



New Equipment Recycling & Reuse Program at CID

by Steve Freier, AT Coordinator

The AT Department recently applied for a grant to aid CID in recycling and reusing assistive technology. Why is this important to you? If you are in need of some sort of technology or have items to donate, CID can help! CID is interested in such items as wheelchairs, electric scooters, crutches, canes, even a stairlifts and elevators!

We are in the process of upgrading our ability to accept and distribute more items. If our proposal is accepted we will be able to afford an accessible van which will allow us to transport some of the heavier, unwieldy items which we could not accept before.



What Is AT Reuse? For many people with disabilities, Assistive Technology (AT) is an essential support to daily living. A person may depend on a wheelchair, walker, special computer keyboard, speech generating device or other AT device at home, at school or at work. Finding ways to make AT more available is something with which few could argue. Also, our goal is to keep as much useable technology out of the waste stream as possible.

Reuse of AT is emerging as one of the ways to make expensive technology more available to more people. To the extent that AT reuse is practiced today, it is generally done through:

- Device exchange programs in which a "seller" and a "buyer" are connected directly with each other via classified ads for example; or
- Device reassignment programs in which an organization accepts, sanitizes, repairs and stores donated AT items until potential new users are found. CID is similar in nature to this.

Why Reuse AT? Reuse of assistive technology just makes common sense. Most people hate to toss perfectly good equipment into the garbage when the items obviously can be of use to someone else in need.

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New Director at CID!



David DeNola
Executive Director

CID has a new Executive Director! We are happy to announce that Mr. David DeNola has agreed to take the helm at CID as of June, 2011.

For the past year, since June 2010, CID has been run by Interim Director, Paula McElwee of Fresno, California.

David comes to us after 30 years in the biotechnology industry, working with start-ups and emerging companies. His exposure to healthcare issues and organizations is extensive, as is his personal experience with individuals with disabilities, for whom he advocated for a number of years.

David brings with him to the non-profit world the unique perspective of someone who lived and worked in a democratic/social community for 19 years, where cooperation, coordination, community service, and defense of the rights of individuals were paramount ideals underpinning the community.

In the short time David has been with us, he has worked overtime learning the myriad functions that make up CID and has firmly taken the reins with extreme competency. His extensive experience in the for-profit world has already started to make a major difference in our operations.

We heartily welcome our new executive director to the fold!

Under-Utilized Government Programs

by David Mon,
Community Work Incentive Coordinator



There are a number of government programs not often talked about that are often under-utilized. Some of these programs have been recently expanded, designed to provide additional income to low-income and disabled consumers, and to stimulate a lagging economy. Others focus on job creation for groups that have traditionally faced barriers to full employment, including people with disabilities. The theory is that a high percentage of the dollars that go back into the pockets of low and middle income wage earners are quickly spent on needed goods and services, directly resulting in additional job creation. And need I say, fully-employed mid and low income wage earners pay their taxes, creating additional government revenue, thereby reducing budget deficits, and the need for drastic cuts to government programs.

The Child Tax Credit helps low and moderate income families with children by reducing tax liability by about \$1000 per year for each child. *The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008* expanded this credit to include more qualifying low-income families (up to 10.5 million additional families with 18 million children).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.), formerly Food Stamps was renamed by *The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008*. In 2009, *The American Recovery and Investment Act* (the "Stimulus Package") greatly expanded the number of qualifying individuals and families, and increased benefit levels for this program. Net income, after qualifying deductions, must be below 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

Unemployment Insurance (U.I) provides wage replacement to wage earners who lose their job through no fault of their own. U.I. benefits are initially provided by the Federal Government for up to thirteen weeks.

A federal/state extension provides an additional thirteen weeks of benefits. *The American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009* provided for an additional extension of UI benefits due to a sluggish economy and high unemployment numbers. Free pre-employment services are made available thru County "one-stop" centers including assistance filing unemployment insurance claims; job listings; computer access; and workshops on resume writing and job-search strategies. Did you know that wage earners with disabilities who lose their jobs may be eligible for both continuing Social Security benefits and Unemployment Insurance benefits?

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a low income tax credit for wage earners (and wage earners with children). As a tax credit, it is money that is either refunded or that reduces tax liability. The program was originally enacted in 1975, and recently extended as part of the economic stimulus package under *The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010*. To qualify for this credit, work earnings must be below \$13,440 for a single individual, and under \$43,279 for a family with three or more children. The maximum credit for a single individual is \$457, up to \$5,657 for families with three children or more.

For more information, and assistance applying for these programs, contact David Mon, Work Incentive Planning and Assistance program, (650) 645-1780 ext.

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Many people can't get the AT they need because they can't afford new devices and can't get funding through private insurance or federal, state or local sources. People in need may then turn to AT Reuse programs because these programs often do not have eligibility



requirements. In addition, used AT is generally more affordable, if not free. Others may choose used AT because they do not want to invest in new devices if they will be needed for only a short time.

AT Reuse benefits those with items to donate because it helps them eliminate clutter from their home, it also reduces the impact on the environment while at the same time providing a much needed benefit to people in need.

Who Is Involved in AT Reuse? Hundreds of organizations around the country, large and small, are involved in AT reuse.

How Can We Improve AT Reuse? By supporting programs such as ours at CID! For more information about AT Reuse, whether you are in need or wish to donate, contact Steve Freier, AT Coordinator. Ext 115.

From the Executive Director David DeNola

Through the Looking Glass-Lightly



Migrating from the for-profit world to non-profit activism is like stepping through the proverbial looking glass, but without the distortion and antics imaginatively conjured on the other side.

Here, I find myself among a community of individuals, many with disabilities themselves, who are seriously dedicated to helping others gain independence from their own restrictions, as well as those imposed on them by society. From direct advocacy to direct action, CID offers a wide range of services, such as advocating to government agencies, and assisting individuals with disabilities to extract themselves from nursing homes and return to their own homes.

To have the opportunity to serve this community is a personal blessing. For years I have sought an appropriate way to honor the memory of my loved ones lost to disabilities, and to dedicate my time and efforts more completely to those still close to me, and to those in the larger community. Anyone traversing the terrain between for-profit and non-profit work is likely to have a steep learning curve. Fortunately, I am surrounded by people of good will and vast experience.

People have often asked me: "What is your profession?", to which I invariably answer, I don't have a profession; I have a life. Now more than ever, this is so.

A HIDDEN DISABILITY

by Arsie Tuquero-Zacarias, Administrative Assistant

Do any of these apply to you?

Here are some symptoms to alert you to so that you are aware of behavioral mannerisms on the part of those who may suffer from them.

- A vision disorder [Oscillopsia] - caused by the loss of vestibular function resulting in the illusion that objects are bobbing up and down, to and fro, or back and forth.
- Relation of the body [Proprioception] to its own parts and the earth provided by information interpreted by the brain from sensors located on muscles, skeleton, and ligaments that detect movement and position. This causes distorted non-verbal behavior – expressed through facial gestures, body language and, physical movement that may cause misinterpretation and judgment on the part of an onlooker.

Our Location:

1515 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA
Suite 400



HOW TO CONTACT US

Website:

<http://www.cidсанmateo.org>

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San Mateo, CA 94402

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Fax: (650) 645-1785

TTY: (650) 522-9313

BRANCH OFFICE - North County

CURRENTLY IN PROCESS OF MOVING

Voice: 650-991-5124

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WISH LIST

We have started a Wish List of items that would make our lives or the lives of those we serve better. We are starting a WishList on the Community WishList For San Mateo County. Here's the URL: <http://communitywishlist.org/index.php?> Here are some of the items we would like to have:

- A Small Safe
- Power Wheelchairs & Electric Scooters
- Electric Stairlifts & Porchliffts
- Crutches & Canes
- Shower Chairs & Benches

For patio garden to be enjoyed by staff and people who come in for services:

- Very large pots & Potting soil
- Rolling plant stands
- Drip irrigation tubing
- Perennial flowers & Trees for containers
- Benches with back/arms for two or three people
- Sturdy outdoor chairs with arms
- Small side tables or plant stands

NEW FREEDOMS YOUTH AND FAMILIES FORUM

JULY 19, 2011

1:30 -6:00 PM

San Mateo Public Library

55 W. Third Avenue, San Mateo, CA

CID is hosting a **New Freedoms Forum for Youth and Families**. Youth with disabilities ages 14-25 and family members are encouraged to attend this fun and informative event! Registration is not required but is recommended as space for some presentations is limited.

Community organizations and government agencies will be available to speak with you in the resource room. Find out what services are available to you!

- iPad Loan Program - Center for Accessible Technology
- Rota Mobility - An Advanced Wheelchair Design
- Canine Companions For Independence
- SamTrans - Travel Training Program & Disability Services
- CID - Programs Offered & New Assistive Technologies

Join in on the fun and express your pride in yourself and your community! The Disability Community's Pride Quilt Project will be at our event to create our very own San Mateo panel.

For more information, questions about accessibility and accommodations or to register for the event, please contact Amy Selders at amys@cidsanmateo.org or call (650) 645-1780 ext. 120.

The San Mateo Public Library facilities are being rented for this event. The viewpoints and materials distributed are not necessarily endorsed by the City of San Mateo or the San Mateo Public Library.

Join us to Celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act



July 26, 2011 marks the 21st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Why and how we celebrate is important to us in the Disability Community.

Visit the **Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities** on July 26, 2011 from 11:30am - 1:30pm for a congenial cookout here at CID. Call (650) 645-1780 for more details!

Donate Your Old Car to CID!



Do you have an old "junker" sitting in your driveway? If you donate it to CID you can receive an IRS tax write-off.

We are now accepting donations and the process is easy so call CID today with any cars or even boats and trailers that you need to get rid of! We will both benefit! We work with a professional company that will make all the arrangements and accepts most vehicles, running or not!

Call Arsie for details at (650) 645-1780 ext. 114



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