

# **The AT Messenger... Bringing Technology to You**

Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI)  
Volume 9, No. 2 \* Spring 2001

Inside this issue - Local Resources

## **We Need to Hear From You**

Beth Mineo Mollica, DATI Director

The Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI) offers many products and services that help Delawareans find and acquire the tools that they need to get the most out of life. We provide training and technical assistance, operate Assistive Technology (AT) Resource Centers, offer equipment demonstrations and short-term equipment loans, help people find resources to pay for AT devices and services, and advocate for the adoption of more consumer-responsive policies and practices.

Every so often, we like to touch base with our "customers"-- the individuals, families, agencies, and service providers who rely on DATI-- to make sure that our products and services are meeting their needs.

### **A Very Important Feedback Tool**

In the center of this issue of The AT Messenger, you'll find a white questionnaire. It contains questions about your familiarity and satisfaction with a number of DATI products and services. It also asks about your interest in some new initiatives that we will pursue if interest is sufficiently strong.

### **DATI at a Crossroads**

DATI is at a crossroads in many respects. Our federal funding has been reduced by half, and we must look to new sources of support to carry on with our full array of activities. Now would be a good time for us to eliminate services that are not in high demand.

On the other hand, if your feedback tells us that we shouldn't disrupt services-and perhaps that we even need to expand certain services or initiate

new ones--we can use this information as we appeal to state and private funders for financial support.

Please take the time to share your opinions with us. We learned last November that every vote counts... I assure you that your input will help to shape the ways in which DATI responds to your needs in the coming years.

### **SURVEY ATTACHED**

PLEASE share your thoughts using the survey inside this issue of The AT Messenger! It should only take a few minutes, and we'll pay the return postage!

Your opinion matters.

### **New Early Intervention Training Series**

This spring, DATI will launch its newest training series: Assistive Technology: Supporting the Development and Independence of Young Children with Disabilities. The series is designed to increase the awareness and skills of parents and service providers about the many ways that AT can help young children develop and use motor, cognitive, and communication skills. It also addresses the rules and regulations governing access to AT devices and services and the funding needed to pay for them.

Module I is a full-day training titled The Contribution of AT to Motor, Cognitive and Communication Development. Co-presented by Nancy Ranalli and Dick Lytton, Module I will provide an overview of developmental progressions in relation to gross motor, visual-motor, fine motor, social and language skills, and demonstrate ways that AT can be used to enhance skill development. The focus will be on incorporation of AT into a child's daily routine, including early literacy experiences. The session will conclude with a discussion of strategies for obtaining equipment for trial use and personal ownership.

Module II, titled Computer-Assisted Learning, is a morning training in which Dick Lytton will discuss and demonstrate devices that enable youngsters to access and control early learning software. Devices such as alternative keyboards, touch screens, trackballs and other mouse alternatives will be

included. Computer software that enhances early learning of visual, language, cognitive, and social skills will be demonstrated.

Module III, Funding for AT Equipment and Services, will be held on the same day as Module II, but in the afternoon. In this training, Beth Mineo Mollica will review the funding systems that cover equipment and services for young children and strategies for optimizing success in accessing funds through these systems. The session will also address transition from the Birth to Three Program to the education system, and will provide tips on being an effective advocate for children who need AT.

The schedule and locations of trainings are listed below. Participants need not register for all three modules—simply select those that address your interests and needs. The financial sponsorship of the Delaware Birth to Three Early Intervention System makes it possible for DATI to bring you these trainings free of charge. Space is limited, so if you are interested, contact the DATI Central Site at (302) 651-6790 for additional information and a registration form.

### **Module I**

April 24 - 8:30-3:30 at duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington

May 3 - 8:30-3:30 at Delaware Division of Libraries, Dover

May 8 - 8:30-3:30 at Del Tech, Georgetown

### **Module II**

May 17 - 8:30-11:30 at duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington

May 21 - 8:30-11:30 at Milford Public Library, Milford

### **Module III**

May 17 - 12:30-3:30 at duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington

May 21 - 12:30-3:30 at Milford Public Library, Milford

## **Consumers Rally Support for Attendant Services Bill**

By Brian J. Hartman, Esq., Project Director, Disabilities Law Program

With the enthusiastic backing of consumer organizations, the "Community-based Attendant Services Act" is gaining lots of attention in Delaware's Legislature. Introduced on January 18, 2001 as House Bill No. 30, the bill enjoys broad bipartisan support. Apart from its prime sponsors, Rep. Pamela

Maier (R- Drummond Hill) and Sen. Patricia Blevins (D-Elsmere), it enjoys the sponsorship of 17 senators and representatives. (Footnote1)

By unanimous vote, the bill cleared the House Health & Human Development Committee on January 24. The Committee noted the written endorsements of several State councils and consumer organizations. (Footnote 2) Several advocates and consumers personally attended the Committee hearing to urge Committee approval.

## **Background**

### **Federal Level**

The introduction of H.B. No. 30 reflects a national trend to promote attendant services. Last year Federal legislation was pending in both the House and Senate to enhance consumer access to such supports. The Medicaid Community Attendant Services and Supports Act ("MiCASSA") received endorsements from more than 72 national organizations, including such diverse groups as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and National Council on the Aging. (Footnote 3) Although not enacted, reintroduction in the current Congress is expected in 2001.

Federal agencies are actively encouraging states to expand the availability of attendant services. In 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a landmark decision characterizing unnecessary institutionalization as illegal under the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Footnote 4) Using Olmstead as a springboard, several Federal initiatives are being promoted to help states provide community-based services, including attendant care. On January 10, 2001, the Federal Government announced the availability of a promising grant program, "Community-Based Attendant Services with Individual Control." (Footnote 5) Grants between \$150,000 and \$1,000,000 will be available to states by September, 2001 for a host of activities to enhance the availability of attendant services.

### **State Level**

Within Delaware, H.B. No. 30 is the product of years of research and collaboration. In 1998, the Disabilities Law Program (DLP) joined with three agencies to address the chronic lack of attendant services in the state. (Footnote 6) The University of Delaware obtained consumer input through forums and interviews. The DLP researched laws in all 50 states, issued a summary report, and drafted model legislation in 1999. After input from State

government agencies, the bill was introduced in the Spring of 2000 as H.B. No. 485. Unfortunately, uncertainty over funding prevented action on the bill.

### **Features**

If enacted, the current bill would establish a statewide attendant services program open to persons with severe, long-term disabilities. The program would be operated by the Department of Health & Social Services.

Attendants could assist consumers in several contexts--eating, dressing, personal hygiene, shopping, and vocational activities. Recognizing the increasing role of technology, the bill explicitly authorizes assistance with medical equipment, devices and assistive technology. For example, transfers to and from wheelchairs and vehicles is covered.

The program stresses consumer choice and independence. Participants would enjoy the option of hiring and supervising their attendants. Individual service plans would tailor the services to meet the unique needs of participants. For safety, attendants would undergo a criminal background check.

### **Funding**

Although broad in authorized scope, the new program would be implemented within the limits of actual funding. The sponsors hope that the Legislature will approve start-up funds to cover at least 50 individuals. To stretch dollars and promote equity, the Department would adopt an income-based sliding fee schedule. In the long-run, the program may eventually save money. The average cost of a nursing home stay is \$55,845 per year. (Footnote 7) In contrast, the Department projects an annual per person cost of only \$13,500-\$15,000 per year for attendant services. Finally, the bill mandates the Department and its advisory council to seek other sources of funding. Given the prospect of multiple Federal funding initiatives, Delaware could better compete for grants by adopting model enabling legislation.

### **Conclusion**

Enactment of H.B. No. 30 is a top priority among Delawareans with disabilities. The bill enjoys wide grassroots support, reduces unnecessary institutional placements, and is cost-effective. Consumers hope that legislative approval will let Delaware "hit the ground running" in competition for Federal grants.

### **Footnotes**

### **Number 1**

Upon introduction, co-sponsors included Sens. Cloutier, Henry, and Winslow; and Reps. Boulden, Buckworth, Carey, Cathcart, DiPinto, Hudson, Keeley, Lofink, Smith, Spence, Stone, Ulbrich, Viola, and Wagner.

### **Number 2**

The Committee report reflects the endorsements of the following organizations: Easter Seals; the Developmental Disabilities Council; the Governor's Advisory Council for Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities; the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens; Independent Resources, Inc.; the National MS Society/DE Chapter; and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities.

### **Number 3**

The list of endorsing agencies is compiled on the Web at [www.adapt.org/casa/supporters.htm](http://www.adapt.org/casa/supporters.htm).

### **Number 4**

In *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 119 S.Ct. 2176 (1999), the U.S. Supreme Court held that states must administer their services, programs, and activities "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities."

### **Number 5**

HCFA, *Olmstead Update No. 5* (January 10, 2001), reprinted at [www.protectionandadvocacy.com/HHSOlmsteadletter51.htm](http://www.protectionandadvocacy.com/HHSOlmsteadletter51.htm).

### **Number 6**

The Developmental Disabilities Council provided funding for a consumer needs assessment, research, and development of legislation. The State Council for Persons with Disabilities organized projects. The University of Delaware provided technical assistance and arranged consumer forums.

### **Number 7**

These figures are based on a national study conducted by MetLife Mature Market Institute, an arm of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. The results were published in the August 21, 2000 Delaware News Journal, at D2.

## **For More Information on Topics Covered in this Issue of “The AT Messenger”**

National Center on Physical Activity and Disability offers Fact Sheets on:

### **Horseback Riding**

Includes information on therapeutic riding, Hippotherapy, competitions for riders with disabilities and therapeutic riding equipment. See <http://www.ncpad.org/Factshthtml/HorseRiding.htm>

### **Access to Swimming Pools**

Includes information on recreational swimming, competitive swimming, equipment suppliers, and swim and sport organizations. See <http://www.ncpad.org/Factshthtml/Swimming.htm>

Includes information on swimming pool lifts and other access to pools. See <http://www.ncpad.org/Factshthtml/SwimPoolslift.htm>

## **One Family's Story: Horseback Riding is Fun and Therapeutic** by Debbie Schiber and Haley Schiber

Have you ever wondered whether or not a person with a disability could ride a horse?

Our four-year-old daughter Haley rides a horse at a therapeutic horse farm called The Farm of Dreams in Smyrna, DE. She has challenges with walking and talking, but oh, how she loves to ride a horse! She has been riding for over a year now and has developed an unmistakable bond with her horse Crystal. When she first started riding, she was given a piece of Crystal's mane to take home to touch and smell. She and the mane were inseparable.

When we arrive at the farm, she greets Crystal by grooming her with a special brush. This helps Haley practice eye-hand coordination. Once Crystal is ready, she mounts with the assistance of three volunteers, one in the front to lead and two side walkers. Within minutes of mounting Crystal, Haley lights up like a Christmas tree and sits straight up and smiles as if she has just been handed a lollipop. She rides in various positions to receive feedback from Crystal's muscles into hers. Almost immediately, Haley

relaxes easing spasticity in her muscles. Crystal's movements promote balance, coordination and a feeling of centeredness. We can actually see Haley right herself when she feels like she is slipping or when she goes over a bump in the ground. We play her favorite music on a tape player and hold it up high to promote straight posture and visual attentiveness. When walking around the track, we stop at a pole and play a ring game by placing a roll of tape over the pole and watching it slide down. After about an hour, including prep time, we dismount and follow Crystal back into the stall. Haley feeds Crystal an apple and says bye-bye with a hand gesture.

What child wouldn't love a time like Crystal gives Haley? A time to build lasting friendships and dream the impossible dream; a time when you can build your confidence and soar like you never have before, all the while working your muscles without realizing it.

Can a person with a disability ride a horse? You can stop wondering because-in case I haven't mentioned it-Haley happens to have moderate to severe Cerebral Palsy, yet is the only member of our family who rides! Haley's determination allows her to do things we only dream of. "The sky is the limit" is her motto. Let it be yours too. Find out about therapeutic riding and experience the gift Haley receives from one of God's creatures: the gift of mobility, balance, coordination, posture, friendship, nurturing, self-control, love, self-esteem, exercise, enjoyment, and, most importantly, a sense of accomplishment.

### **Where can I ride in Delaware?**

#### **Farm of Dreams**

2352 S. DuPont Highway

Smyrna, DE 19977

Linda Kellner (302) 653-6731

The Farm of Dreams allows people with disabilities to experience horseback riding through an individualized training program. Family Day on the Farm is May 12, 2001 (raindate: May 19), 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Family Day will feature carriage rides, pony rides, a petting zoo, and more. You can also arrange for a personal tour.

## **Southern Delaware Therapeutic and Recreational Horseback Riding, Inc.**

RD 1, Box 233 A

Lewes, DE 19958

Katarina Burroughs (302) 645-2780

Since 1988, SDTRHR has shared its farm, pets, and horses with children and adults with special needs. They offer carefully planned sessions in equine-assisted therapy.

## **Water, Water, Everywhere: Recreation in Delaware**

by Dan Fendler, AT Specialist, Kent and Sussex County ATRCs

Summer is just around the corner. To get some relief from the heat, many folks flock to the water. Delaware has a few local resources available to help all people enjoy water-based recreation activities. Here are a few ideas on how to get ready for summer and get into the swim of things.

### **Y Not?**

By the time this issue of The AT Messenger hits the streets, the days will be warmer, but it won't exactly be swimming weather. But you can still explore the benefits of aquatic programs by visiting your local YMCA.

The YMCAs throughout the state have a number of programs available, including several designed for people with arthritis. The programs are designed to maintain and promote joint mobility and promote a sense of well being. The activities at each location change periodically, so check with your local branch for a complete and current listing.

To take advantage of most of the YMCA's programs, you must be a member. However, a scholarship program is available to help subsidize membership and/or program fees for those who demonstrate financial need. Check with your local branch for details.

One exception to the fee-based programs is an aquatic based class offered to those who have Multiple Sclerosis. These are free classes sponsored by the National MS Society. Check with the Y nearest you to inquire about the program.

If you don't like to get wet, you can inquire about several alternative programs available for people who use wheelchairs. One program offered at the Dover center is You May be Seated, which includes exercises for strength and flexibility done seated or standing. The staff I spoke to at the different locations all seem dedicated to offering programs that meet the needs of the entire community. If you have any questions, give them a call.

### **Killens Pond Water Park**

Located in the heart of Delaware, and part of the Delaware State Park system, is the Killens Pond Water Park. A relatively new addition to the park, the innovative design includes a zero-depth entrance, making it ideal for those on wheels. A zero-depth entrance means that the concrete apron gently slopes down so that bathers can wheel right into the water and escape the heat. The pool also has handrails along one side of the sloped entrance to help those who are mobile but need rails to assist with balance.

Once in the water, there are several water attractions that will help make the experience more fun (or get you more wet, depending on your perspective). There's a giant mushroom shaped fountain, and several unusually shaped water "fountains" which look like a lot of fun. To see some in season pictures of the pool and water features, check out the Delaware Parks website at [www.destateparks.com/kpsp/watrpark.htm](http://www.destateparks.com/kpsp/watrpark.htm). Lap lanes are available for the accomplished swimmer.

There is also a smaller zero-depth entrance pool available for the younger swimmers. It features two frog slides and two shooting ground fountains.

To date, Killens Pond Water Park has had no summer water programs. According to the Park Interpreter, Angela Wood, there are several programs planned for this summer. While none of the programs are specifically designed for those with special needs, all are welcome. If you have any questions about the specific programs planned, give park officials a call at 302-284-4526. Everyone I spoke to at Killens Pond seems committed to keeping the park accessible to everyone.

Those of you in New Castle County will have to travel below the canal to check out the Water Park. Good news for Sussex county: there are plans in the works to build a similar water park at Trap Pond State Park.

### **Assistive Technology for Swimming**

Access to water can be made easier with the right equipment. There are a variety of floatation devices available for people with special needs. Several different types of floats accommodate people of varying abilities. Access to Recreation is a great place to start looking. Their website is [www.accesstorecreation.com](http://www.accesstorecreation.com), or you can get a copy of their catalog by calling 800-634-4351.

Zero clearance pools are great. One note of caution: before you roll your manual chair in the water, you may want to check to see if it is designed to get wet. Check with your chair manufacturer. There are some chairs that are designed to be used in the water. One such chair is the Polymedic Pool Wheelchair available through Achievable Concepts. Their website is [www.achievableconcepts.com](http://www.achievableconcepts.com).

As always, if you have any questions about any area of Assistive Technology, give your local ATRC a call.

### **New Accessible Tables Make Pap Smears, Cervical Exams Easier for Women with Physical Disabilities**

Special examination tables that make it easier for women with physical disabilities to get potentially life-saving Pap smears and cervical exams are now available in four locations around the state, courtesy of Screening for Life, the breast and cervical cancer prevention program of the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH). The exam tables lower to 20 inches above the floor, making it easier for patients who use wheelchairs or walkers or face difficulties getting onto standard exam tables.

Four of the tables, which cost about \$6,000 each, were installed late last fall at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Nanticoke Hospital Clinic in Georgetown, and two private doctors' offices in Dover. The locations were chosen based on the number of women with disabilities living in the vicinity. Screening for Life plans to order two more tables in the near future.

Delaware's Screening for Life program provides payment for eligible women to have breast and cervical cancer tests. For more information about the accessible tables or for help getting an appointment at one of the equipped

healthcare facilities, call the Delaware HelpLine at 800-464-HELP and ask for Screening for Life.

## **Local Resources: Training, Events, & Services in Our Area**

### **For Home Modifications and Accessible Housing Construction**

Steve Tull of Tull & Tull Construction Consultants offers project management and progressive designs for accessible homes. Contact him at 302-629-3448.

### **For Training in AAC**

Working with Kinesthetic & Perceptual Development: New Findings for Communication with People on the Autistic Spectrum

Friday, March 30, 2001, 8:00 am-4:30 pm

duPont Hospital for Children

Presented by: Lynn Sweeny, M.A., CCC-SLP

For more information, contact Dick Lytton at 302-651-5621 or rlytton@nemours.org.

### **CAMA Training**

Monday, October 1, 2001 in Philadelphia. CAMA (Communication Aid Manufacturers Association) offers a local, one-day training in the latest AAC technology. Demonstrations from new companies as well as a Medicare funding presentation are included in this workshop. Contact CAMA at 800-441-CAMA or [www.aacproducts.org](http://www.aacproducts.org) for more information.

### **Communication & Swallowing Workshop**

Friday, March 30, 2001, 10:00 am -3:00 pm

C. Ted Lick Wildwood Conference Center, Harrisburg Area Community College

\$15 to health care professionals, free to ALS patients and families. For more information, contact The ALS Association, Greater Philadelphia Chapter at 215-631-1877.

### **For Training in ADA Issues**

The State Coalition on the ADA (SCADA) is offering a series of teleconference trainings FREE to interested parties. Trainings will be held at Independent Resources Inc. sites in Wilmington, Georgetown, and Dover.

April 17: To Complain or Not to Complain? Mediate? or File Suit?: Unraveling ADA Resolution Options

May 15: Surfing for Electronic Access

June 19: Documentation of Disability

July 17: ADA Status Report

August 21: Two Tickets Please...

To register for any of these sessions, contact Independent Resources Inc. at 302-765-0191.

### **For Training in AT**

Center on Disabilities California State University, Northridge is offering a new Symposium Series on Assistive Technology in Philadelphia. Sessions offered are AT Assessment, AT for the Blind and Visually Impaired, AT for Students with Learning Disabilities, Computer Access for Persons with Disabilities: More than a Trackball, IDEA, and Section 508. The series runs from August 13-17, 2001 at the Embassy Suites-Philadelphia Airport. For more information, contact CSUN at 818-677-2578 or [www.csun.edu/codtraining](http://www.csun.edu/codtraining).

### **Access to the Arts for People with Disabilities**

Begun under the name "Very Special Arts-Delaware," VSA of Delaware now represents "Vision of an inclusive community, Strength in shared resources, and Artistic Expression that unites us all." VSA arts of Delaware seeks to provide arts opportunities for people with disabilities through many programs. For information, contact VSA arts of Delaware, Delaware State University, 1200 North Dupont Highway, Dover, DE 19901, 302-857-6699. Upcoming events include:

Borders Books Benefit Days: March 25-31. Borders has agreed to donate 15% of certain sales to VSA arts of Delaware. You will need to present a coupon to make a donation.

Delaware Theatre Company (DTC) Benefit Performance: The Smell of the Kill, an evening of "laughs, lingerie, and a body count." For reservations, contact DTC at 302-594-1100.

## **LIFE Conference: Liberty and Independence for Everyone**

LIFE Conference highlights:

### **Speakers**

Loretta McNeill from the Social Security Administration, presented on Employment Incentives.

Tony Langton, consultant from North Carolina led two presentations, one on AT in the Workplace, and another on AT at Home.

Andrew Imparato, President and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities, highlighted a disability agenda for the new administration.

### **Exhibits**

Conference attendees had the opportunity to visit over 30 exhibits, with information to use and products to try.

There were even accessible vans to test drive!

Special thank you to the Students from the John S. Charlton School in Camden, DE who were volunteers at the conference.

### **New Equipment Added to DATI Inventory**

Since DATI's Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) opened in 1992, they have made over 6,000 no-cost loans of Assistive Technology (AT) to people in Delaware. One of the ATRC's biggest challenges is keeping the inventory of equipment up-to-date.

Thanks to funds from the Delaware Department of Education, new equipment has just been added to the ATRCs. AT devices include:

The Arthwriter, LS&S  
Baby Elephant, Enabling Devices  
Big Mack, AbleNet  
Boardmaker (Windows), Mayer Johnson  
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (CD), Ed Resources  
Coin Critters (CD), Ed Resources  
Computer Screen Magnifier, LS&S  
Dreamwriter C-200 & Carry-Home case, NTS Computer Systems  
Dynamo (Windows), DynaVox Systems  
Easy Talk w/carry case, ACCI

Floppy Bunny, Enabling Devices  
Hearing Helper System 350E, Williams Sound  
HipTalk 10, Enabling Devices  
HipTalk 4, Enabling Devices  
Inspiration Lesson Plan Book, Ed Resources  
Inspiration Meeting Standards Lesson Plan Book, Ed Resources  
Inspiration Training (CDs), Ed Resources  
Language Master Special Edition, Franklin Electronic Publishers  
Lil Ben Bed Vibrator/Shaker, LS&S  
Link w/PC cable, Assistive Technology Inc.  
Math Munchers Deluxe (CD), Ed Resources  
MathPad Plus, IntelliTools  
Mayer Johnson Symbol Pack, Enkidu  
Naturally Speaking Preferred, Dragon Systems  
Page Magnifier, LS&S  
Palmtop IMPACT, Enkidu  
Penny & Giles Rollerball (Windows), Don Johnston  
Penny & Giles Trackball (Windows), Don Johnston  
Personal Receiver, Williams Sound  
Sonic IC Chip Recorder, LS&S  
Sonic Boom Alarm Clock, LS&S  
SoundFocus FM Classroom Amplification System CFM 300, Williams Sound  
Sparkles, Enabling Devices  
SpeakEasy w/carry case, AbleNet  
Stacking Ring Cone, Enabling Devices  
Sticky Bears Math Splash (CD), Ed Resources  
Stickybear's Math Town (CD), Ed Resources  
Storybook Weaver Deluxe, Ed Resources  
Thinkin' Things Sky Island Mysteries, Ed Resources  
Williams Sound Neckloop, Williams Sound  
Win PC6, Perfect Solutions  
Writing for Symbols (Windows), Don Johnston  
Zoomtext Extra Level 2, InfoGrip

If you are interested in an AT Equipment Loan or have suggestions for new products, contact your local ATRC.

## **DATI Equipment Loan Policy**

DATI has a wide variety of equipment at the Assistive Technology Resource Centers for the primary purpose of demonstration and short-term loan. The policy for the loan of the equipment is as follows:

The standard loan period is two weeks, defined as the day borrowed (e.g., Monday the 10th) to the same day two weeks later (e.g., Monday the 24th). Loans may be extended providing there are no names on the waiting list and/or that an extension will not interfere with an existing reservation. The maximum loan period is 4 weeks.

A maximum of four (4) devices may be borrowed at a time, i.e., during any single loan period. However, combinations of devices may be treated as a single device if the components are interdependent-either operationally, or because one component is required for the user to access another.

Equipment loans across state lines are not permitted. Equipment must also remain in Delaware throughout the loan period.

## **Let's Go Out to Eat...But Where?**

by Jody Tate

What is the first question that you ask yourself when going out to eat? Usually it is "What do I feel like eating?" However, if you are a person with a physical disability, the question of accessibility immediately follows. Accessibility plays a large factor when my husband and I go out to eat. With the ADA in place, accessibility should not be a deciding factor when selecting a restaurant. But in reality, it is. We have called many restaurants in the Wilmington area to inquire about their accessibility. Too many times we have been told "Yes, we are accessible," only to find out that the restaurant's definition of accessibility is a little skewed. Specific questioning is required regarding the type and location of ramps, automatic/manual doors, accessible bathrooms, etc.

### **Getting Into the Facility**

Often I have found a restaurant's definition of accessible to mean that male waiters will lift the person and the wheelchair up a flight of steps and into the restaurant. I have also encountered many types of ramps - ramps that are covered completely over with weeds, ramps that are so steep that you think you will fall out of your wheelchair, ramps that are blocked by trash cans,

ramps that allow entry only through the kitchen because they are built onto the rear of the building rather than the front.

### **Getting Around the Facility**

Once inside, a new list of potential problems exists. I have often been forced to ask patrons to disrupt their meal, stand up and slide their table and chairs to the side in order for me to fit through the aisle.

Almost all public restrooms have a handicapped placard displayed, but frequently fall short of being accessible. I have expressed concern at many restaurants regarding the physical location of the restroom, an inaccessible pathway leading to the bathroom, bathroom doors that are too narrow and/or difficult to open/close independently, the type and location of the so-called handicapped stall, placement of grab bars, level and positioning of the toilet, sink, hand dryer/towel dispenser, etc. And I'm not alone in these problems.

Recently an acquaintance discussed with me the difficulty she experiences when assisting her physically disabled husband in a public restroom. She has to enter the opposite-sex restroom, which some may view as unlawful rather than a necessary fact of life. Wouldn't it be nice if more public facilities made unisex accessible restrooms available?

My physical limitations have changed significantly over the past three years. I was completely wheelchair dependent when I was discharged from the hospital following my strokes. In time, and with lots of therapy, I have steadily improved my ability to ambulate independently. I have moved from my wheelchair to using a four-wheeled walker, then a quad-cane and, now, a service dog. As you may have guessed, my restaurant experiences have changed along the way.

On the positive side, many restaurants attempt to be accommodating. I have found, however, that you cannot assume the host/hostess will think to ask about your needs. I have found that alerting the host/hostess about my needs allows for a more enjoyable time.

### **And, Finally, the Food!**

There are some restaurants where I know the food is delicious but the facility is not accessible. Other restaurants are accessible but the food is not quite as good. I encourage others who have physical disabilities to call the

restaurant first, inform them of your needs and ask them questions about their accessibility. Oh yes, don't forget to ask about the menu too!

## **More Local Resources**

Delaware-Maryland Paralyzed Veterans Association, 800-786-2039

Fairlee Manor Recreation and Education Center, 410-778-0566

Delaware Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, 800-282-8676

Mental Health Association in Delaware, 302-765-9740 in New Castle County, 800-287-6423 in Kent and Sussex Counties.

Autism Society of Delaware, 302-366-0152

Parent Information Center (PIC) of Delaware, 302-366-0152 in New Castle Co., 302-856-9880 in Sussex Co., and 888-547-4412 in Kent Co.

**To Contact DATI's Central Site office or the ATRC closest to you, call 1-800-870-DATI**

Press

#1 for English or  
#2 for Spanish,

then press

#3 for the Central Site office  
#4 for the New Castle County ATRC  
#5 for the Kent County ATRC  
#6 for the Sussex County ATRC

TDD callers: Do not press #1 or #2 and your call will be answered on a TDD line at the Central Site office.

Need Information on...

Disabilities  
Special education  
Related services  
Family issues  
IEPs  
Transition  
Education rights

Call us or visit our web site. 1-800-695-0285. [www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org).

## **Delaware Recycles Assistive Technology**

If you are interested in an item, please call the number listed next to the item. If you would like to add or remove an item from the list, call 800-870-3284, press 1 for English, then press 3 for the DATI Central Site office. All prices are negotiable and all area codes are 302 unless noted. You may also find an up-to-date recycle list on the DATI web site: <http://www.asel.udel.edu/dati/recycle/index.html>.

### **Devices Available:**

#### **Ambulation/Mobility**

Crutches, pediatric, adj., aluminum, \$10, Alison, 427-0405

Crutches, adult, adj., aluminum, \$10, Alison, 427-0405

#### **Communication**

Artificial Larynx, \$100, Wes, 243-1444 or 633-1815 (pager)

DynaVox 2C, perfect condition, 3 yrs. old, \$3,000, Andrea, 212-605-0423

DynaVox 3100, back up kit, carrying case, mini cup switch, communication desk mount kit, new, \$3,000, Angela, 834-9374

#### **Hearing**

TTY 4425 w/answering machine, printer, and direct connector, \$200, Christy, 765-0194 TTY, 800-232-5470 Relay

#### **Personal Care/Home Management**

Bunny Boots, keeps ankles from dropping, free, Regina, 369-4089

Commode Chair, portable, wheels, arm rests, child/youth ages 8-15, \$300, Lynn, 610-869-7407

Commode Stand, Luminex, includes bucket & splash guard, \$15, Becky, 594-6576 day, 292-1834 evening

Hoist, electric, for travel, lifts scooter into minivan/pickup, \$250, June, 645-0467

Hospital Bed, manual, side rails, excellent condition, \$200, Angela, 834-9374

Hospital Bed, electric, adjustable, excellent condition, free, Richard, 610-361-0108

Hospital Bed, electric, adjustable, like new, \$1,000, Ellen, 454-2142 x143

Hospital Bed, electric, adjustable, trapeze, \$1,000, Beatrice, 349-4295

Leg Pump, for circulation, needs liners, \$500, Jessica, 410-546-5006

Lift, Hoyer, w/slings, \$50, Angela, 834-9374

Lift, Hoyer, excellent condition, \$300, Ralph, 368-5550

Lift, Invacare, w/slings, \$200, Angela, 834-9374

Multi Lift, electric, install base in van/home/ car, lifts wheelchair occupant into driver/ passenger seat or bed/tub, \$1,000, June, 645-0467

Oxygen Tanks, (3), aluminum, gauges, pull cart, \$100, Marcene, 677-0155

Quiver, holds mouth sticks, pencils, etc., free, Regina, 369-4089

Shoes, P.W. Minor leather, extra-depth shoes, taupe, size 6-1/2, 3W, \$170 new, \$100, Becky, 594-6576 day, 292-1834 evening

Shower/Commode Chair, adult, standard, wheels, arms, made with PVC pipe, \$25, Jeri, 645-4785

Stair Glide, 12', needs new control box, \$500, Jessica, 410-546-5006  
Tens Unit, Century 2100, carrying case & supplies, B/O, Sharen, 856-0969

### **Recreation**

Formula Stepper/Climber, exercise equipment, \$900, Lynn, 610-869-7407

### **Three/Four Wheeled Power Scooters**

Rascal, convertible 4-wheeled, joystick control, \$2,000 or B/O, James, 731-7768

### **Vehicles/Accessories**

Braun Assistive Device for Front Seat Access, assists a person in getting in and out of a van, \$1,500, Oneida, 349-5725

Car Seat, Columbia Orthopedic Car Seat (Gorilla), provides full spinal support for children up to 100 lbs, tethering kit included, free, Saint Vincent DePaul Society at Saint Ann in Wilmington, 658-9876

Lift, Bruno, lifts w/c or scooter (without passenger) into van, \$1,600, Bonnie, 836-5892

Pac-All, wheelchair carrier & cover, requires a Class 1 hitch installed on vehicle, purchased 12/99, used once, instructions available, \$250, Becky, 594-6576 day, 292-1834 evenings

Van, 92 Ford conversion van, Braun wheelchair lift, wheelchair tie downs included but not installed, less than 50,000 miles, \$10,800, will sell with or without wheelchair lift, John, 934-5088

Van, 98 Ford Windstar GL Advantage mini van, summit conversion, air kneel, power door & ramp, remote entry, automatic tie downs, rear air & heat, 25,000 miles, \$30,000, Angela, 834-9374

Van, 96 Chevy conversion, wheelchair lift, VCR & TV, all power, approx. 33,500 miles, \$16,900, Betsy, 610-358-3743

Van, 88 Ford, 57,000 original miles, new motor w/ 3,000 miles, new exhaust system, 4 new tires, air condition unit recharged, wheelchair lift, \$5,000, Jeri, 645-4785

Van, 83 Ford Econoline, 8 cylinder, original engine, w/c lift w 5 way operation, can accommodate driver or passenger in w/c, interchangeable seat for ambulatory drive, \$2,500, Beth or Jean, 284-0123

### **Wheelchairs/Accessories**

Amputee Board, new, use on wheelchair for right or left leg, free, Janet, 323-9120

Wheelchair Pad, posey quilted; peach, turquoise, & white plaid; \$10, Becky, 594-6576 day, 292-1834 evening

Mobile arm supports right & left, free, Regina, 369-4089

Power, adult, standard, needs batteries & tires, \$500, Jessica, 410-546-5006

Power, adult, standard, new, \$3,000, Judy, 655-9408

Power, adult, standard, Jazzy model 1100, new, never used, \$3,000, Ellen, 454-2142 x143

Power, adult, standard, wide tires, right hand control, air pump, battery charger, \$700, Sylvia, 875-0611

Manual, adult, Invacare, w/Jay back, \$600 firm, William, 652-1914 after 9p.m.

Manual, adult, Invacare Action, ventilator tray, head rest, cushions, never used, \$500, Angela, 834-9374

Manual, adult, standard, no leg extensions, free, Janet, 323-9120

Manual, adult, oversized, footrests, excellent condition, \$100, Val, 738-2695

Manual, pediatric Tilt-N-Space, able to hold a portable ventilator, Jay cushion, green, free courtesy of the KMB Foundation, Jim or Teisha, 292-2346

Manual, pediatric ages 4-8, free, Lynn, 610-869-7407

Manual, pediatric, ages 8-10, free, Marge,  
945-4675

Ramp, EZ Access, portable, expands 3'-7', for home or van access, \$250,  
Richard, 239-4243

### **Devices Needed**

Bed rail, fits under mattress, willing to pay reasonable price, Leon, 424-4244  
Computer, willing to pay reasonable price, P.J., 349-9116

Easy Stand, willing to pay a reasonable price, Ralph, 368-5550

Hospital Bed, low to the ground, willing to pay reasonable price, Ruth,  
422-5294

House, accessible, in Delaware, willing to pay reasonable price, Lorenzo,  
201-930-9819

Laptop computer, PC compatible, willing to pay reasonable price, Helen,  
764-6220

Scooter Lift, fits into trunk of car, willing to pay reasonable price, Zoan,  
697-1291

Transfer Board, willing to pay reasonable price, Ralph, 368-5550

Van, wheelchair accessible, willing to pay reasonable price, Ruth, 422-5294

Van, wheelchair accessible, willing to pay reasonable price, Michelle,  
846-0789

Wheelchair, adult, manual, donation only, Fred, 283-1741

Wheelchair, adult, manual, Barbara, donation only, 422-1510

Wheelchair, adult, manual, lightweight, similar to a stroller, willing to pay  
reasonable price, Asha, 737-2098

Wheelchair, adult, manual, standard, high back, recliner, willing to pay reasonable price, Kenneth, 697-1816

Note: If you are looking for items not on the list, contact the Central Site office at 1-800-870-DATI. New items are added regularly. If there has been no activity or interaction with the contributor to the list within six months, items are automatically removed from the list.

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Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative  
University of DE/duPont Hospital for Children  
P.O. Box 269, 1600 Rockland Rd.  
Wilmington, DE 19899-0269  
Phone: (800)870-DATI or (302)651-6790  
TDD: (302)651-6794 FAX: (302)651-6793

**I am a:**

Person with a disability (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Family member of a person with a disability \_\_\_\_\_

Friend/advocate/colleague of someone with a disability \_\_\_\_\_

Professional working with people who have disabilities (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Interested citizen \_\_\_\_\_

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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Transportation \_\_\_\_\_

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**I would like to be involved in:**

Technology users peer network \_\_\_\_\_

Service provider network \_\_\_\_\_

Funding initiatives \_\_\_\_\_

Presenters network \_\_\_\_\_

Project governance (boards & committees) \_\_\_\_\_

Advocacy activities \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer work as: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DATI Throughout the State... 1-800-870-DATI**

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New Castle, DE 19720-2405  
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Sussex County ATRC  
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Delaware Technical & Community College  
Jason Technology Center, Room 104  
Rt. 18, P.O. Box 610  
Georgetown, DE 19947-0610  
(302) 856-7946; (302) 856-6714 (voice or TDD)

The AT Messenger is published quarterly by the Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI).

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DATI is a joint project of the Center for Applied Science & Engineering at the University of Delaware and the duPont Hospital for Children.

DATI is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the U.S. Department of Education, Grant #H224A10005. This publication does not necessarily reflect the position or policy of NIDRR/ED, and no official endorsement of the materials should be inferred.

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## **DATI Publications List**

The following publications are available from the DATI Publications Office. All prices include shipping and handling (ask about large quantity orders). Please be sure to indicate the items you wish to purchase and include a complete mailing address for shipment.

### **1997 Guide to Funding Resources for Assistive Technology in Delaware**

Comprehensive guide to the primary resources for assistive technology funding in Delaware. The guide contains information on eligibility, coverage policies, and application procedures. The material is bound, with index tabs for convenience.

Prices: 1-9 copies are \$20 ea. 10 or more copies are \$15 ea.

### **Assistive Technology: The Right Tools for the Right Job**

A video profiling Delawareans working in their chosen professions with support from assistive technology. (Please indicate: open-captioned or closed-captioned format)

Prices: 1-9 copies are \$15 ea. 10 or more copies are \$10 ea.

### **Independence Through Technology Video**

An introduction to the many ways in which assistive technology can impact lives. The video contains information about the DATI and other AT resources in Delaware. (Please indicate: English or Spanish)

Price: \$10 ea. (any quantity)

<b>Independent Living Brochure Series</b> Five colorful brochures describing the benefits of assistive technology for activities of daily life.		
You Can Get There From Here (Reaching and mobility aids)	Free	
Zip It Up (Clothing adaptations and dressing aids)	Free	
Around the House (Housecleaning and storage)	Free	
Cleanliness Is Next To... (Personal care and grooming)	Free	
What's For Dinner? (Cooking and dining)	Free	
Set of Five Brochures	Free	
<b>Delaware Recycles AT Brochure</b> Description and contact information about the DATI's equipment recycling program-includes punch-out Rolodex card for easy reference.	Free	
<b>Selecting &amp; Obtaining Assistive Technology Brochure</b> Outline of steps to be taken in acquiring assistive technology, including assessment, vendor selection, funding, training, and follow-up.	Free	

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