Yankee Magazine to Honor SHARE Volunteer Dick Bushnell for Longstanding Service to Others

Later this spring, one of SHARE's most devoted volunteers will receive special recognition for his work to enhance the quality of life for others when Yankee Magazine presents Dick Bushnell with its Community Partner Barn Raiser Award for his longstanding support of SHARE and its mission. Selected from nominees across New England, Bushnell and six fellow recipients will be honored for their contributions to their local communities at Yankee Magazine's third annual Community Partner Conference and Awards Luncheon on May 11 in Worcester, Mass.

Yankee Magazine is also forwarding Bushnell's nomination to the national Jefferson Awards sponsored by the American Institute for Public Service. Founded by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in 1972, the Jefferson Awards are held in Washington, D.C. each June and are televised nationally.

Bushnell's outstanding history of volunteer service to SHARE's clients made him a natural choice when SHARE was invited by Yankee Magazine to "nominate someone who deserves some extraordinary recognition for making your community a better place for all."

Bushnell came to his avocation at SHARE through his friendship with Les Cory, a fellow member of the Fall River Amateur Radio Club. At a weekly meeting of the group, Cory asked if anyone was available to work as a technical volunteer for SHARE. A retired broadcast engineer, Bushnell was fast to rise to the occasion—by that afternoon he was

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SHARE Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Community Service in 2001

The year 2001 marks the SHARE Foundation's 20th anniversary of providing support to the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering, whose engineers and technicians adapt computer systems that make communication and independent living possible for people with disabilities. Two decades and more than 1,700 clients later, SHARE continues to chart new territory in its quest to enrich the lives and experiences of these children and adults.

As so many of you have witnessed, SHARE has come a long way from its first project—building a computer system that would give one young woman, Linda Texeira, the means to speak for herself for the first time in her life. Among the Foundation's most recent developments is a Demonstration Center at the Rehabilitation Engineering Center's UMass Dartmouth headquarters, where a steady stream of clients has been receiving demonstrations of available applications. Non-speaking clients

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A Publication of the Society for Human Advancement Through Rehabilitation Engineering Foundation, Inc.
New Board Members Welcomed

The SHARE Foundation recently welcomed two new members to its Board of Directors. Dr. Richard Ward, former Dean of the College of Business and Industry at UMass Dartmouth, served on the Foundation’s Development Committee prior to joining the Board. He and his wife Cecilia are longtime supporters of SHARE and its fundraising activities. In fact, the Wards hosted a successful summer cocktail party at their South Dartmouth home to benefit SHARE in 1998.

Jeanne Carrier brings extensive volunteer experience to her new role as a SHARE board member. A dedicated volunteer, she has provided training to individuals, including those with disabilities, to strengthen their computer skills. Most recently, she has been conducting research for SHARE to identify grantmaking foundations which may support SHARE’s capital funding needs.

In 2000, she established the David Roderick Fellowship Fund in honor of her nephew. Proceeds from the endowment fund will be used to support SHARE’s ongoing work.

In her “spare” time, Jeanne is an avid gardener who has earned the nickname “the Daffodil Lady” for the expansive daffodil display that lights up the front yard of her Dartmouth home each spring.

SHARE is proud to welcome its newest board members—we look forward to their ideas, energy and enthusiasm as we work together to advance SHARE’s mission and enrich the lives of those we serve.

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New UMD Rehab Center Staff to Provide Internet Training for Clients

The UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering recently hired two new staff members to provide training to help clients learn to use the Internet effectively. Darryl Murphy and Stephen Goode have begun visiting clients in their own homes to teach them how to navigate the Internet and use it as a resource for a variety of independent living activities.

“The goal is to have clients use the Internet effectively for e-banking, shopping, education, socializing and, ideally, employment,” says Professor Les Cory, the Center’s director.

The training sessions provide Murphy and Goode with the opportunity to evaluate the suitability of computer equipment that has been placed with clients. Through personalized, one-on-one training, they can also ensure that clients are able to use the equipment to its greatest potential based on their individual needs and interests.

Individuals interested in receiving Internet training through the Rehabilitation Engineering Center are invited to call SHARE at 508-999-8482 for more information.

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JOIN OUR TEAM!

SHARE and the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering are seeking to fill the following staff positions to support their mission and ongoing activities:

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

This person will work with the director and staff of the SHARE Foundation to coordinate development activities including fundraising, grant proposal writing, public relations and event planning.

Minimum qualifications:
- Bachelor’s degree; experience in development and grant writing preferred.

REHABILITATION EQUIPMENT DESIGNER

This person will design and fabricate rehabilitation equipment for individuals with disabilities to improve their quality of life and enhance their ability to live independently.

Minimum qualifications:
- High school diploma; demonstrated experience as a professional electronic technician or design engineer; knowledge of and experience in working with non-traditional computer interface devices for use by individuals who lack the ability to employ conventional keyboards and mice. Associate’s degree in engineering or related field preferred.

Candidates interested in applying for either position may forward their resume to the SHARE Foundation or contact SHARE at 508-999-8482 for job descriptions and additional information.
We at SHARE were deeply saddened by the recent news that longtime friend and SHARE supporter Ben Boyle had passed away. But reflecting on his lifelong dedication to the community around him, his irrepressible spirit and citizenship will endure in many hearts always.

"Ben was a friend to the community and a friend to everyone who knew him," remembers SHARE founder Les Cory. "He was a person who always met you with a smile."

A well-known and beloved member of his community, Ben Boyle was the former president of Rhode Island’s Centreville Bank and an active member of the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club. Injuries from an automobile accident left him paralyzed 20 years ago, but there was no stopping the good works that Boyle set in motion. To honor their former golfing buddy, a tight circle of old friends known as the “Sunday Morning Golfers” organized a benefit golf tournament in his name under the direction of SHARE director emeritus Ron Kostyla in 1984.

Because SHARE had provided adaptive equipment and services to Boyle, he returned the favor by asking that proceeds from the “Ben Boyle Golf Classic” be donated to SHARE. A team effort of the Sunday Morning Golfers and the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club, the annual golf tournaments have raised more than $50,000 for SHARE to provide equipment and services to children and adults with disabilities. The 18th Annual Ben Boyle Golf Classic is slated for July 22, 2001.

"In the long run, Ben Boyle did a lot more for us than we ever did for him," says Cory. "He was just an outstanding individual."

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**Thank you from the heart**

to the following individuals and companies who donated raffle prizes to SHARE’s Valentine’s Dance

- Boston Bakery
- Cardoza’s Liquors
- Carter’s Clothing
- Eileen Connor
- John Fernandes Construction
- Dorothy Cox Chocolates
- Fairhaven Chowder House
- Glaser Glass
- Just Another Phoenix
- LePage’s Restaurant
- Not Your Average Joe’s
- Percy’s Place
- Pub 99
- Rapoza’s Greenhouse and Florist
- Reardon Plumbing Supply
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Roy
- Shaw’s
- T. K. O’Malley’s Restaurant
- Uncle Jon’s Coffees
- Wal-Mart
- Kenneth White
- White’s Restaurant

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**Valentine’s Dance Sets Hearts A-Flutter**

SHARE supporters’ hearts were clearly in the right place when they took to the dance floor at the Hawthorne Country Club on February 9th at the second annual Valentine’s Dance to benefit the Foundation. The dance and raffle, co-chaired by Theresa Brum and Shelly Fitzgerald, increased community awareness and support while raising more than $3,000 to support the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering. A heart-y thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the night a success!!
Yankee Magazine Honors Bushnell
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hard at work designing a sip-controlled door opener for a woman who had lost the use of her hands due to multiple sclerosis. Over the next several weeks the unit was designed and built. With the help of her building supervisor, Bushnell then installed the unit for the delighted woman, who was once again able to control access to her front door.

Since that time, he has used his expertise in electronics to build, design, install and maintain numerous one-of-a-kind devices and systems to help improve the quality of life for both children and adults. An East Providence resident, Bushnell has delivered and set up adaptive equipment for clients across the state of Rhode Island. He was instrumental in helping Laddie Holt, one of SHARE’s more illustrious clients, achieve a lifelong quest to communicate and live independently.

Born with cerebral palsy, Holt could not walk, talk or use his hands. When Holt’s mother was no longer able to physically care for him, he moved from his home in Riverside, Rhode Island to Zambarano State Hospital, a long-term care facility. To help Holt communicate, Bushnell and Cory set up a specially adapted talking computer in his room which was controlled by a single foot-operated switch.

Yet Holt longed to move back to Riverside and manage his life independently. With the support of an independent living agency and donations to the SHARE Foundation on his behalf, Holt did indeed return to his beloved hometown, and Bushnell was right by his side throughout the transition. Bushnell helped set up three independent but connected computer systems that enabled Holt to speak, write, use the phone and control electrical devices in his home, allowing him to live independently with only a few hours of morning and evening home care assistance. Holt’s most frequent visitor, Bushnell continually upgraded, tested and maintained this sophisticated and complex array of equipment. There, Holt enjoyed his dream of independent living for several years until his death in 1998.

Although his strengths clearly lie in his technical abilities, Bushnell never hesitates to assist the Foundation whenever an extra hand is needed. He and his wife Barbara are often behind the scenes at SHARE, folding newsletters, manning the popcorn machine at annual Fun Walks, and ensuring that SHARE’s many special events and fundraisers run smoothly.

“SHARE is my number one priority,” says Bushnell. “I don’t feel like I can do enough. I’ve met a lot of wonderful people...I’m hoping [my work] makes a better life for a lot of disabled people.”

SHARE founder Les Cory sums up Bushnell and his dedication to public service in two simple words.

“An unsung hero,” says Cory of the longtime SHARE supporter. “Over the years, Dick has provided invaluable service both to SHARE and to the community. He has enabled us to do things that we could never have done without him. Through his compassion and the creative application of his expertise, he has improved the quality of life for countless disabled people.”

20th Anniversary
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can see how Sentence Typer and SKeys software works, while clients who can’t use a mouse or keyboard can try out the latest in single-switch technology or speech recognition software.

Through its many initiatives, SHARE remains committed to its original mission of “empowering people with disabilities to improve their quality of life through the creative application of technology.” In its long-term strategic plan, SHARE and the Rehabilitation Engineering Center are also looking ahead to ambitious new milestones, including becoming a nationally recognized research center and regional provider of services located in a 20,000-square foot facility at UMass Dartmouth.

Looking back on its 20-year history, SHARE never could have made the remarkable strides it has accomplished without the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of countless individuals and groups who have supported its every endeavor. For the unfailing generosity and kindness our friends, clients, colleagues and neighbors have shown, we extend our humblest gratitude. With your continued support, we look forward to working together to achieve a single, heartfelt goal—to help children and adults with disabilities find a way to their dreams.

IN MEMORY

SHARE would like to honor two clients who recently passed away. Charlyne Lipis, founder of the Fall River Multiple Sclerosis Support Group, died last July after a long battle with multiple sclerosis. A SHARE client since 1990, Charlyne requested that upon her death donations be made to SHARE in lieu of flowers.

A SHARE client since 1989, Allan Smith did not let his ALS stop him from advocating for individuals with disabilities. He will be remembered as an activist for his empassioned campaign against the closing of the long-term care residence at Lakeville Hospital, where he had lived much of his life.

We at SHARE extend our sympathy to the families and friends of Allan and Charlyne. They will be missed and remembered always.
Thank You

Thank you to the many supporters who have donated to SHARE over the past few months. Your generous gifts are making it possible for us to provide the opportunity for independent communication to more children and adults with disabilities.

The following donations were received between July 15, 2000 and February 26, 2001.

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Donations received after
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acknowledged in the next
issue of SHARE Notes.
Center for Rehabilitation Engineering Wraps Up Another Record Year

Looking back on fiscal year 2000, we are pleased to report that the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering surpassed its record for service delivery once again. In FY 2000, the Center provided 481 service transactions for people with disabilities, an increase of 100 transactions over FY 1999. The Center placed 187 new systems with clients, and 152 new clients received services throughout the year. The number of system modifications, equipment repairs and client evaluations also increased over the previous year’s totals.

We at SHARE and the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering are truly thrilled to have had the resources to make this record year possible. Yet we cannot look at these accomplishments without recognizing the generosity of our many friends and supporters, whose contributions have allowed us to provide the level of service we celebrate today. Every day, our work is touched by your special gifts of time, talent, energy, equipment and fiscal support. On behalf of the many children and adults who are enjoying the enrichment and independence these services provide, we extend our deepest appreciation.

WELLSPRING FARM, LLC

Wellspring Farm, LLC is a seven-acre facility offering a unique learning experience to children with disabilities. Set in rural Rochester, Mass., the Victorian farm helps youngsters build their self-esteem and coordination through relating to and caring for horses. Any organization or individual may refer children to Wellspring Farm, LLC to participate in a program of care, communication and a variety of therapeutic experiences with horses.

For more information about the program, contact Holly and Jim Vogel at 508-763-5896.

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