



4740 Kingsway Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46205

EVENTS

What: 2009 INARF Annual Conference "Navigating the Uncharted"

When: March 11 – 13, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Where: Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel & Suites, Indianapolis, IN

Who should attend: Rehabilitation professionals, persons working in the human service industry, and anyone interested to learn about the leadership and resources in Indiana for people with disabilities.

Contact: Nanette Wenclewicz, CMP 317-634-4957 nanette@inarf.org or visit www.inarf.org

What: Free training on Assistive Technology and the Aging Population.

When: Friday, March 20, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Easter Seals Crossroads, 4740 Kingsway Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Who should attend: Anyone 40 and older, rehabilitation professionals, aging in place specialist, families of aging parents, care givers and anyone interested in learning about the aging population and Indiana resources.

Contact: Emily Abel, 317-466-2013 or 888-466-1314 eabel@eastersealstech.com or visit our website: www.eastersealstech.com

What: Free Microsoft Accessibility Training
When: Friday, April 10, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Where: Easter Seals Crossroads, 4740 Kingsway Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Who should attend: Anyone interested in learning about the built-in accessibility features of Microsoft Windows

Contact: Carol Girt, 317-466-2013 or 888-466-1314 cgirt@eastersealstech.com or visit our website: www.eastersealstech.com

What: Free training on Assistive Technology for Individuals who are Deaf/Blind

When: Friday, May 8, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: Easter Seals Crossroads, 4740 Kingsway Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Who should attend: Deaf/Blind individuals and their families and friends, rehabilitation professionals, parents, teachers, Support Service Providers, care givers and anyone interested in learning more about assistive technology and resources for Deaf/Blind.

Contact: Emily Abel, 317-466-2013 or 888-466-1314 eabel@eastersealstech.com or visit our website: www.eastersealstech.com



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Spring 2009

Hidden Accessibility

Did you know that there are intentional but hidden accessibility features all over your computer and all over the Internet? This edition of "Gizmos and Doodahs" will focus on a few things that you might find surprisingly helpful and easy to use. In fact, you might have taken them for granted and used them without even realizing it!

Microsoft and Apple Accessibility Features

Have you ever noticed the little wheelchair or accessibility symbol in the control panel of your computer? Since about 1995, both Microsoft and Apple have included a number of accessibility features in their operating systems.

For example, both operating systems have a built-in screen magnifier designed to help people with visual difficulties in getting a large-print look at materials on their screen. Also, both operating systems have the ability to read materials out loud to individuals with very low vision or no functional vision. Although most will argue that these free solutions aren't as powerful as a full-fledged screen reader, they will often get the job done in a pinch and they're always there, at no cost, ready to be used.

If you would like to learn more about your computer's accessibility features, visit the Web sites below or sign up to attend a free computer accessibility training at Easter Seals Crossroads. As the only official Microsoft Accessibility Resource Center in the state of Indiana, we offer these trainings at least four times per year. For more information, contact Carol Girt at (888) 466-1314 or cgirt@eastersealstech.com.

Microsoft Accessibility
www.microsoft.com/enable

Apple Accessibility
www.apple.com/accessibility

Web Accessibility
Have you ever used assistive technology to access a site on the Internet? If you have, you're probably aware of some of the accessibility challenges some Web sites present. If you've been using assistive technology to access the Internet for several years now, you're also probably aware of the incredible improvements accessibility has undergone in recent years. Some people were made aware of accessibility issues on the Web when the National Federation of the Blind successfully sued Target Corporation (the retailer) because of accessibility problems on the Target.com web site. Learn more about the suit at www.nfbtargetlawsuit.com.

However, many organizations and businesses are working diligently to ensure that their Web sites include the appropriate design elements that increase accessibility to people with disabilities. The World Wide Web Consortium, an organization that sets standards with regard to how the Internet operates, has a long history of providing information to assist Web developers in creating accessible Web content. If you'd like to learn more about this issue or direct a company or Web designer to more information, visit www.w3c.org/wai.

Google Accessibility
If you check a dictionary that is more than 10 years old, you won't find any reference

to the term "Google." However, in the past few years, Google has become more than just a search engine — it's quickly becoming one of the world's leading providers of software, advertising and information. What many people do not realize is that Google works diligently to increase the accessibility of their products.

For example, Google provides an ultra-accessible version of their search engine for use by the visually impaired: www.labs.google.com/accessible. This search engine has less clutter than Google's already clean interface. It also includes easy-to-use accessibility keystrokes and a built-in magnifier to make it easier to scan your search results. Note: You'll need to use the Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome browsers to get the full effect of these accessibility features.

Many other companies are incorporating a wide variety of accessibility features into their products — both online and offline. Make sure to "Google" your favorite company to find out what they're doing to increase accessibility!

If you would like to suggest "Gizmos" and/or "Doodahs" to be mentioned in future installments of this feature, please send information to Wade Winger at wwinger@eastersealstech.com. Please understand that inclusion in this publication does not constitute an endorsement by Easter Seals Crossroads. Pricing information is gathered from common sources but should be verified with product vendors.

Obama Administration Lays Out Disabilities and Autism Agenda

Within minutes of the Inauguration of President Barack H. Obama at noon on January 20, 2009, the official White House Web site was updated to reflect the Administration's commitment to an agenda addressing policies affecting people with disabilities.

Highlights from the White House's online agenda for disabilities include:

- Signing the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Providing "Americans with disabilities with the educational opportunities they need to succeed by funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, supporting early intervention for children with disabilities and universal screening [and] improving college opportunities for high school graduates with disabilities..."
- Restoring the Americans with Disabilities Act and increasing funding for enforcement;
- Ensuring affordable, accessible health care for all and improving mental health care;
- Increasing the employment rate of workers with disabilities by effectively implementing regulations that require the federal government and its contractors to employ people with disabilities, providing private-sector employers with resources to accommodate employees with disabilities, and encouraging those employers to use existing tax benefits to hire more workers with disabilities and supporting small businesses owned by people with disabilities; and

- Supporting independent, community-based living for Americans with disabilities by enforcing the Community Choice Act.

With regards to support for Americans with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden "support increased funding for autism research, treatment, screenings, public awareness, and support services... improving life-long services for people with ASD for treatments, interventions and services for both children and adults with ASD...funding the Combating Autism Act and working with Congress, parents and ASD experts to determine how to further improve federal and state programs for ASD [and] support universal screening of all infants and re-screening for all two-year-olds, the age at which some conditions, including ASD, begin to appear."

Easter Seals Office of Public Affairs staff worked with the Presidential Transition Team on creating policy that mirrors Easter Seals' legislative priorities and has a productive history of working with members of the new administration and Cabinet nominees. Easter Seals applauds President Obama's strong commitment to persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

This article appeared online in Easter Seals News — Issue 4, January 26, 2009. The information is also available at www.eastersealscrossroads.org.

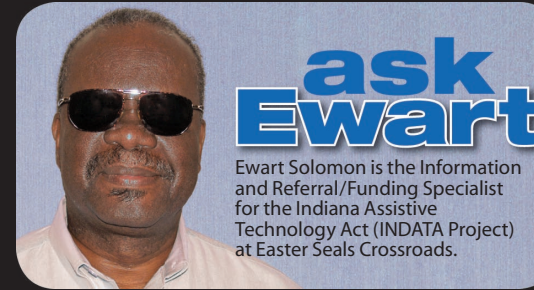
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Since 1979, Easter Seals Crossroads has been Indiana's premier provider of Assistive Technology Services. These clinical services are available statewide and are the hallmark of our program. In October 2007, Easter Seals Crossroads was awarded the Indiana Assistive Technology Act grant (INDATA), which consists of state and federal funding targeted to increasing the availability of assistive technology to Hoosiers with disabilities. There are 56 programs of this type in the United States and U.S. territories. These services are available throughout the state of Indiana at no charge.



Easter Seals
Crossroads

For more information,
call us at
317-466-2013 888-466-1314
www.eastersealstech.com



ask Ewart

Ewart Solomon is the Information and Referral/Funding Specialist for the Indiana Assistive Technology Act (INDATA Project) at Easter Seals Crossroads.

Q: I What can I do if I need a hearing aid and don't have the money to purchase one?

A: Listed below are some of the local resources you can contact:

State of Indiana, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Agency: Family and Social Services Administration
Division: Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Address: 402 W. Washington St., IGCS - W453
Indianapolis, IN 46204

(866) 542-5675 (VRS direct number)
(317) 232-1427 (TTY)
(317) 232-6478 (Fax)
(317) 232-1427 (D-Link)
www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2637.htm

Speech and Hearing, Inc.

702 Barnhill Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Contact: Wayne Reynolds
(317) 271-7885
(317) 271-7885 (Fax)
E-mail: rwayner@ameritech.net
www.indylionsspeechhearing.com

Hours: Mon. – Fri., 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Areas served: Marion, Boone, Morgan, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson and Shelby counties. The waiting list time varies by county.

Operated by the Lions Club of Indiana, Speech and Hearing, Inc. collects used hearing aids for restoration and use by Riley Hospital patients who are awaiting new hearing aids. The organization also collects used hearing aids for restoration and loans them for up to a six-month trial period and can assist people with obtaining a hearing aid following the trial period. There are no fees, and the only eligibility requirement is to have low income.

INDIANA SHHH – Funding for Hearing Aids

Contact: Verna (Marty) Neidigh
(574) 546-4078 (TTY)
For VCO/Relay: Dial 711, then give the Relay agent this number: (574) 546-4078
E-mail: shhhoosier@yahoo.com

For additional resources, contact Ewart at (317) 466-2001, ext. 2531 or (888) 466-1314.

Employee Spotlight

David Young

David is a graduate of Indiana Business College, where he earned his A.A.S. degrees in business and information technology; home technology integration; and human resources management. While serving in the U.S. Naval Reserves, he also completed courses in leadership, electronics, and electromechanical equipment.

In addition, David has earned an A+ certification (certified computer technician) and will attend the Indiana Institute of Technology seeking a bachelor's degree in information technology. While employed at DAY 1 Computer and IJM Computers, David repaired hardware, software and peripheral equipment and also provided technical support to computer users. He joins the INDATA team as Equipment Assistant.

