

SHARENotes

The Newsletter of the Society for Human Advancement through Rehabilitation Engineering Foundation, Inc.

SHARE Foundation Seeks Walkers and Sponsors for 39th Annual Fun Walk Set for September 14

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
9 AM REGISTRATION
10 AM WALK KICK-OFF

Grab your walking shoes, invite your friends and get ready for SHARE Fun Walk 2024! Held again this year at Westport Point United Methodist Church at 1912 Main Road in Westport, MA, the annual event offers a day of family fun and activities along the Point's beautiful, historic waterfront.

Arrive early and enjoy coffee and doughnuts while you register—you're sure to see plenty of familiar faces and meet some new friends. Walkers and wheelers (wheelchairs are always welcome!) will be treated to a pizza lunch and have the chance to win plenty of fabulous prizes.

All proceeds from the Fun Walk will support the work of SHARE. Since



Smiling walkers from Fun Walk 2023 gathered in support of SHARE despite the rainy weather.

its incorporation in 1982, the SHARE Foundation has assisted approximately 4,000 people with disabilities, such as ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, stroke and other conditions.

Questions about Fun Walk 2024?
Contact SHARE at 774-992-0674.



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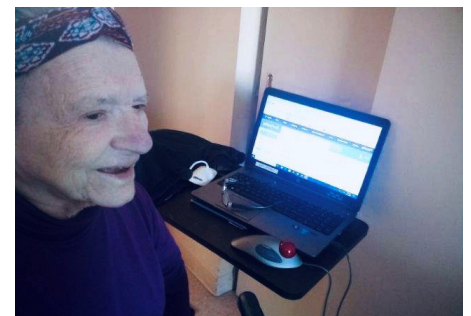
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Longtime Client Claire Antaya Sings SHARE's Praises

Client Claire Antaya has had a long-standing relationship with SHARE. Claire said meeting SHARE's late founder Les Cory was a "blessing" in her life.

"Whenever I had a problem, he would pick up the phone and talk to me," Claire recalled. "It was so nice."

When Claire was living independently, SHARE provided her with a computer and printer that she enjoyed using. Because of space constraints at the nursing home where she currently



resides, she now uses a laptop. SHARE Client Services Coordinator Beverly
Continued on page 2

Jack Dresser Embraces New Executive Leadership Role at the SHARE Foundation

SHARE is excited to welcome Jack Dresser in his new leadership role as executive director of the Foundation. Jack joined SHARE in May and is following in the footsteps of SHARE cofounder and former executive director Phil Viall, who has transitioned to the role of Director of Technology for the organization.

Jack is a nonprofit leader, strategist and relationship builder with 30 years of experience in healthcare and higher education fund development. He comes to the SHARE Foundation from Care New England in Providence, RI, where he served as Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer for the health system. He has also led fundraising efforts and volunteer programs at New Bedford, MA-based Southcoast Health System. While his first career out of college was in real estate development, Jack says he had the good fortune to be able to pivot into work with mission-based nonprofits when he took a job at his alma mater, Cornell University.

Jack is passionate about the SHARE Foundation's mission to help



people with disabilities. He says he is grateful to be with his new colleagues at SHARE and admires the skills, creativity and heart they bring to their work for the benefit of SHARE's clients.

"I am also enjoying my work with our board of directors to sustain the legacy of SHARE's founders Les Cory, Rick Walder and Phil Viall," Jack said. "I look forward to connecting with our community of friends and supporters to gain their help in advancing our mission for years to come."

Meet Dawn Dessert, SHARE's Newest Employee

Dawn Dessert first became acquainted with SHARE in 1995 during her studies as an electrical engineering technology student at UMass Dartmouth. At that time, Dawn worked on two recycling grants for SHARE when the nonprofit served as the funding arm of the UMD Center for Rehabilitation Engineering on campus. After she graduated, Dawn worked as a secretary at SHARE, acquiring equipment, reaching out to clients, and tackling a "hodgepodge" of responsibilities there, as she describes it.

Now back at SHARE after working in engineering, teaching and banking, Dawn visits clients at home



to resolve any issues they may have with equipment and determine their assistive technology needs. She also provides client training on

how to use equipment and documents the services each client receives.

"For a lot of individuals, there are things they can do with SHARE's help to gain independence," said Dawn. "I always want to be encouraging and brighten their days."

SHARE Longtime Client

Continued from page 1

Thorn is teaching her how to use Dragon Systems voice recognition software for communication.

"I need a refresher course," Claire said. "I'd like to learn how to play slots or solitaire or pool [online]."

Claire said the nursing home uses a system that is different from what she had in the past, making it necessary for her to receive additional training from SHARE staff. The longtime SHARE client said she likes using her laptop at night after dinner—sometimes into the wee hours of the morning, she laughed. Claire explained that she uses a pencil to poke one letter at a time on the keyboard.

Claire's condition—arthrogryposis—means several of her joints have stiffness, making movement difficult. Using the Dragon software, she can speak into a microphone to give the laptop verbal commands. "I'm very fortunate that, if I have issues, someone from SHARE is there to help and guide me through it," she noted.

Claire said SHARE helped lessen the depression she felt when she was no longer able to work and stay physically active. For many years, she worked as a receptionist at Truesdale Clinic in Fall River until her condition compromised her mobility. Throughout the years, Claire has used her scooter to participate in the SHARE Fun Walk.

Claire encourages people who can contribute to SHARE to lend their support so that the nonprofit can continue helping other clients.

"I would recommend SHARE to any disabled person. It shows us we can still do things," Claire said. "Without SHARE, I don't know where I would be today. Even now, I can make a phone call and Beverly will come help me."

Remembering Claire Carney

Claire T. Carney, age 101, an esteemed member of SHARE's Board of Directors for 33 years, passed away on March 24 at her home in Boca Raton, Florida.

Carney was known for her dedication to education. She earned a degree at the age of 50 from Southeastern Massachusetts University (now UMass Dartmouth) and was appointed as the first woman trustee to the SMU Board of Trustees. She received the SMU Alumni Association Service Award in 1982, the university's Centennial Award in 1997, and an honorary doctorate in 1990. In 2006, the UMass Dartmouth library was named the Claire T. Carney Library in her honor.

SHARE cofounder Phil Viall remembers Carney as both an enthusiastic supporter of SHARE's events and a loyal board member.



"When Mike Dukakis was running for president, there was a fundraising dinner scheduled for the same evening as the SHARE board meeting," said Viall. "Claire paid \$1,000 for the dinner—but instead of going to the dinner, she came to SHARE's board meeting."

Viall also recalls Carney's skill and savvy as a volunteer marshal

tasked with recruiting walkers for SHARE's largest annual walkathon fundraiser. "Each marshal had to recruit five division leaders. Each division leader was responsible for recruiting five captains, and each captain needed to recruit five walkers," explains Viall. The marshal was also responsible for keeping the division leaders and captains on track with their recruiting.

"Claire executed her duties as a marshal flawlessly," said Viall. "I think that was our most successful Fun Walk ever. She truly believed in the mission of SHARE."

Throughout her many years of service, Carney's gifts of leadership and support have helped to carry SHARE's mission steadily forward. She will long be remembered by the SHARE community for her wisdom, generosity and kindness.

2023 Fun Walk and Classic Car Show Aid SHARE's Mission

SHARE continues to rely on fundraisers to help support its day-to-day efforts to ensure greater independence and communication for our clients. We are truly grateful for two popular annual events that raised a total of \$10,200 last fall to benefit SHARE.

On September 17, 2023, vintage car enthusiasts participated in SHARE's annual Antique and Classic Car Show & Flea Market held at the Freetown Historical Society in Assonet. With DJ Johnny Angel spinning favorite oldies and show awards presented in several categories, the fundraiser was again the fun and high-octane success that the Downshifters Club of New England, our event sponsor, and fellow classic car fans across the community look forward to every fall. Throughout the day, bargain hunters enjoyed explor-

ing the flea market, where vendors' unique wares offered something for everyone.

On September 23, 2023, about 50 brave walkers and dedicated volunteers turned out in damp, sometimes rainy weather for SHARE's annual Fun Walk at the Westport Point United Methodist Church. Gearing up in ponchos to battle the wind and spitting rain, the loyal group completed the walk route to the waterfront before enjoying lunch, prizes and raffles—traditions synonymous with this long-running

event. SHARE would like to recognize and thank Fun Walk sponsors BayCoast Bank, Zeiterion Theatre, Colonial Beverage, Providence Performing Arts Center, and Town Donuts for their generous support.

Year after year, these fundraisers generate critically needed income that enables SHARE to provide assistive technology and training so that children and adults with disabilities can lead more independent lives. Many thanks to our loyal supporters for your kindness and commitment—we could not do it without you!



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<https://www.facebook.com/people/The-SHARE-Foundation/100060850593949/>



YOUR GIFT MATTERS. Our giving community powers SHARE's mission and expands our reach — thank you to our many donors for partnering with us to bring help and hope to others through technology.

The following donations were received from August 17, 2023 to July 23, 2024.

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41st Annual Ben Boyle & Ron Kostyla Golf Tournament Adds \$12,000 to Its SHARE Fundraising Legacy

From start to finish, the 41st Annual Ben Boyle & Ron Kostyla Golf Classic was a high-impact fundraising event for SHARE again this spring. Held on June 2, 2024, at the Richmond Country Club in Hope Valley, RI, the benefit raised \$12,000 to support adaptive technologies and training for SHARE clients across our communities.

We wish to express our deepest thanks to Don Osley, who took over for longtime event organizer Bob Bjorklund, the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club, and the many club members, golfers and volunteers who helped to make this event such a success. Over the event's 41-year history, SHARE is honored to report that the tournament has raised more than \$295,000 to support our mission and services.



Next year's benefit tournament is slated for June 2025—watch SHARE's website and our upcoming newsletter for all the details.

30TH ANNUAL
CLASSIC CAR SHOW & FLEA MARKET

JOIN US!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
8 AM TO 2 PM

Freetown Historical Society
1 Slab Bridge Road, Assonet, MA

Classic Cars & Trucks – \$15
Drive-ins are welcome!

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