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Another Successful Summit!

The Emergency Management and AT Reuse Summit for FEMA Region III was a huge success! This event took place in Philadelphia on September 26th and 27th and included emergency management personnel and disability service providers from Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. This summit aimed to create a working network, within each state and amongst the region, of individuals and key stakeholders who are instrumental in individual and organization emergency planning for people with disabilities. Participants were charged with identifying infrastructure needed to develop and implement a rapid response system for delivering assistive technology devices and services for people with disabilities affected by disaster.

The keynote speaker was Marcie Roth, Director of the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Other invited speakers were Dr. Carl Cameron, President and CEO, and Pat Heinemann, Project Coordinator, of the Inclusion Research Institute/Inclusive Preparedness Center, and Jamie Landry Karam, Program Director, The AT Marketplace and Computer ReUse, Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN). Carl and Pat shared the Disaster Readiness Planner (DRP) tool for those with disabilities and the organizations that serve them. The DRP can be used to identify AT needed at various points in the emergency management cycle. During breakout sessions members of each state spoke about their disaster experiences and how AT and AT Reuse and people with disabilities fit into the various stages (preparation, response, mitigation and recovery) of emergency planning. Jamie led the discussion on the current availability of both intra- and inter-state (and regional) agreements, as well as interagency agreements that could facilitate the sharing of AT resources. LATAN shared their model and experiences of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) specifically regarding assistive technology.

The summit wrapped up with an opportunity for each state team to begin identifying action steps. The Pass It On Center Planning Guide provides questions/items for consideration and discussion during this process.

To view documents and presentations shared during the Summit visit the [Pass It On Center Emergency Management page](#).

We'll be at ATIA in Chicago on Nov. 3-5!

Come attend our sessions in the AT Reuse Strand (pg. 4)!

Visit us in the Exhibit Hall at booth # 429!

See you there!



Small Group discussion on EM and State Plans

See more photos from the EM and AT Reuse Summit on our [Facebook](#) page!

Success around the Country

Project MEND in San Antonio, Texas, wins Community Hero Award from MOAA

Project MEND, an AT reuse program based in San Antonio, is the first civilian organization to be named a Community Hero by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Project MEND is being honored for service to members of the military, families and veterans through reuse of manual and power wheelchairs as well as other types of durable medical equipment.

“The right piece of medical equipment can do so much to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, but sometimes, because of gaps in funding and services, that equipment is kept out of the hands of those who need it most; people fall through the cracks. We at Project MEND see it as our job to lift them up, and we are particularly proud when we can extend a helping hand to our veterans,” said Executive Director Cathy Valdez.

Project MEND has provided for the medical equipment needs of low-income individuals with disabilities in San Antonio and surrounding counties for nearly 20 years. Currently Project MEND is the only non-profit in South Texas providing refurbished medical equipment to individuals with disabilities. San Antonio is the home of four major military installations and many military retirees. Project MEND has developed partnerships with local agencies serving the military, including the San Antonio Coalition for Veterans, Wounded Warrior Project, and Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinics. Their work with veterans is supported in part by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans Assistance.

Project MEND will receive the Community Hero Award at a banquet on October 28, during the 2011 MOAA Annual Meeting.

For more information, visit Project MEND at www.projectmend.org or the Military Officers Association of America at www.moaa.org.

CALLING ALL REUSE PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Has your Reuse program recently won an award? Was your program featured in your local newspaper or other media for an accomplishment? Do you have a success story to share?

The Pass It On Center would like to feature your program's accomplishments and success stories in the upcoming issues of *In the AT Reuse Loop* newsletters. This is a great way to share your program's news within the AT Reuse Community!

For more information or to submit your 200 to 300 word article, email:

Liz@passitoncenter.org.



Back to School Reuse



Computers for Learning Available Through Government Reuse

This fall more than 55 million students returned to secondary schools in America.¹ The worsening economy has resulted in budget cuts to K-12 education in 34 states and the District of Columbia since 2008. Continued unemployment prompted a second round of cuts in the past year.² This comes at a time when new research suggests that increased access to technology can play a role in reducing dropout rates.³ So how can we help schools afford to stay wired for learning?

[Computers for Learning](#) is a technology reuse program that can play an important role. The program began as result of an Executive Order signed by President Clinton in 1996, and is implemented by the General Services Administration (GSA). It encourages all federal agencies to transfer excess computers directly to schools and educational nonprofit organizations (to the extent allowed by law).⁴ Agencies report excess property, including computers, to GSA for disposal; and the computers and related equipment go to Computers for Learning for reassignment, extending their useful life.

Interested in participating? Schools and nonprofit educational organizations are eligible to receive this equipment. To qualify, program participants must be located in the United States or one of its territories (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands.) Public, private and parochial schools that serve pre-kindergarten through grade 12 are eligible. Educational nonprofit organizations are eligible if they are qualified under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, serve some portion of the pre-K through grade 12 population, and operate primarily for the purpose of education. The computers are reassigned without charge, but the receiving school or organization must pay for shipping and handling, as well as any costs associated with refurbishing the computers.

If access to technology can reduce drop-out rates, there is strong incentive, indeed, for keeping our schools digital, and particularly as we face shrinking revenues and tighter school budgets. Research shows that if just one-tenth of the potential dropouts from the seventh grade class of 2007 were, instead, to complete high school and go on to college, the net result would be 96,200 more college graduates and about \$19 billion more in tax revenues over the next 40 years.⁵

To take advantage of this resource for computer reutilization, visit [Computer For Learning](#).

¹K-12 Facts. The Center for Education Reform. http://www.edreform.com/Fast_Facts/K12_Facts/

²Johnson, Nicholas, Phil Oliff and Erica Williams. An Update on State Budget Cuts. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=1214>

³Pierce, Dennis. Are computers for every student a wise investment? eSchool News, July 26, 2010. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/07/26/are-computers-for-every-student-a-wise-investment/>

⁴K12 Facts: Enrollment. http://computersforlearning.gov/hm/hp_eligibility.htm

⁵Pierce

AT Reuse Strand at ATIA Chicago 2011

The Pass It On Center will once again be at ATIA Chicago November 3-5 in Schaumburg, IL. This year the PIOC AT Reuse Strand will consist of seven sessions that fit into the existing main strands. We are excited about this new organization of reuse sessions and hope it will bring attention to AT Reuse. The AT Reuse Strand sessions are:

- ✓ "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

For more information on these sessions, speakers, dates and times visit the [ATIA Chicago 2011 website](#) and search for keyword "AT Reuse" when searching in the session directory.

Be sure to use the Pass It On Center Alliance Partner code **PANZ3** for [ATIA Chicago 2011 conference registration](#).



Knowledge Base News

Have you visited the Pass It On Center Knowledge Base (KB) recently? New articles, videos and other helpful resources are uploaded frequently. To see recently added material just scan thru the *New to the Knowledge Base* section located at the top of the KB home page.

If your Reuse program has any materials to contribute to the KB or if you have any questions, please feel free to email Trish@passitoncenter.org.

See what's new in the [Knowledge Base](#) now!



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