reduce the donor’s taxable income. Gifts from an IRA not only reduce taxable income, but also adjusted gross income that can create further tax savings.

Qualified charitable deductions are almost always the best way to handle charitable giving. There is no guarantee that this provision of the tax code will be carried forward to 2014.
More than 1,000 spectators were on hand to take advantage of flea market bargains and breathe in the ambiance of more than 125 classic cars on display at this year’s SHARE Foundation Classic Car Show and Flea Market. Held on August 11 on the UMass Dartmouth campus, the SHARE fundraiser attracted families and classic car buffs alike as they enjoyed the sunny weather, super sales and nostalgic trip through automotive history.

The event’s Touch-A-Truck attraction featured a ladder truck from the Dartmouth Fire Department, which delighted the children who got to climb inside as well as the adults who got to talk with the knowledgeable crew of firefighters who man this powerful machine.

William Raposa of North Dartmouth has good reason to smile. Professor Les Cory selected Will’s orange and black 1963 Chevy II Nova for the 2013 “Professor’s Choice” award.

Each year, Cory selects one of the SHARE Car Show entrants to receive this award, which comes with a “loving cup” trophy. All of the other award winners are selected by car show committee members, following votes by all the entrants. Their selections are made on a point formula based on quality of restoration, presentation and overall condition.

Cory, who admits to no knowledge of classic automobiles, uses a much simpler formula. “I simply ask myself, ‘If they were giving these cars away, which one would I like to take home?’” So far, none of the winners has offered to give him their car.

“I must admit,” Cory said, “I am really partial to ’55 Chevrolets because I used to own one, and to ’65 Mustangs because I always thought I would like one. This year I went with what I thought would be just a fun car to drive.”

“Bill tells me that he has spent months working on the restoration of his Nova,” Cory said, “and his workmanship really shows.”
The following donations were received from March 16, 2013 through August 9, 2013.

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30th Annual Ben Boyle/Ron Kostyla Golf Classic a Classic Success

Generating more than $6,000 to benefit the SHARE Foundation, the 30th Annual Ben Boyle/Ron Kostyla Golf Classic was a great success and brought together 88 golfers, many of whom have played in the benefit tournament since its inception.

“Over the years, the event has raised more than $150,000, all of which has been used to improve the quality of life for scores of disabled individuals,” says Les Cory. “SHARE is deeply indebted to the many dedicated organizers who have worked so hard through the years to make this tournament the terrific success that it has been.”

Our appreciation goes out to Bob Bjorklund, Bill Pimental and the many volunteers who organized and ran the event. Everyone did a super job—from golfers to sponsors Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club and the Sunday Morning Golfers to the folks at the beautiful Richmond Country Club in Hope Valley, RI.

On behalf of all our clients and their families, thank you for your longstanding commitment to SHARE and its mission.

Golfers Cindy Joaquin, Sally Mansour, Lori Horta and Gerry Bertrand gather for a quick shot at the Golf Classic.

Photo by Gregory Germanowski

HELP WANTED
SHARE is seeking a group or an individual volunteer to help organize a spring 2014 event. If interested, please call SHARE at 508-999-8482.