



Reuse

In the AT Loop

A Pass It On Center Publication, Volume 1, Issue 2, March/April 2011

IN THIS ISSUE:

Reuse Locations Database	1
New NTF Members	2
Annual NTF Meeting	2
ATIA Orlando 2011	2
EM and Reuse Summit	3
2011 Great Shakedown	3
AT Reuse in Schools	4

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 of The Pass It On Center

Are you Listed?

Over 190 AT Reuse program profiles have been created in the PIOC Reuse Locations database. This database aims to assist people with disabilities and their circles of support to locate their community resources that can assist them to exchange or locate refurbished AT that they need or no longer use.

If you click on your state, do you see all of the reuse locations that you know about? If not, contact those missing programs and ask them to create a profile so that users will know where to find them. Is the information for existing programs accurate? Sometimes users click on a link only to discover that the program web site has a new address and the new information was not updated.

To get started, visit the PIOC Reuse Locations page at <http://passitoncenter.org/locations/search.aspx>. Simply click on “create an account” to enter your program’s information or to log in using the original sign in information to update an existing entry.

If you need assistance, please contact Liz Persaud – Liz@passitoncenter.org.



National Task Force on AT Reuse

New Task Force Members Announced

On Thursday, February 10, 2011 Joy Kniskern, Pass It On Center Principal Investigator, announced that Cathy Valdez and Barclay Shepard have been named to the Pass It On Center (PIOC) National Task Force. They are not only leaders in their home states, but they have contributed to the efforts of the Pass It On Center for the past several years. Both come from programs that were among the twelve RSA demonstration projects.

Cathy Valdez is the Executive Director of Project MEND in San Antonio, Texas. Project MEND is a nonprofit organization that serves a major portion of South Texas through AT reutilization and orthotics programs. Cathy has participated in PIOC reuse conferences, webinars and ATIA conferences. She has been a willing resource to assist start-up reuse efforts in her state.

Barclay Shepard is a specialist with the Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS). He also has contributed to reuse conferences and the Pass It On Center ATIA Reuse Strand. VATS is involved in several innovative initiatives for AT reuse that serve persons with spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, Veterans with disabilities and vocational rehabilitation participants. VATS works with the Foundation For Rehabilitation Equipment and Endowment (F.R.E.E.) to provide community-based assistive technology reutilization services for persons with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The FREE Foundation, based out of Roanoke, is a non-profit agency that has been helping persons with disabilities to acquire gently used rehabilitation equipment for more than ten years.

Annual Pass It On Center National Task Force Meeting

The 5th annual Pass It On Center National Task Force Meeting will be held in Atlanta, GA on April 26 and 27, 2011 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.

In addition to a review of the activities of the previous year, the Task Force will focus on sustainability for the Center. The group will be joined by newly-appointed members Cathy Valdez, Project MEND in San Antonio, and Barclay Shepard, Virginia Assistive Technology System.

ATIA Orlando 2011

The Pass It On Center had a very successful event at ATIA Orlando this year! On January 26th the Center conducted an all day pre-conference workshop, Expanding AT Reuse: Getting from Point of Availability to Point of Need. During this hands-on session participants addressed how to leverage the use of available AT devices, whether previously used devices in inventories awaiting reassignment or devices assigned to an individual facing transition to a new life situation.

The Pass It On Center also had an 8 session strand on AT Reuse. These sessions covered topics such as How to Build an AT Reuse Program, The Role of AT Providers in Emergency Management, Return on Investment of AT Reuse Programs and much more. To access these presentations visit the Pass It On Center Knowledge Base.

The Great Central U.S. Shake Out

Get Ready!

Mark Your Calendar for Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 10:15am for the largest Earthquake drill in the Central part of the country.

Check out www.shakeout.org/centralus for more information and details on how to register.



Emergency Management

Pass It On Center to Host the first Southeastern Summit on AT Reuse and Emergency Management for FEMA Region IV

The Pass It On Center is hosting the first Southeastern Summit on AT Reuse and Emergency Management for FEMA Region IV on April 27 and 28, 2011, at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. This invitation-only meeting will include participants from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee and will further explore the role of reused assistive technology in the disaster management effort and how to collaborate when disasters strike.

Speakers will include key national and regional leaders in Emergency Management and services for people with functional needs. We are delighted to announce that Marcie Roth, Senior Advisor, Disability Issues for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will be a key speaker.

Panels will address the issues for people with functional needs in dealing with the impact of hurricanes and tornadoes, flooding, winter storms and other hazards (including fires, earthquakes, nuclear and toxic spills). Participants will begin developing state and regional plans for increasing levels of partnership for responding to disasters. Approximately sixty participants are expected from the eight-state region.

Participants will begin the plans to strengthen the role of AT Reuse in emergency management by forging new partnerships among the AT Act Programs and other organizations engaged in emergency response. The next step after state plans have been developed is to forge regional alliances, then national alliances.

This summit is coordinated by Amy Goldman, Manager of the Pass It On Center's Initiative on Emergency Management and AT Reuse. Amy is also Director of Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT) and Associate Director of Temple University's Institute on Disabilities. Co-coordinators include Trish Redmon, Consulting Editor/Educator to the Pass It On Center and Jim Cook, the Pass It On Center Consultant on Emergency Management. We would also like to say a big Thank You to RESNA's Catalyst Project for contributing financial support to promote attendance at this Summit.

Webinars

AT Reuse in Schools

In case you missed it, below is the Pass It On Center article that was featured in the March 2011 Friends of ATIA Newsletter.

The problem is frustrating: AT purchased for use by students seldom follows AT users as they change schools, graduate or transfer into adult services. The result? AT left behind where it is often shelved, and inadvertently retired, rather than reassigned by the school to benefit another student.

To promote AT reuse by schools, the Pass It On Center (PIOC) is exploring ways to reuse AT among school systems, whether by exchange, partnering with a local AT program or utilizing a database. The Center is also working to identify and ameliorate system barriers. What if AT could cross district lines? What other barriers do schools encounter when trying to engage in AT Reuse activities? PIOC recognizes that AT Reuse is a fundamental component in providing access to AT for students with disabilities.

The Pass It On Center, the National Technical Assistance Center for AT Reuse, promotes the safe, effective and appropriate reuse of assistive technology by providing assistance to agencies, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions that engage in reuse activities. PIOC is working closely with the Vermont AT Reuse Project's AT School Swap, www.getatstuff.com, a concept developed through the collaboration and Web exchange of the six New England states. The willingness of school districts to share equipment is slowly gaining traction in New England. PIOC included a session on this project at ATIA Orlando, hosted a recent webinar on the topic, *Going Green in Schools: an Effective AT Reuse Experience*, (available at the PIOC webinar archive: <http://www.passitoncenter.org/Webinars.aspx>), and plans to include an expanded activity on school reuse at ATIA Chicago.

The Center currently has a listing of all the AT Exchanges in the country on its Web site under "Find AT," and is exploring ways to build a national database that would erase the state lines among non-school exchanges and allow for more flexibility for users. For more information and to access the Pass It On Center resources visit www.passitoncenter.org.



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

Volume I, Issue 2
March / April 2011

Pass It On Center
1700 Century Circle
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30345

1-800-497-8665

Info@passitoncenter.org
www.passitoncenter.org

DISCLAIMER

This work is supported under five-year 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.