



Reuse

In the AT Loop

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Come Blog with Us!

The Pass It On Center Blog is a platform for anyone interested in AT and DME Reuse to discuss, share, explore, and provide resources in a constructive way. It is our hope that you will share your helpful thoughts, ideas and feedback on what and how things should be changed to benefit our community. So come on in and join the discussion, post a question or comment or just hang out and learn a few things. We look forward to hearing from you!

www.thepassitoncenter.blogspot.com

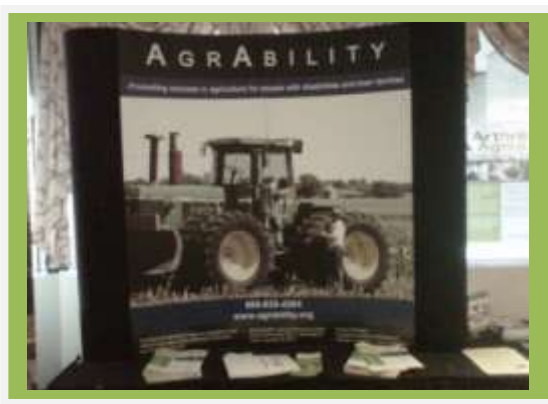
www.pioc-emergency.blogspot.com

Highlights from 2010 and a Look at 2011

Conferences

AgrAbility National Training Workshop

The Pass It On Center participated in AgrAbility for the first time. The Workshop was held October 11-14, 2010 in Charleston, West Virginia. Joy Kniskern and Carolyn Phillips presented a session about AT reuse and the resources of the Center, and then asked the participants how reuse programs can collaborate with AgrAbility at local and national levels. The National AgrAbility Project is dedicated to improving the quality of life for farmers, ranchers, agricultural workers and their family members who have disabilities. Assistive technology plays a key role in promoting their independence and participation. AgrAbility was born in the 1990 Farm Bill and there are now 21 projects in 22 states plus affiliates in other states. The organization consists of both the National AgrAbility Project and State/Regional Projects. Each project is a partnership that includes a land grant university and at least one nonprofit disability organization. All projects report to the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. Easter Seals, Goodwill, the Arthritis Foundation, the League for the Blind and Disabled and local centers for independent living are among the cooperating nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.agrabilityproject.org>.



AgrAbility Conference 2010



Assistive Technology Industry Association Chicago, Oct. 27-30, 2010

The Pass It On Center presented a strand of sessions on AT Reuse and a Pre-Conference on How to Start to Start or Improve an AT Reuse Program. Speakers included Carolyn Phillips, Joy Kniskern and Liz Persaud (Pass It On Center), Sara Sack (Assistive Technology for Kansans), Lindsey Bean Kampwerth (Paraquad and Pass It On Center), Sharon Alderman (Vermont AT School Swap), Rob Curtin (Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program) and Dorothy Young (Mississippi START).



Sara Sack, Lindsey Bean Kampwerth and
Liz Persaud at ATIA Chicago 2010

**Check back with us for
details on our
Preconference, Reuse
Strand and Emergency
Management presence
at ATIA Orlando and
Chicago 2011!**

Amy Goldman Honored

Amy Goldman, Director of Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (the state AT Act program) and Associate Director of Temple University's Institute on Disabilities, received the 2010 Pennsylvania Clinical Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association for distinguished contributions to the field of speech-language pathology. She was also nominated for the Louis M. DiCarlo Award for Recent Clinical Achievement given by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation in recognition of significant accomplishments in the advancement of clinical service in speech-language pathology and/or audiology.

What's New in Emergency Management?

Jim Cook Appointed New EM Consultant

Amy Goldman, Associate Director of Temple University's Institute on Disabilities, announced the appointment of Jim Cook as the new emergency management consultant for the Pass It On Center. Cook replaces George Heake who left Temple at the end of the summer. Pass It On Center contracts with Temple for emergency management consulting services. Cook, a resident of Parsons, Kansas, served as county emergency manager for five years. He also served on the Southeast Kansas Incident Management Team. His disaster response experience includes five presidentially-declared disasters within the county, 16 days in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina, work in Greensburg (KS) after the tornado and work in Louisiana at the state level after Hurricane Gustav.

EM & AT Reuse Group Plans Region IV Summit

The Pass It On Center Workgroup on Emergency Management and AT Reuse met in Atlanta on Dec. 15th and 16th to plan for the Emergency Management and AT Reuse Summit for FEMA Region IV. This two-day meeting is the first of a series of proposed regional summits as a continuation of work initiated at the National Summit in Washington, D.C., in February. The purpose is to address the issues of AT Reuse in response to disasters. Region IV was chosen as the pilot site because of its frequency of emergencies. The region encompasses eight Southeastern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. A tentative date was set for April. PIOC will work with state AT Act Program directors to identify key groups and organizations that should attend. An announcement of the finalized date will be made soon.

The Workgroup includes Amy Goldman from Pennsylvania; Sara Sack from Kansas; Jim Cook, PIOC's new EM consultant; and Joy Kniskern, Carolyn Phillips, Liz Persaud, and Trish Redmon, Martha Rust and Rhonda Perling from PIOC/Georgia Tools for Life. Also assisting in the planning efforts are Ruth Rust from Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) and other representatives from the Georgia Dept. of Labor.

Reuse Summits

North Dakota, California, Arizona

Joy Kniskern and Carolyn Phillips met with participants from public agencies, private organizations and reuse partners in each state. Summit discussions included expanding reuse beyond the exchange program into refurbishing and reassignment.

California AT Reuse Summit in Sacramento, CA



Joy Kniskern and Carolyn Phillips with the IPAT Team in Fargo, ND

Current Projects

Complex Rehabilitation Project, Georgia

Joy Kniskern from the Pass It On Center, Sara Sack from Assistive Technology for Kansans, Laura Cohen from Rehab Tech Consultants and Rhonda Perling from Georgia Tools for Life are working with this project. The objective is to better understand the needs of people who come to reuse programs for assistive technology. More than 50 interviews have been completed to date. Some customers come because they are unable to identify the resources that are available to them, or, they may know about the resources but find the payment systems too complex. One identified issue is the need for AT professionals to screen people coming to reuse programs to direct them to available resources. Unfortunately, most nonprofit reuse organizations do not have the resources to hire AT professionals. The Kansas program has implemented a process for screening people to identify available resources. While complex rehabilitation cases represent a very small percentage of cases, those cases can prove very expensive. Payment for commonly used and more readily available durable medical equipment (perhaps from reuse programs) consumes much of the limited funding that might otherwise be available to meet the needs of the complex rehabilitation cases. Georgia Medicaid is working with the project to gather data about the volume of needs and to explore potential opportunities for AT reuse as part of the solution. Sara's work with the Kansas Health Policy Authority led to recognition for the significant sums saved. She has consulted with other states that are exploring the possible inclusion of reuse in state healthcare programs.



Rhonda Perling and Laura Cohen with Weesie Walker lead a Complex Rehab Discussion in Macon, GA



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DISCLAIMER

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