

The Connection



www.eastersealstech.com • 317-466-2013 or 888-466-1314

Winter 2008

Inaugural INDATA Statewide Assistive Technology Conference a Success

Our first Statewide Assistive Technology Conference was a resounding success, and exhibitors, volunteers, presenters and attendees say they are excited about the 2009 conference.

The INDATA Project's first Statewide Assistive Technology Conference occurred on Sept. 26, 2008, at the Indiana Convention Center. This all-day event included an exhibit area for individuals to interact with nearly 50 exhibitors, a keynote speaker (Comedian Josh Blue from NBC's "Last Comic Standing": www.joshblue.com) as well as four tracks of assistive technology training across 20 sessions, including Education, Employment, Daily Living and Recreation.

The attendance was estimated at more than 400 individuals representing people with disabilities and a number of community organizations and businesses.

The inaugural Indiana Assistive Technology Awards, also known as the "Techies," were awarded to Peter Bisbecos and GW Micro. Mr. Bisbecos was awarded the "Inspiration" award for his unwavering support of the utilization of assistive technology to increase the independence of people with disabilities. GW Micro was awarded the "Innovation" award for their product, WindowEyes, which is one of the leading screen-readers providing access to computers for people who are blind or visually impaired.

We would like to thank all those who participated in the inaugural INDATA Statewide Assistive Technology Conference and hope to see you again in 2009.

2009 INDATA Statewide Assistive Technology Conference

The 2009 INDATA Statewide Assistive Technology Conference will take place on Friday, Aug. 7, 2009, at the Indiana Convention Center. The conference will follow a similar format to this year's conference. We have secured additional space, and will locate all exhibitors in one large room. Please mark your calendars, and check our Web site for registration and updates after the New Year. If you are not currently on our e-mail list and would like to be, please e-mail Emily Abel, Conference Coordinator, at eabel@eastersealcrossroads.org.



**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 am a senior with macular degeneration. I don't know anything about assistive technology. Who can I call to find out what is available that might help me?

A: Carol Girt is our Equipment Specialist.

Device demonstrations are available statewide at one of our assistive technology centers or in the convenience of your home. These demonstrations allow individuals to spend some time with our Equipment Specialist who will demonstrate a device or software's basic features. Easter Seals Crossroads does not sell equipment and is unbiased in presenting information about comparable products. Since there is not an "AT Superstore" that individuals can visit and get their hands on technology, we have worked to provide a "to-your-door" AT service as part of the INDATA Project. To schedule an appointment, contact our Equipment Specialist at (317) 466-2013 or (888) 466-1314.

During our device demonstrations, individuals may find that the assistive technology shown may be appropriate for them. If the assistive technology being demonstrated is available for loan, our Equipment Specialist can leave the piece of technology with the individual for up to 30 days upon signature of a loan form. This gives the user time to "try before buying."

To review the items available for loan, please visit www.eastersealstech.com and check out our Equipment Exchange Network, or call (888) 466-1314 or (317) 466-2013 to talk with our Equipment Specialist.

Relay Calls

Indiana Telephone Relay Access Corporation (INTRAC), otherwise known as RELAY INDIANA (www.relayindiana.com)

Relay Indiana provides full telephone accessibility for people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired. Specially trained communication assistants connect the call and remain on the line to assist in the conversation.

For those who are concerned about confidentiality while using Relay Indiana, have no fear. All Sprint relay calls are strictly confidential. Federal law requires strict confidentiality for the operators. No part of the conversation between two callers is revealed or saved.

Local calls are provided free of charge. Long-distance calls are billed to the customer by their long-distance provider. Funding for the relay program is provided by a surcharge on each telephone line in the state of Indiana.

What are the different kinds of relay calls?

- **VOICE USER** – If a person uses a standard phone and wishes to speak with others who use special equipment to communicate, they are considered a voice user
- **TTY** – If a person is deaf and does not voice, they may use a text telephone
- **VOICE CARRY OVER (VCO)** – If a person is hard-of-hearing and is able to voice, they may use VCO
- **HEARING CARRY OVER (HCO)** – If a person can hear but is not able to voice, they may use HCO
- **COMPUTER ASCII** - If a person wishes to contact the relay service by using a computer connected to the Internet
- **SPEECH TO SPEECH** – If a person can hear but has difficulties with unclear speech
- **SPANISH TO SPANISH** – If someone wishes to have their conversation in Spanish
- **VIDEO RELAY SERVICE (VRS)** – The interpreter/operator will appear on the screen and place your call in the same way as a standard relay call
- **INTERNET RELAY (SRO)** – You will be able to see what you are typing and what the relay operator is typing, both at the same time.
- **CAPTIONED TELEPHONE (CAPTEL)** – When the other party speaks, the relay operator “revoices” the words simultaneously while the operator’s computer sends the conversation to the CapTel user in the form of text, which appears on the CapTel screen
- **VIDEO TELEPHONE (D-LINK)** – When you connect to the relay service, you will proceed with your call by using ASL with your interpreter/operator

Equipment Distribution Program

The purpose of this program is to loan a special telephone device to Indiana citizens who have telephone service but are deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired. Those who are eligible will be loaned one device, a telephone ringing light flasher, a surge protector and a carrying case.

Who is eligible?

- Indiana citizens
- Deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired persons
- Annual household income below \$65,000
- Persons age 6 or older

Telephone options

The telephone options are:

- Ultratec 4425
- Uniphone 1140
- Dialogue VCO
- D-Link & router
- CapTel

For option details, visit www.relayindiana.com and click on “Equipment Program.”

CapTel

CapTel is an amplified telephone that includes written word-for-word captions of everything the caller says.

Who benefits from CapTel?

- Anyone with some degree of hearing loss who finds it difficult to understand telephone conversations
- People using hearing aids or assistive listening devices
- People who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and voice for themselves

How does it work?

1. CapTel users place a call by dialing the number of the person they want to reach.
2. The CapTel automatically connects to a captioning service.
3. When the other party answers, the CapTel user hears everything they say. At the same time, an operator at the captioning service transcribes everything the other party says into written text, which appears on a bright and easy-to-read display window built in to the CapTel phone.

Who provides the telephone relay service?

Sprint Corporation (www.sprint.com/relay) has provided telephone relay service since 1990. Operators that process the relay calls are referred to as Communication Assistants (CAs) or Relay Agents. Sprint’s agents receive extensive training and are routinely monitored and tested to ensure their performance quality remains high.

For additional information or questions, contact:

Ginny Barr
Executive Director, InTRAC
7702 Woodland Drive, Suite 250
Indianapolis, IN 46278
(317) 334-1413 (V/TTY)
(317) 334-1432 (Fax)
ginny.barr@relayindiana.com

Information in this article was obtained from www.relayindiana.com with permissions from Ginny Barr, Executive Director.



4740 Kingsway Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46205

EVENTS

What: Assistive Technology and Home Modifications
(hosted by INDATA)

When: Friday, November 14, 2008, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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

Registration: www.eastersealstech.com under News & Events,
or call (317) 466-2013 or (888) 466-1314

Contact: Emily Abel, INDATA Education and Outreach Coordinator
eabel@eastersealscrossroads.org or call
(317) 466-2013 or (888) 466-1314

What: Indiana's Summit on Economic Development
Employment and Disability

When: November 19 – 20, 2008

Where: Adams Mark Airport Hotel
2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241

Contact: Indiana Institute on Disability and Community
www.iidc.indiana.edu or call (812) 855-6508

What: Indiana Conference for People with Disabilities

When: December 2 – 3, 2008

Where: Hyatt Regency Indianapolis (Downtown)
1 S. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Contact: Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities
www.in.gov/gpcpd or call (317) 233-4551

What: 18th Annual IN-APSE Conference "Orchestrating Change"

When: December 9 - 11, 2008

Where: Holiday Inn Indianapolis – North at the Pyramids
3850 DePauw Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Contact: lhardin@eastersealscrossroads.org or call 317-626-9026

What: "Demo Days" - Assistive Technology for People with
Hearing Impairments

When/Where: Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center- Evansville, December 11, 2008
Noon – 4:00 p.m.

The WILL Center – Terre Haute, December 12, 2008,
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The League – Ft. Wayne, December 18, 2008,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Carol Girt, cgirt@eastersealscrossroads.org
or call 317-466-2001 x 2421 or 888-466-1314