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Highlights of The Pass It On Center

Pass It On Center visits Western US

Berkeley Center for Independent Living

Carolyn Phillips was recently invited to visit the Ed Roberts Center (Center for Independent Living) in Berkeley, CA. This stunning new facility is a leader in the disability community when it comes to thoughtful design and accessibility for people with disabilities. The Pass It On Center (PIOC) team provided technical assistance for the opening of a new AT Reuse Center on the site of the original Center for Independent Living property. New space for sanitization and refurbishment is currently being designed. Below is an email from John Hastings to Carolyn Phillips sharing their use of PIOC and AT Reuse resources for the new reuse program. Thank you John for your feedback and we certainly look forward to seeing progress and the AT Reuse program in full action!



Carolyn and Yomi on the property of the original CIL and site of the new AT Reuse Center

Hi Carolyn,

I enjoyed meeting you on your recent visit to the Bay area. I was glad you got the opportunity to tour the Ed Roberts Center. I think it is a great building. At your suggestion I looked at the Pass It On Center web page and specifically at the information pages. I found lots of information that will be truly helpful in setting up our program here at our Telegraph Avenue site. Being able to look at the information your organization has gathered and made available is certainly better than having to re-invent the wheel with steps we take in developing our program here. Next time you are in the area drop by and check us out. We should be in operation before too long. Our HUBSCRUB has been ordered and should be delivered here the first week in August. Thanks again for sharing so much useful information.

*Best,
John Hastings
Center for Independent Living
Berkeley, CA*



Thoughtful and accessible design

Pass It On Center visits Western US

Washington State Summit

Joy Kniskern and Carolyn Phillips provided support for the Washington state AT Reuse Summit in early August. The PIOC team facilitated discussion on AT Reuse solutions and exploration of a plan for the future. This summit was also attended by some of the Washington AT Act Program staff and other AT and reuse leaders in the community. The PIOC toured [Bridges Disability Ministries](#) in Bellevue, WA, to explore their facility, reuse methods, and see the great work they are accomplishing.



Joy Kniskern facilitates breakout group on AT solutions



Alan Knue leading the AT Reuse discussion



Mike Friend and Carolyn Phillips at the Access Alaska AT Reuse program

Access Alaska Program and Midnight Sun Conference

Carolyn Phillips was a presenter at the Midnight Sun Conference in Alaska this August. She presented on the Pass It On Center activities and provided tools for sustaining and/or creating an AT Reuse Program. While in Alaska, Carolyn visited the Access Alaska Elder and Disability Support Services in Fairbanks for a tour of their center, to hear about their success and to provide technical assistance.

AT Reuse Strand at ATIA Chicago

The Pass It On Center will once again be at ATIA Chicago, Nov. 1-3, 2011, in Schaumburg, IL. This year the PIOC AT Reuse Strand will consist of seven sessions that fit into the existing strands. We are excited about this new organization of reuse sessions and hope it will bring attention to AT Reuse. Here are the AT Reuse Strand sessions that will be presented:

- ✓ "i" Am Ready: "Apps" for Emergency Preparedness
- ✓ Optimizing AT Resources in Schools: School Swap and More
- ✓ Meeting Community Needs Through AT Reuse Programs
- ✓ The Trend of Reused AT for Sensory Disabilities
- ✓ Filling the Gap! AT Reuse Helps School and Community Transitions
- ✓ Including AT, AT Reuse, and Emergency Preparedness in Pre-Service Training
- ✓ AT Reuse is Making Environmental and Community Access Possible

[Click here for registration details.](#)

See you in Chicago!

AT Reuse Programs in the Spotlight

Kansas Reuse Program Expands to Include Low Vision Devices

The Pass It On Center, the national technical assistance center for assistive technology (AT) reuse, works with hundreds of AT Reuse programs across the country to enable more individuals in their communities to receive appropriate AT to be independent. Reused AT is a great option for those who fall into the "funding gap." These can be individuals who are underemployed, uninsured or under-insured, or just lacking financial resources to obtain AT. Here we highlight the Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) Reuse Program and the new initiative it has implemented to serve the blind and low vision community through reused AT.

Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) contacted the statewide assistive technology program (ATK) as it began to plan a new service delivery program to meet the needs of individuals who are blind or have low vision. ATK operates a durable medical equipment refurbishing program through collaboration with Kansas Health Policy Authority, the state's Medicaid program. KRS was closing a large center based program and wanted to expand its community-based services. A priority was finding a way to disseminate low vision devices to eligible Kansans. The equipment inventory included close circuit televisions (CCTVs), portable video-magnifiers, and low vision aids for daily living for personal care, health management, and household management. ATK operates five regional AT Access Sites that provide assistive technology services to Kansans with disabilities and chronic health conditions. ATK agreed to accept the inventory and disseminate it to eligible Kansans.



Criteria for eligibility include documentation by a qualified professional of a low vision examination within the last six months, and an income of \$55,000 or less for an individual. Priority is given to adults age 18 years and older.

ATK staff distributed 70 CCTVs, 19 video-magnifiers and over 110 low vision aids for daily living to 160 Kansans with vision loss in the first year of collaboration. To increase awareness about the devices, ATK distributed information cards through rural libraries, conducted three low vision clinics with low vision specialists and ophthalmologists, and assisted individuals with identifying funding for twenty-two low vision devices they needed that were not part of the original inventory. The collaboration has strengthened the ties between Kansas Rehabilitation Services and Assistive Technology for Kansans and has benefited many Kansans.

Learn more about us at the [ATK](#) and [Pass It On Center](#) Web sites.

A special Thank You to Sheila Simmons, the Program Coordinator for Assistive Technology for Kansans.

Webinars

Coming in November and December: Lessons Learned from the 12 Demonstration Projects



Five years ago, the Department of Education funded 12 projects that showed promise as models of how to expand AT Reuse. Joy Kniskern and Trish Redmon of the Pass It On Center are reviewing what the grantees proposed and what they accomplished, and interviewing some of the leaders to determine what valuable lessons they learned, especially about sustainability and outcomes. These valuable lessons will be shared in webinars in November and December. The experiences of the projects will be documented more formally in a report.



In the AT Reuse Loop: A Pass It On Center Publication

Volume I, Issue 4
July/August 2011

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DISCLAIMER

This work is supported under cooperative agreement #H235V060016 awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and is administered by the Pass It On Center of the Georgia Department of Labor – Tools for Life. However, the contents of this publication do not necessarily represent the policy or opinions of the Department of Education, or the Georgia Department of Labor, and the reader should not assume endorsements of this document by the Federal government or the Georgia Department of Labor.