



# The AT Messenger

bringing technology to you

Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI) • Volume 16, No. 4 • Fall 2008

## DATI Invests in Equipment for You

**D**ATI is excited to announce the addition of over 100 items to the inventory in our Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs). These new items are organized by product category, and each product is followed by the associated manufacturer or vendor name. Although the product and company names may not describe the function of the item, you are encouraged to contact the ATRC in your county and schedule an appointment with your Assistive Technology (AT) Specialist. An appointment will give you the opportunity to explore these and many other items that may assist you or someone you know. Our AT Specialists throughout the state—Dan in Sussex County, Eddie in Kent County, and Marvin in New Castle County—are ready, willing, and able to be of service to you. The contact information for each ATRC is on the back page of this newsletter.

All of us here at DATI hope that you find the addition of the following equipment an invaluable resource. We have made every effort to provide items that are new on the market and those that have been requested by you, our valued customers.

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### Environmental Adaptation

**Portable Ramps 7" wide tracks, extend up to 5'**  
 Duro-Med Industries (DMI) - Lifestyle Homecare Health Products

**EZ-Access 1" Threshold Ramp .75" to 1.25"**

EZ-ACCESS (pictured)

**EZ-Access 3" Threshold Ramp 2.75" to 3.25"**

EZ-ACCESS

**EZ-Access 6" Threshold Ramp 5.75" to 6.25"**

EZ-ACCESS

**Wireless Microphone BW900**

Sennheiser Electronic Corporation

**Single Membrane Switch**

AMDi

**Sensor Switch Evaluation Kit**

AMDi

**inVoca 3 4-in-1 Remote Control**

inVoca 3

**Palm Pad Wireless Remote Control Receiver**

X-10 Wireless Technology Inc.

**Crick USB Switch Interface**

Crick Software, Inc.

### Learning, Cognition & Developmental

**All-Turn-It Spinner**

AbleNet, Inc.

**All-Turn-It Bingo Overlay**

AbleNet, Inc.

**SpeakQ ...Write by Speaking**

Quillsoft Ltd.

**WordQ ...word prediction writing tool**

Quillsoft Ltd.

**WYNN Wizard w/Scanning 5.1 CD**

Freedom Scientific (Learning Systems Group)



*EZ-Access Threshold Ramp*

# DATI Invests in Equipment for You (continued)

## Augmentative & Alternative Communications

**DynaVox Technologies' M3**  
DynaVox Systems LLC  
(pictured)



*DynaVox Technologies' M3*

**Hip Talk Plus**  
Enabling Devices

**Hip Talk 12 Communicator w/Levels**  
Enabling Devices

**Vantage Plus w/WordPower, PCS, Headpointing**  
Prentke Romich Co.



**ECO14 w/Word Power, Headpointing, PCS**

Prentke Romich Co.

**SpringBoard Lite IR w/PCS Symbols**

Prentke Romich Co. (pictured)

**Boardmaker w/Speaking Dynamically Pro for Mac**  
Mayer-Johnson LLC



*L\*E\*O Scanning*

**L\*E\*O Scanning**  
Assistive Technology, Inc.  
(pictured)

**GoTalk 4+**  
Attainment Company, Inc.

**GoTalk 9+**  
Attainment Company, Inc.  
(pictured)

**The Writer Fusion (Text to Speech)**

Advanced Keyboard Technologies, Inc.



*GoTalk 9+*

## Computer Hardware

**Dragon NaturallySpeaking Preferred 10.0 DVD**  
Nuance Communications, Inc.

**Dell Latitude D630 Notebook**  
Dell, Inc.

**Orbit Optical USB Trackerball**  
Kensington Technology Group (pictured)



*Orbit Optical USB Trackerball*

**Asus Eee-PC 4G laptop**  
Asustek

**Asus Eee-PC 900 laptop**  
Asustek

**Neo 2 w/Co:Writer Smart-Applet**  
AlphaSmart, Inc.

## Computer Accessories

**Headset w/Noise Canceling Microphone**  
Sennheiser Electronic Corporation

**Anti-Noise PC Headset**  
Andrea Electronics Corporation

**Pure Flip Camcorder Ultra**  
Pure Digital Technologies, Inc.

**Noise Canceling Headphones for PC, CD, & MP3**

Logitech Inc. (pictured)



*Noise Canceling Headphones*

**Zoomcaps White on Black & Black on White**

Meeting the Challenge, Inc.

**Quiet Point Noise Cancelling Headphones**

Audio-Technica U.S., Inc.

**Vantage USB Headset for Playstation 3**  
Logitech Inc.

**Vantage USB Headset for Playstation 2 & 3**  
Logitech Inc.

**MP3 Player 2GB**  
SanDisk Corporation

## Daily Living

**Quick Suction Rail Bath Handle, 23.5"**  
Independent Needs Centre

**Medium Bath Handle 16"**  
MHI (Mommy's Helper Inc.)

**Get-A-Grip™ Bath Handle 11.5"**  
Jobar International, Inc.

**Nail Trapper w/Magnifier**  
Independent Living Aids  
(pictured)



*Nail Trapper w/ Magnifier*

**Deluxe Pedal Exerciser**  
Chattanooga Group

**Ball-pen w/weights**  
Swereco Rehab AB

**One Touch Jar Opener**  
One Touch: Cricket Productions, Inc.

**Talking Digital Ear Thermometer**  
Lumiscope Company, Inc.

**The MedCenter System - 31 days**  
MedCenter System

**Flexible Sock & Stocking Aid, Pediatric**  
Sammons Preston

**Dycem Multi-Purpose Jar Openers Blue**  
Sammons Preston

**Dycem Activity Pad Red 10" x 14"**  
Sammons Preston

# DATI Invests in Equipment for You (continued)

## Vision

### Clarity i-vu

ClarityUSA (pictured)

### Premium gh Player CD

gh, LLC

### Compact +

Optelec, US Inc.

### Walters 6x16 Monocular Extra Short Focus

S. Walters, Inc.

### 5.0D Half-Frame Clip-On Magnifier Glasses

S. Walters, Inc.

### 3.0D Full-Frame Clip-On Magnifier Glasses

S. Walters, Inc.

### 4.0D Full-Frame Clip-On Magnifier Glasses

S. Walters, Inc.

### ClassMate Reader (Player)

Humanware

### Enhanced Vibrating Note Teller 2 for Blind & Deaf

Brytech Inc.

### Note Teller 2 - Talking Money Identifier

Brytech Inc.

### OptiVisor, 3.5X magnifying lens w/headband

Donegon Optical



Clarity i-vu



Voice Activated Telephone Dialer

### Voice Activated Telephone Dialer

Freedom Dialer (pictured)

### VictorReader Stream

Humanware

### 5X Two Face Flexible Arm

### Mirror

Conair Corporation

### Access World Guide to AT Products 2008

American Foundation for the Blind

### Kurzweil 3000 USB LearnStation (read only)

Kurzweil Educational Systems, Inc.

### Digital Blood Pressure Monitor

A&D Engineering, Inc.

### Magnifiers, 3.5X to 10X LED Hand Held

Independent Living Aids (pictured)

### Magnifiers, 3X to 10X LED Stand

Independent Living Aids

### Talking Digital Tire Gauge

Reizen

### JAWS Professional Win 9.0

Freedom Scientific (Blind/Low Vision Group)



4X Hand Held Magnifier

## i.d. mate OMNI

En-Vision America, Inc.

### Digital Voice Recorder DS-20

Olympus Imaging America Inc.

### OpenBook Scanning & Reading Software 8.0

Freedom Scientific (Blind/Low Vision Group)

### Large Character Stickers Set for Dryers

Ablesee

### Large Character Stickers Set for Washers

Ablesee

### ZoomText 9.1 USB Edition w/carry strap & pouch

Ai Squared

### FotoDialer Telephone

### Companion

IntelliSolve (pictured)

### Talking Blood Pressure

### Monitor, Wrist Style

LS&S, LLC

### Big Button Plus Telephone w/Corded Handset

Northwestern Bell Phones

### Talking Atomic Clock w/Outdoor Temperature

LS&S, LLC



FotoDialer Telephone Companion

## Hearing

### Tie-pin Style Microphone

Olympus Imaging America Inc.

### Hearing Helper Personal FM System

Williams Sound Corp.

### Hearing Helper Personal FM Transmitter

Williams Sound Corp.

### Super Phone Ringer

Clarity/Ameriphone

### MaxIT Wireless Inductive Loopset

Pure Direct Sound

### Sensorcom T-Link for Phones (Cell, Wireless...)

Pure Direct Sound

### Sensorcom Music Link (Stereo from Music Devices)

Pure Direct Sound

### Univox2A Home Loop Kit

Pure Direct Sound

### Vivid Acoustics Soundshuttle

Pure Direct Sound

### Ear Amplifier

Independent Living Aids, Inc.

### Timex Expedition Vibrating Alarm Watch

Timex (pictured) ■



Timex Expedition Vibrating Alarm Watch



# New AT Specialist in Kent County

**E**ddie Jory recently joined the DATI team as the AT Specialist in the Kent County Assistive Technology Resource Center. Eddie worked for the Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) for 17 years, where he began as a Senior Rehabilitation Instructor and then moved into the role of Trainer Educator II. In his tenure at DVI, he assisted numerous individuals in identifying AT appropriate for their needs. Eddie loved working at DVI and is looking forward to learning about new AT that can be used to enable individuals with a broad range of needs. Prior to his work at DVI, Eddie worked as a Job Placement Specialist and Support Specialist for 6 years with individuals with special needs.

Eddie comes to DATI with a broad general knowledge of our mission, values, and services. He was one of the original members of DATI's Advisory Committee many years ago and has referred people with visual impairments to us for years.

Eddie became interested in AT when he was involved in an industrial accident in 1973. He said he did not know what to do and had numerous practi-

tioners make great recommendations—even simple things, like how to wash his hair when in a hospital bed. As a result of his life experiences, AT has become what Eddie does both professionally and personally. He has adapted several motorcycles for his own use. One was a trike and three had sidecar rigs. He now has his two wheeler adapted to meet his needs.

Eddie says that if there is a need, an accommodation can very possibly be identified and implemented, and he's looking forward to helping Kent County residents with their AT needs. ■



## **Research Participants with Cerebral Palsy Needed to Expand Knowledge Regarding Hand Coordination**

Researchers in The Motor Development Lab in the Department of Health, Nutrition, and Exercise Sciences at the University of Delaware are looking for volunteers to help improve their understanding of Cerebral Palsy (CP).

One way to learn more is by investigating hand coordination in people with CP while they perform tasks in everyday situations. Increasing knowledge may one day improve some people's ability to integrate more completely into school and work environments. Participants with CP are being sought who are between 9 and 25 years of age and who are able to use their hands in everyday tasks.

Please contact David Clizbe—email: [dclizbe@udel.edu](mailto:dclizbe@udel.edu) or phone: 1-302-379-6633 for more information.



## Homegrown in DELAWARE

*Dave Pedicone  
Nemours Biomedical Research  
Research Assistant  
Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children*

*Tariq Rahman  
Nemours Biomedical Research  
Senior Research Engineer  
Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children*

Imagine a person unable to move his/her arm because the arm is too heavy. If only there was a way to remove gravity from the equation! Well that may be a tall order, but what if there were a device that would make it 'feel' as if the arm weighed nothing? Maybe this would level the playing field for children eager to explore their environment and do the things other children do with little effort. Many people with weak muscles have trouble performing the simplest of functions such as scratching their nose or bringing a slice of pizza to their mouth. They often use awkward compensatory movements to get the job done, or have to ask someone else to do things for them. This need for assistance can affect their dignity, self-esteem, and quality of life. The upper extremity exoskeleton attempts to address some of these movement-related issues. What is an upper extremity exoskeleton? Read on, and you will learn more.

At Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, the Pediatric Engineering Research Laboratory (PERL), in collaboration with clinical departments in the hospital, has developed a mechanical arm exoskeleton that can be 'worn' by a child. This device, called the WREX (Wilmington Robotic Exoskeleton), is powered by elastic bands allowing children to 'float' their hand in front of them. The WREX can be attached to either a wheelchair or to a back brace for patients who are able to walk. WREX is prescribed for children and adults with conditions that cause upper extremity weakness such as muscular dystrophy, spinal muscular atrophy, and spinal cord injury. Funding for this project was provided by Nemours Biomedical Research, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Education. WREX has been patented by Nemours and is sold commercially by JAECO Orthopedics (<http://jaeco-orthopedic.com/>).

The PERL lab has had vital input from some of its users through several stages of the WREX devel-

opment process. Often times assistive technology development relies on patients providing valuable insight into the development of the new technology. This has been the case with Matthew. Matthew was 10



*Matthew using the WREX*

when first fitted with the WREX. He has had the WREX for 4 years now and wears it all the time. He relies on it for feeding himself at mealtime and for a host of other tasks. Matthew's feedback has been critical in the development of the WREX. He continues to provide us with feedback as we constantly improve the WREX. Additional upgrades include assisted wrist rotation and smoother joint bearings.

The PERL lab is continuing to work with JAECO Orthopedics to develop the next generation WREX. The new model will use "new generation" elastics and be more streamlined while including electric motors for patients with profound weakness. Powered by batteries and enabling the lifting of heavier objects, the motors will be controlled by sensors that measure muscle force and electrical signals. These signals are called electromyographic signals, or EMG, and are activated when muscles are contracted. Using appropriate sensors, these small electrical signals can be detected and used to control an electric motor. The new generation WREX continues to be a main area of investigation in the PERL laboratory.

To learn more about the Center for Orthopedic Research & Development, the Pediatric Engineering Research Lab, please visit: <http://www.nemours.org/research/biomedical/center/cord.html>. ■

# New Services Available to Delawareans with Acquired Brain Injury

Janet Villarreal  
Senior Planner

Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

**D**elaware Health and Social Services, Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD) has begun to provide services for persons with acquired brain injury (ABI) under a new Medicaid home and community-based waiver. (A waiver program allows states to use Medicaid funds to provide services in home and community-based settings instead of in nursing homes.) The Medicaid Waiver for Acquired Brain Injury is designed to provide enhanced services and supports to enable eligible adults with ABI to live as independently as possible. The program is being operated by DSAAPD with oversight from the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance, Delaware's Medicaid agency. The ABI Waiver was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to serve up to 50 persons during the first year of operation, 60 persons in the second year, and 70 persons in the third year.

## Services

The ABI Waiver program includes a range of services to support participants. Each person enrolled in the program receives a comprehensive assessment and a care plan to address his or her individual needs.

Following is a list of services included in the ABI Waiver program, along with a brief description of each service.

**Adult Day Services** provide activities and assistance in group settings for people with physical and/or mental limitations who cannot be left alone for long periods of time.

**Assisted Living** is a residential care option that provides support to residents in a homelike setting.

**Day Habilitation** is a service geared toward assisting persons with ABI to develop or maintain socialization and self-help skills.

**Case Management** helps participants and caregivers get connected with the services they need.

**Cognitive Services** assist in the diagnosis and treatment of certain problems that can result from brain injury.

**Personal Care** services are provided for persons who need help at home because of illness or disability.

**Personal Emergency Response System** is a device that allows a person at high risk to get immediate help in the event of an emergency.

**Respite Care Services** provide relief to primary caregivers, such as family members, on a regularly scheduled or as-needed basis.

## Eligibility

In order to participate in the ABI Waiver program, a person must meet several eligibility criteria. Specifically, to qualify a person must:

- Be 18 years of age or over;
- Meet income eligibility guidelines;
- Need a nursing home level of care;
- Have a diagnosed acquired brain injury;
- Exhibit medical, emotional, behavioral, and/or cognitive deficits resulting from his or her brain injury; *and*
- Have a rating of at least 5 but no greater than 8 on the Rancho Los Amigos Level of Cognitive Functioning Scale.

## Additional Information

DSAAPD staff members are available to answer questions about the new ABI Waiver and to assist eligible persons with enrollment in the waiver program. For more information, contact DSAAPD by phone or e-mail.

Toll Free: 1-800-223-9074

New Castle County: 1-302-453-3820

Kent & Sussex Counties: 1-302-424-7310

Administrative Office: 1-302-255-9390

E-mail: [DSAAPDinfo@state.de.us](mailto:DSAAPDinfo@state.de.us)

Additional information about brain injury and the ABI Waiver can also be found on DSAAPD's web site at [www.dhss.delaware.gov/dsaapd](http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dsaapd). ■

# Students' Right to Printed Materials

*Daniel Atkins*  
*Legal Advocacy Director*  
*Disabilities Law Program*

The United States' legacy of educating children with disabilities is a sordid one. Traditionally, children with disabilities were excluded from "regular" schools and were frequently institutionalized or segregated in "special" schools that suffered from inadequate funding, inferior educational curricula, and deplorable conditions. In 1975, Congress attempted to change that by passing the Education for all Handicapped Children Act, which became the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1991. The IDEA endeavors to ensure that children with disabilities receive access to a free appropriate public education. More specifically, IDEA explicitly attempts among other things, first, to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for employment and independent living; and second, to ensure that educators and parents have the necessary tools to improve educational results for children with disabilities by supporting systemic change activities; coordinated research and personnel preparation; coordinated technical assistance, dissemination, and support; and technology development and media services.

## **IDEA**

The IDEA does not reach all children with disabilities. IDEA defines the term "child with a disability" to mean a child—(i) with mental retardation, hearing impairments, speech and language impairments, visual impairments, serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairments, autism, other health impairments, or specific learning disabilities; and (ii) who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.

A state is eligible for federal financial assistance if it meets a number of conditions, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) a free appropriate public education which includes special education and related services is available to all children with disabilities in the state between the ages of 3 and 21, including students who have been suspended or expelled from school; (2) an individualized educa-

tion program (IEP) is developed, reviewed, and revised for each child with a disability at least on an annual basis; and, (3) to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with children who are not disabled, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular education environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

## **NIMAS**

When the federal government reauthorized the IDEA in 2004, the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) was created. NIMAS is the standard established by the federal Department of Education which is to be used in the preparation of electronic files to facilitate conversion of instructional materials into accessible formats. NIMAS is a file set that includes all information customarily prepared for publishing instructional materials for students who are blind or visually impaired as well as students with print disabilities. It includes metadata, images, and text. NIMAS file sets are source files and are designed to be converted by software into specialized formats—Braille, audio text, digital format or large print. When textbooks and classroom materials are produced using NIMAS, they will be in a standard electronic format that can be adapted to produce Braille versions or on screen displays of text and graphics. Ironically, NIMAS files are required only for "print instructional materials" and not on-line material. So, only textbooks and related printed core materials are required to be convertible.

All State educational agencies must now adopt NIMAS. IDEA requires that NIMAS applies to printed textbooks and related printed core materials that are written and published primarily for use in elementary and secondary school instruction and are required by the school to be used in the classroom.





## Students' Right to Printed Materials (continued)

Students who are eligible to receive the benefit of NIMAS are “blind or other persons with print disabilities” which means children who, pursuant to IDEA, qualify to receive books and other publications in specialized formats.

A student's IEP team determines whether a student needs accessible instructional materials, and then tailors the instructional program, modifications, and accommodations accordingly. However, for students who are blind, or visually impaired, a “competent authority” (medical professionals and school officials such as social workers and counselors should

be included in this team) must certify that the student is unable to read normal printed material and is thus eligible for access to NIMAS files.

Just ten years ago, transcription into Braille of a typical science textbook would take about a year at a cost of close to \$20,000. The availability of NIMAS-formatted files should facilitate the transformation of print into other forms. As a result, students who are blind or visually impaired and those with print disabilities may actually realize the promise of the IDEA and enjoy the benefits of the same classroom materials as their non-disabled peers. ■

## The AT Bargain Basement

*Marvin Williams*

*AT Specialist*

*DATI New Castle County ATRC*

Hello, True Believers, and welcome to another heart-warming edition of the *AT Bargain Basement*. I'm Marvin Williams, your host through this world of assistive technology bargains. If you are a regular visitor to the *Basement*, welcome back! If this is your first time joining us, welcome and what took you so long? In this column, we take a look at a variety of assistive technology bargains that often go unnoticed! Our rules of engagement are as follows: 1) I try to find you all of the assistive technology I can find for \$100 or less; 2) I bring you my findings here in this happy little column; 3) I also bring you the bargains your fellow readers bring to me; and 4) everyone has fun! So with that being said, let's get to the bargains!

Our first bargain is brand new to the inventory of the ATRCs—suction cup bath bars. We have several brands in our inventory—**Get-A-Grip**, **Safe-er-Grip Bathtub Safety Rail**, and **Quick Suction Grab Bar**. Unlike standard bath grab bars, these use strong suction to attach to the wall, bathtub, or whatever surface you put them on. This ease of installation makes them seemingly ideal for use when installation of standard grab bars seems difficult or impossible. However, the manufacturers do say that these are not



*Get-A-Grip safety bar*

meant to replace regular grab bars but are a supplement to them. What does this mean? Well, if you have a grab bar, one of these can be used to give you an additional hand-hold while getting into and out of the tub. Now, in my non-scientific testing, I have learned that you can only get the bar to stick if the suction cups on both ends are placed completely on a non-porous smooth surface. So if you have the bar set up over the grout line between two tiles on a tiled wall, it won't stick. If you can get it on its own tile, it sticks pretty well. If you have a smooth surface onto which you can attach the bar, then this may be a product for you. Some of the bars have indicators that tell you when it's got a good hold on the wall. The bars vary in size and price. I've seen them for as little as \$14 to as much as \$40. They are available from a number of manufacturers and stores. If you're not sure if one of these quick attach bars is for you, borrow ours and try it out.

Our next bargain is the **Personal Assistance Voice Dialer**. I'm sure many of you have seen the “I've fallen and I can't get up” commercials for the personal safety alert systems. Many of those systems charge monthly fees for the monitoring system. **The Personal Assistance Voice Dialer** gets rid of those monthly charges, so all you have to pay is the cost of the system and that's it. No recurring charges. Here's how it works. You program the base unit with up to four telephone numbers. When you press



## The AT Bargain Basement (continued)

the alert button on the pendant, the base unit dials the first number. When someone answers the phone, your emergency message plays for the listener. Once that person has heard the message, the base unit hangs up and calls the second number, repeating the process. I know what you're thinking:



*Personal Assistance  
Phone Dialer*

“Marvin, what if no one answers?” Well, the base unit hangs up after a while if no one answers. “But what if it gets an answering machine or voice mail?” you ask. Well, when the message plays, it asks listeners to press the pound (#) button to confirm that they have heard the message. The message will repeat a total of three times if that pound button is not pressed before hanging up and dialing the next number. The system also uses the existing wiring in the house to act as the antenna for the base unit, so it is difficult to get out of range of it. The unit also has a loud alarm that goes off inside of the house. So anyone within the house or passing by can hear that there is an emergency. While some monitoring services charge as much as \$30 a month for alert systems, this unit costs only \$49.95 (not including shipping)! You only have to pay that once to get one base unit and one remote pendant (the little help button you push when you're in trouble). In the event that you lose electrical power in your home, there is a small back-up battery, which will allow the unit to make calls as long as your phone line is working. The **Personal Assistance Voice Dialer** is available for sale from *X10.com*. Don't like to order on the Internet? No problem, you can call them, 1-800-675-3044. DATI has an older version of this system and a newer version from a different manufacturer available for loan from our ATRCs, so feel free to try it before you buy it.

Our next bargain is the **Ameriphone Super Phone Ringer**. Having trouble hearing the telephone ring because of a hearing loss? Well, this little marvel may be for you. It has an adjustable ringer volume so it can ring up to five times louder than a regular telephone. It also has a tone adjustment so you can change the ring to be higher or lower in pitch since sometimes that can help with hearing the ring. It costs \$36.70 (shipping not included). The unit does not require batteries or any external power source

besides the telephone line. For the cost, this is one great bargain. Now, it may not help someone with a hearing impairment outside the house when the phone rings, but it is very likely to help her hear the phone ring inside of the house. The unit can be purchased from *Hear More* either online, [www.hearmore.com](http://www.hearmore.com), or through a telephone order at 1-800-881-4327.



*Ameriphone  
Super Phone  
Ringer*

These are also available to try-out through your local ATRC.

The last bargain for this edition of the *AT Bargain Basement* is going on the top of my Christmas list! It is the **Luggage Retriever** from *Independent Living Aids*. This is a nice system where you press a button on the transmitter you keep with you and it causes a receiving unit in your suitcase, purse, backpack, or other personal item to chirp. Then all you have to do is listen for the chirps, and you can tell if what you're looking for is close or far. This is nice for anyone who routinely loses something. It's also useful for people with vision loss trying to locate something in an unfamiliar environment or for people who have short-term memory problems. The set is \$24.95, and for \$19.95 you can get an additional receiver unit to attach to a second item that gets lost. You will need to check to see if there is a maximum number of receivers that can be activated by the transmitter, and I don't know if all the receivers will chirp simultaneously when you push



*Luggage Retriever*

the transmitter button. In other words, you may want to do a bit of homework before purchasing additional receivers. You can order from *Independent Living Aids* either online, [www.independentliving.com](http://www.independentliving.com), or by calling them at 1-800-537-2118.

And that brings to a close another installment of the *AT Bargain Basement*. I'd like to thank you for reading and invite you back for our next bargain party! Of course, if you see a bargain that you'd like to tell everyone about, call, write, or e-mail me, and I'll happily share it with the group, with due credit given for your find. So until next time, remember: just because something is a bargain, doesn't mean that it's cheap! ■

# Delaware Association for the Blind

Linda Lauria  
Executive Director  
Delaware Association for the Blind



The Delaware Association for the Blind (DAB) has been in existence since 1948. The agency's mission is to improve the quality of life for blind and visually impaired children and adults in Delaware. We offer a wide range of recreational programs, including trips with door-to-door transportation, classes such as music appreciation and arts and crafts, bingo, a children's day camp and an adult residential camp. Our Peer Support Program pairs someone experiencing vision loss with a trained peer support worker who has gone through a similar experience. Our Volunteer Taping Program records material of local interest that is not available through the national Talking Book Program. DAB also offers some financial assistance to guide dog users, some grants to purchase assistive technology, and a limited Emergency Fund. We also loan out donated equipment such as CCTVs.

Looking for a local source for assistive technology for the visually impaired? The Delaware Association for the Blind operates a store at their headquarters at 800 West Street in Wilmington. The store carries a wide range of items geared toward making life easier for anyone with vision loss. Whether you, or someone you know, are totally blind or just can't read small print anymore, DAB has something that can help with those everyday frustrations and so much more.

All products are sold at cost—the store is operated as a service, not as a profit-making business. There are talking items such as clocks, watches, thermometers, caller IDs, medication bottles, and calculators. There are brailled items—playing cards, watches, telephones, and games. There are large print items including big button telephones, watches, clocks, games, keyboard labels, remote controls, books, and timers. DAB carries a wide range of magnifiers in strengths from 2X to 12.5X. Kitchen items, writing guides, travel and support canes, and tactile labeling items are also available. We can also order special items for you, usually at a lower cost than you can order them yourself.

The staff at the DAB store is very knowledgeable and helpful. If you aren't able to get into the store then you are welcome to order items over the phone and have them mailed to you. We do not stock "big ticket" items such as CCTVs or adapted computer systems—we refer people who are interested in such items to DATI or to specific vendors. DATI has CCTVs that you can borrow, and, if need be, they will assist you in finding ways for you to purchase a system, and we loan them out when we have them available. We have recently begun accepting credit cards (sorry, no debit cards) for purchases. The store is open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. In addition, several times a year DAB brings items sold in the store to locations throughout Delaware, such as the Modern Maturity Center in Dover and Methodist Manor House in Seaford. These events are announced in our quarterly newsletter. To get on the mailing list or for additional information, please call DAB at 1-302-655-2111 or 1-888-777-3925 (toll free from Kent & Sussex Counties).

For additional information, please call us at one of the numbers listed above, or you can email us as [info@dabdel.org](mailto:info@dabdel.org). Plus, please check out our website at [www.dabdel.org](http://www.dabdel.org). ■



Sharon (on the left), DAB administrative assistant and store manager, is showing Patti (on the right), a Peer Support Program secretary, some big button telephones.

## DATI Equipment Loan Policy

DATI has a wide variety of equipment at the Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) for the primary purpose of demonstration and short-term loan. The policy for equipment loans 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 provided 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 four weeks.

A maximum of four devices may be borrowed 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 borrower to use another. Equipment loans across state lines are not permitted. Equipment must also remain in Delaware throughout the loan period. ■



### Please Keep Us Posted!

Has your address changed? Are you receiving duplicates? Would you prefer to receive the newsletter via email?

If the address we have for you is incorrect, please type or print your correct address on the form below and forward it to DATI along with your current mailing label or the first page of your electronic newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, visit [www.dati.org/news/unsubscribe.html](http://www.dati.org/news/unsubscribe.html) or contact our central office.

Do you know a friend or family member who would be interested in receiving the newsletter? Please provide him/her with the subscription form below. ■

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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audio tape  Braille  large print

I am a:  person with a disability (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

family member of a person with a disability

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interested citizen

other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_





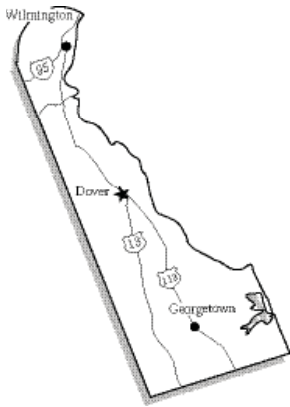


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Wilmington, DE 19899-0269

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## DATI RESOURCE CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE...

800-870-DATI (3284)  
dati@asel.udel.edu

New Castle County ATRC  
Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children  
203 Administration & Research Bldg.  
1600 Rockland Road  
Wilmington, DE 19803  
302-651-6790  
302-651-6794 (TDD)  
302-651-6793 (fax)

Kent County ATRC  
Easter Seals Kent County Center  
100 Enterprise Place, Suite One  
Dover, DE 19904-8200  
302-739-6885  
302-739-6886 (TDD)  
302-739-6887 (fax)

Sussex County ATRC  
20123 Office Circle  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
302-856-7946  
302-856-6714 (voice or TDD)  
302-856-6990 (fax)

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