One Person Can Impact the Lives of Many

One person truly can make a difference. That’s a sentiment that often gets thrown around, but here at the SHARE Foundation, we see evidence it’s true.

A generous gift from Attorney Donald Zeman, formerly of New Bedford, and his wife Gloria have significantly changed the lives of several children. In total, Mr. Zeman’s donation enabled SHARE to purchase three touch screens, four adaptive switches, five switch-adapted mice, and four specially designed software communication packages called Speaking Dynamically Pro.

SHARE provided the children with the computer systems with which these vital tools work to “open up the world” for them.

But what does that all mean? For “Mike,” who is five and cannot speak, it means that he has access to communication and preschool educational software. Mike has a rare genetic disorder that has resulted in growth, muscular, physical, and cognitive difficulties. He will be able to learn words using graphics to identify objects such as animals, toys, or a glass of milk.

“John” is also five years old and cannot speak. A metabolic disorder means that John has difficulty with muscle coordination and balance. Visual impairment issues present additional challenges.

Five-year-old Peter (pictured above), has cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and a seizure disorder, and cannot speak. He will be using early learning educational software and communication software on his computer at home.

Both “Donny,” age 3 1/2, and “Alice,” age five, have Down’s Syndrome, are nonverbal, and face a host of other delays.

With the help of several therapists and their new equipment, all of the children described above are taking the initial steps to achieve the gift of communication and a better quality of life.

“One person’s generosity has impacted the lives of these children who cannot communicate,” said Beverly Thorn, client services coordinator at the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering. “Not being able to communicate affects your entire outlook. Imagine not being able to tell a joke or ask for a glass of milk. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Zeman for thinking of SHARE. His help will change these children’s lives!”

Photo by Tom Meggison
Remembering Jamie Shepley, Jr.

It is with great sadness that we note the January passing of James "Jamie" Shepley, Jr., age 47, of Mattapoisett. Jamie was a long-time friend and supporter of SHARE.

Jamie was the first of SHARE's clients to control a computer using only his voice. Not only did this technology (which was very new in 1984) enable Jamie to learn about computers, it enabled him to become employed as a data entry operator, something that would have been impossible if not for that technology.

As Jamie learned more and more about computers (his daughter Katie called him a “whiz”), SHARE learned more and more about how people who lacked the use of their hands could make effective use of computer technology through speech recognition hardware and software. We derived as much from working with Jamie as he did from working with SHARE.

One of SHARE's most active clients, Jamie and his family members were familiar faces who participated in our fall Fun Walks. He helped to spread the word about our organization, and his fundraising efforts helped to ensure that we had the resources to make a difference in the lives of others with spinal cord injuries and other conditions.

Jamie was vice president of the Spinal Cord Society of S. E. Massachusetts and organized their annual fundraiser at Mattapoisett's Harbor Days. He was a member of the Mattapoisett Congregational Church and had been employed by Sippican Ocean Systems.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends.

Jamie Shepley and Professor Les Cory enjoy a moment together.

Goulet Scholarship Awarded to Kirsten Woodfield

Readers of SHARE Notes may recall a photo and story about Gilbert Goulet, of Westport, who presented the SHARE Foundation with a $15,000 check to establish The Lucie and Lorraine Goulet Memorial Fellowship Fund. Mr. Goulet honored the memories of two women he loved—his first wife Lorraine, who passed away in 1995, and his second wife Lucie, who died unexpectedly in 2005—with this special memorial gift.

Accrued interest from Mr. Goulet's donation and a University of Massachusetts Foundation matching gift of $7,500 is funding a scholarship for freshman Kirsten A. Woodfield, of Westfield, New Jersey.

In March, Kirsten began working at the SHARE Foundation on a special project in collaboration with Client Services Coordinator Beverly Thorn. Kirsten, a computer engineering major, will be working on a project that involves creating a single switch software package for people with developmental disabilities.
SHARE’s Clients Need Your Help During Bleak Times

During this time of national economic turmoil, unfortunately those most in need often get left further behind. Or rather, the people with disabilities who need SHARE’s help are the ones that suffer the consequences.

Please don’t let your favorite charities become victimized by the country’s woes. The bleak economy is tough on everyone—both emotionally and physically. But it’s time to put things in perspective. Stop and think a moment about what your life would be like if you could not speak, use your hands, see, walk, or enjoy the simple things you do each day and take for granted.

For the people assisted by the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering, those conditions are their realities.

That’s why we need your support more than ever. Your gift, no matter how large or small, is very important to us. On behalf of all SHARE’s clients, thank you!

Poker Tournaments Raise Funds for SHARE

More than 100 civic-minded individuals played their cards right by participating in two Texas Hold ’Em poker nights to benefit SHARE. The events, part of the Eastern Poker Charity Tournaments Tour, were held in Attleboro and Fall River, and raised approximately $3,000. Raffles and food sales run by SHARE volunteers helped to make both daylong fundraisers a success.

Said SHARE President Lester W. Cory, “It was great to see so many card players having fun while helping SHARE to help others. Congratulations to the many winners of the two events.”

WIN $5,000!!!

On Sunday, August 9, 2009 at 3 pm, the SHARE Foundation at UMass Dartmouth will drop 3,000 numbered golf balls from a HELICOPTER over the UMass Dartmouth Track. There will be a stake in the ground near the center of the field. The balls that settle nearest to the stake will win. Tickets dated May 13th are valid for August 9th.

First Prize $5,000*
Second Prize $1,000*
Third Prize $500*

Buy a Ball Today for only $10.
Proceeds will benefit the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering that provides adaptive equipment and services for people who are disabled. See us online at www.share.umassd.edu

To buy a ball, call 508-999-8482 or email SHARE@umassd.edu or mail $10 for each ball to:
SHARE Foundation
UMass Dartmouth
285 Old Westport Rd.
N. Dartmouth MA 02747

*In the event of a tie, the prize money will be split. In the event that several balls are clustered so near the stake that no clear winner can be determined, the judges will randomly choose prize winning balls from among those nearest to the stake. If fewer than 3,000 balls are sold, the prizes will be reduced by the fraction of balls not sold, but the odds of winning will be increased. Unsold balls will be disqualified. All prizes will be awarded. Buyers agree to abide by the decision of the judges.

THE SHARE FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK J & J Technologies in Wareham for its generous donation and assembly of a “Do It All” multi-function board, valued in excess of $1,100. Mark Whittaker (right), the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering’s rehabilitation designer, is shown with Jack McNally, vice president, and Jim Ayars, president of the community-minded business.

(Photo by D Confar/UMass Dartmouth)
WITH OUR THANKS

We extend our gratitude 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 from September 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009.

THANKS TO
Mary G. Adams
Elizabeth A. Alcock
Dr. & Mrs. William R. Allen
Richard S. Anderson
Jean Paul Arteaga
Ashley Ford Sales, Inc.
Joanne E. Augusto
Rita L. Baker
Judith A. Barrowclough
Mr. & Mrs. George L. Bartisch
Col. & Mrs. John W. Baxter
Thelma Baxter
Debbie Belanger
Mr. & Mrs. Noel Berg
Elinor Bettencourt
Susan Blom
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Boerth
Jane K. Booth
Elizabeth Bowen
Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Branco
Kevin & Gerald Buckley
Elizabeth W. Bullock
Cornelia Burr-Tarrant
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bushnell
Col. & Mrs. William F. Carroll, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cote
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Costa
Mrs. Thomas Cory
Dr. & Mrs. Lester W. Cory
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cory
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cote
Annie Cowell
Suzanne Dagesse
Alisa A. D’Agostino
Thomas Daigle
Edith D. Denney
Robert & Mary Dennis
Steven De Rossi
Melody A. Dion
Judith A. Doherty
Robert & Shirley Dufresne
David Stephen English
Lee & Jan Estes
Dr. & Mrs. Gilbert Fain
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Ferguson
David Filipek
First Citizens’ Federal Credit Union
Elaine Fisher
Mrs. George Fletcher
Catherine A. Fortier-Barnes
David & Lisa Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Freeman
Margaret M. Gaffney
Peter Gagnon
Beverly Galipeau
Mr. & Mrs. William Glaser
Mr. & Mrs. James Gomes, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. John W. Gray
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hallock
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hamel
Ralph E. Hanson
Claire I. Hartley
James Healey
Lisa & Walter Hermeneau
William Hogan
Mr. & Mrs. William Holen
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hurley
Vernon Ingraham
Mario G. Jeronimo
Norma J. Judson
Maureen F. Kiley
Gerard M. Koot
William Lapointe
Joyce M. LeBlanc
Kevin Lehy
Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. Lemieux
Joseph R. B. Levesque
Michelle Levesque
Mr. & Mrs. Fred M. Levin
Verena L. Lisinski
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Lord
Keith Mackenzie
Mr. & Mrs. William Makepeace
Dr. John E. Manning
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Martino
Julie Maty
Mr. & Mrs. Michael F. McKenna
Cecilia E. Medeiros
Edward M. Mello
Mary Mellor
Edward Metivier
Mr. & Mrs. Mark F. Mooney
Mr. & Mrs. Nicolaio Mucciardi
James P. Mullins
Charlie Murphy
F. Lee Nason
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Nicolau
Christopher & Janice Nolan
Paul A. Nolin
Al & Carol Novo
Mr. & Mrs. Duncan Olding
Rita H. O’Neill
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ouellette
Peter V. Owens
Manuel J. & Kathleen Pacheco
Lisa Paradis
Palmira Pereira
Edward A. Peters
Mary Joyce Phillips
Betty Prescott
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Proulx
Eric & Nancy Quintin
Gayle A. Raposa
Dr. Mary Ellen Reilly
Paul E. & Claire Remy
Mary Rice
Stephen G. Rodkey
Tracy & Stuart Robinson
Dorothy & Bill Ryan
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sands
Mr. & Mrs. Normand Savoie
David S. Schell
Bruce Shlager
Eileen Sebastiao
Andrew Shepley
Mr. & Mrs. James Shepley
Rekha Singh
Mrs. Robert W. Small
Linda Smith
Kari Star
Arthur St. Pierre
Peter & Cathy Sullivan
Alfred Texeira
Charlotte Thomas
Prof. & Mrs. Howard C. Tinkham
Jean & Russ Tupper
James D. Uberti
Alan Venturato
Madeline Vreeland
Alison M. Wade
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Walton
Jay P. Warden
Stewart P. Washburn
Helen Westergard
Cecilia C. Whipp
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Whitehouse
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Whittle
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie J. Wilson
Elizabeth Winiarz
Edward B. Wikowicz
Dawn M. Woodhead
Dr. & Mrs. Chang Ning Wu
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zeman
Mr. & Mrs. Gary E. Zeller
Vic & Marge Zeller
Dr. & Mrs. Max Zurlueh
SPECIAL THANKS TO
Kevin Aguiar
Richard C. Almeida
Andrew Augustine
The Ayres Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Baxter
Margaret M. Bellucci
Roy & Mrs. David G. Berube
Dr. Martin Bide
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bixby
25th Annual Ben Boyle Golf Classic Tournament
Susan Blom
Dr. & Mrs. John R. Brazil
Theresa A. Brum
William Brum
Dr. Claire T. Carney
Catherine Mary Cetta
Marcia Chisholm
Chilikman Chocolates
Christ Church Cambridge
Mr. & Mrs. William Cory
Mr. & Mrs. James D’Agostino
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Douglass
David Stephen English
Dr. & Mrs. Gilbert Fain
Fall River Municipal Credit Union
First Baptist Church of Lexington
Margaret M. Gaffney
Barbara P. Gaffron
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Galib
John L. Gannon
Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. Gilmore
Prof. James T. Griffith
Janet S. Hadley
Mrs. Bradford Hastings
Charles & Iana Hutchins
Irish Restaurant Company, Inc.
Judge & Mrs. George Jacobs
Leif D. Jacobsen
Richard E. Jussuume
Kathleen Keay
Dr. Wolfhard G. Kern
Kindred Rehab Hospital
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kurtz, Jr.
Mrs. Robert E. Larson
Betsy Leclair
Prof. Susan J. Leclair
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin H. Levine
Lockheed Martin Sippican, Inc.
Dr. Jean MacCormack
Vernon & Elizabeth Mace
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Manchester
Prof. Janice Mckeachern
William & Jean Mahavier
Dr. G.K. Maravelas
Mr. & Mrs. Sid Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Leonid Moniz
Donald G. Neville
Mr. & Mrs. Franklyn B. Neville
Robert A. Neville
NSTAR Electric & Gas Corp.
Drs. Richard & Carolyn Panosky
Tom Papson
Mr. & Mrs. Richard F. Partridge
Dr. & Mrs. Louis Petrovic
Geraldine M. Phipps
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald J. Pietruska
Dr. & Mrs. Paul A. Raymond
D.D.S., PC.
Reginald & Claire Remyi
Leslie K. Rosenfeld
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rosenfeld
Ken & Jean Scarborough
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Schuyler
The Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Shettle
Toby Singer
Linda Smith
Wayne & Priscilla Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sousa, Jr.
Sovereign Bank
Greg & Brenda Stone
The MathWorks, Inc.
Charles R. Tupper
United Congregational Church
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Warren
H. Lawrence Webb
Wild About Beads LLC
Gregory S. Wolf

IN MEMORY OF
Bart Albert
Alber LePage
Deborah Amaral
Ruth Robert
Donald J. Amaral
Linda A. Amaral
Arthur F. Anderson
Richard S. Anderson

4
IRA Rollover Provision is Extended

The IRA rollover provision (within the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act) has been extended for 2009. It allows individuals age 70 1/2 years or older to make charitable contributions (up to $100,000) directly from their IRA without having to claim the distribution as taxable federal income. Additionally, this distribution counts toward an IRA owner’s mandatory withdrawal amount. For all gift and planning matters, contact your legal or tax advisor for advice.