

SHARENotes

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

SHARE Celebrates Reaching 4,000th Client Milestone with A Look Back at First Client Linda Texceira's Inspiring Story

IN ITS 45-YEAR HISTORY, SHARE has made countless phone calls to clients in need — fielding requests for help, exploring adaptive technology solutions with users, and lending ongoing support to an ever-growing client community that just reached 4,000 children and adults.

SHARE's legacy of service began with a single call to a young woman in Little Compton, Rhode Island, back in 1981. The goodness and hope sparked by that one conversation continues to ripple, changing lives to this day. Linda Texceira — SHARE's first client — has had a front-row seat to SHARE's enduring impact and remembers where it all began.

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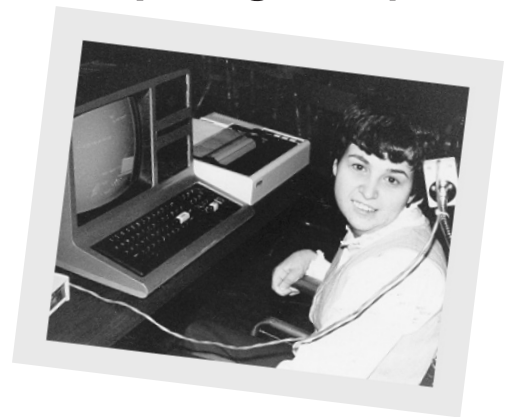
When Linda Texceira was born in 1957, having cerebral palsy limited



not only her range of physical abilities, but her options to engage with the world around her as well.

"Throughout my life, having cerebral palsy and not being able to communicate made me wonder how I could ever be able to let anyone know what I needed or what I wanted," said Texceira.

In those years, public schools had not yet developed inclusive classrooms or individualized education plans, so Linda's parents, Martha and Al Texceira, took matters into their own hands, quite literally. Al designed a custom plexiglass eyeboard featuring the letters of the alphabet in neat rows. Once Martha taught Linda the alphabet and how to spell words, Linda was able to communicate by shifting her gaze from letter to letter to spell out words



SHARE's first client Linda Texceira — today and in 1981, as a young woman with her new computer system custom-designed by SHARE.

and sentences to the person watching the shift of her eyes from the opposite side of the board.

"Before I began working with SHARE, the only way I could make my needs and desires known was by looking at a plexiglass board with the alphabet written on it," recalled Texceira. "My mother or someone would read each letter and spell what I wanted to say."

In the spring of 1981, Fall River's *Herald News* ran a feature story about Linda and her custom eyeboard communication device. Les Cory, a computer engineering professor at UMass Dartmouth, read the article and thought that computer technology held the potential to offer Linda a better solution.

Continued on page 4

INSIDE

Executive Director's Letter	2
Q&A with New SHARE Intern	2
Join SHARE Walk & Roll 2026!	3
Event Updates and Thanks	3
Recent Grant Awards	5
Matching Gift Programs	5
New Tax Law Impacts Giving	5
Quick Tips to Avoid PC Scams	5

New Grant Brings Next Generation of Engineering Interns to SHARE Community

Dear SHARE Community,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the SHARE Foundation Adaptive Technology Internship, made possible by a generous grant from the Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation.

For years, SHARE has partnered with local students and universities to build hands-on learning opportunities that simultaneously advance our mission — producing customized assistive solutions and expanding our capacity to serve individuals with disabilities. The new internship formalizes that approach by offering a paid, supervised role that combines practical training with meaningful service.



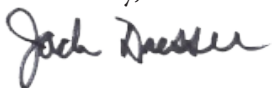
Our inaugural intern is Anthony DeJesus. Anthony is a junior with a double major in electrical and computer engineering at UMass Dartmouth. He works with us one day per week under the supervision of Phil Viall,

SHARE Founder and Director of Technology. Anthony's contributions include preparing and configuring devices, setting up and testing software, documenting procedures, and performing basic troubleshooting — all tasks that directly support clients who rely on adaptive technology for communication, daily tasks, and independent living.

This internship is a true apprenticeship: Anthony is learning by doing while providing tangible, valuable assistance to people who need it. We expect the program will strengthen local workforce pathways into rehabilitation and assistive technology and continue SHARE's long tradition of turning student energy and classroom learning into real-world impact.

Thank you to the Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation for making this opportunity possible, and thank you to our community for supporting SHARE's work to expand independence and inclusion through technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Dresser".

Jack Dresser
Executive Director

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P.S. Our SHARE Notes editors, Jo-Ann Bettencourt and Karen Pragana, began their relationship with SHARE as the writers of the very first edition of SHARE Notes when they were students at UMass Dartmouth in 1986. Soon after, they moved on to both the writing and layout of the newsletter. We thank them for the 40 years of expertise and support they and their company, Elevate Marketing & Communications, have provided to the SHARE Foundation.

Q&A



A CONVERSATION WITH SHARE INTERN **Anthony DeJesus**

How does it feel to use your engineering knowledge and training to enhance the lives of SHARE's clients?

It feels very rewarding to know that the engineering skills I am learning in school are able to help improve somebody's life. One of the things I enjoy about my internship is knowing the work I am doing is directly helping improve the lives of SHARE's clients.

What do you find most enjoyable and most challenging about your internship assignments?

The part I have enjoyed the most is being able to work on projects that are used in the real world rather than ones only used in a classroom setting. The most challenging part has been troubleshooting projects when they do not work the way I expected.

What are your career hopes for your future?

My goal is to earn my bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering and then possibly continue my education by pursuing a master's degree in electrical engineering. I hope to build a career where I can continue developing technology and potentially lead a team of engineers in the future.

41ST ANNUAL

SHARE FOUNDATION WALK & ROLL

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 | 9 AM REGISTRATION | 10 AM KICK-OFF
Westport Point United Methodist Church | 1912 Main Road, Westport, MA

JOIN US! During this year's Walk & Roll, take a stroll along Westport's scenic waterfront as you gather with the SHARE community for our largest fundraiser of the year!

We'll start your day with coffee and doughnuts at 9 a.m., with the 1.5-mile Walk & Roll down historic Westport Point kicking off at 10 a.m. Immediately following the Walk & Roll, we'll regroup for a pizza party, where you'll have the chance to win some great prizes made possible by generous local businesses and establishments. **Participants who raise or donate \$50 or more will receive a SHARE Walk & Roll T-shirt.**

REGISTER TODAY!

To register or make a donation in support of SHARE, scan the QR code below. For more information, please contact Sheila at SHARE at 774-992-0674.



SCAN TO
REGISTER
OR DONATE



WALK. ROLL. RECRUIT YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY. SUPPORT SHARE!

43rd Annual Ben Boyle & Ron Kostyla Golf Tournament A Success under Sunny Skies

Held on June 14, 2026, at the Richmond Country Club in Hope Valley, Rhode Island, the Ben Boyle & Ron Kostyla Golf Classic gathered golfers and supporters under bright blue skies to benefit the SHARE Foundation.

We wish to express our deepest thanks to the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club and the many sponsors, golfers, and volunteers who helped to make this event a success. Over the event's 43-year history, SHARE is honored to report that the tournament has raised more than \$300,000 to support our mission and services.



Pictured from left to right: Karen Bookbinder (Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club member) with her grandchildren Kaylee, Ryan and Dylan Marcantonio, and son-in-law Russ Marcantonio. Congratulations to the Marcantonio family for winning the tournament's co-ed division and both the men's and women's long drive contests.



THANKS TO Joe's Original Kitchen+Bar in Dartmouth for sharing lunch and dinner proceeds with the SHARE Foundation from our many friends who ate there on March



24th. Pictured from left to right are Joan Medeiros, Vice President, Bristol County Savings Bank; Dr. Sedgwick Harris, President of Bristol Community College; and Jean MacCormack, former Chancellor of UMass Dartmouth. Many thanks to everyone who participated!

SHARE Client Linda Texceira's Inspiring Story

Continued from page 1

"I was 24 at the time," said Texceira. "I get a call from a special person — Les Cory. He says he saw an article in the newspaper about me talking using an eyeboard. He wanted to meet me and give me a way to communicate independently."

That summer, Cory and fellow UMass Dartmouth engineering professor Phil Viall designed a custom computer system that enabled Linda to write sentences, use a telephone, and "speak" with an electronic voice synthesizer — all by operating a single switch. Looking back to that first phone call from Les and the futuristic technology he was proposing, Linda says she couldn't have imagined the seismic impact this adaptive technology would have on her and her family.

"I thought I was dreaming when I heard that!" said Texceira. "It was not a dream — I could talk for the first time in my life."

News of Linda's life-changing computer system spread quickly, sparking a flurry of requests for help from others living with similar physical and neurological challenges. To better meet the demand for adaptive technologies and streamline service delivery, Cory, Viall and university colleague Professor Rick Walder formed the Society for Human Advancement through Rehabilitation Engineering Foundation, Inc. (SHARE Foundation) in 1982. The nonprofit began working with its 4,000th client this spring.

In the decades since first working with Linda, SHARE has kept pace with her changing needs and regularly pairs her with new or updated adaptive technologies. Linda's current system is controlled simply by moving her eyes and gazing at points on her laptop monitor. A camera detects where she is looking and uses that information



(Left) Linda spells a sentence letter by letter to her mother Martha using her eyeboard.



(Below) SHARE's late founder Les Cory was known for making frequent service calls to SHARE clients throughout the nonprofit's history. Here, the Texceiras visit with Professor Cory during one of his many stops at their home.

to emulate a mouse and keyboard, allowing Linda to string messages together one letter at a time. The system's word prediction software learns the typical word usage of the user and is able to suggest a variety of possible next words in a given sentence; if the desired word is seen, Linda can gaze at that word to select it. Frequently used phrases and sentences (e.g., "I'm hungry" or "Let's go outside") can be saved for future use. Words and phrases also can be spoken through the computer's built-in speech synthesizer.

"It's kind of a throwback to her original eyeboard," said Viall, "except there is a camera that detects where she is looking, instead of Linda's mother or another person."

When Linda is using software such as Word, Excel, Google Chrome, and email, the system allows her to direct mouse movement using eye tracking. When Linda's gaze is fixed for a few seconds on a particular point on the laptop screen, a special mouse menu pops up with options such as click, double-click, right-click, or click-and-drag. The entire system is battery-powered and can be mounted to Linda's wheelchair, allowing her ease of communication whether she is at home or on the road.

Linda's adaptive technologies have helped her give voice to dreams that she once thought impossible. With determination, hard work and strong family support, Linda reached her goal of earning her high school diploma in 1991. When that day finally arrived, one long-time SHARE supporter didn't miss the chance to cheer her milestone moment. "At my graduation, Les came," remembered Texceira.

Looking back, Linda has been humbled to watch, year after year, as SHARE turns technology into transformation for so many.

"My life was changed," said Texceira, "and I thank God every day for the gift of Les caring to help me — to help little old *me* — and 4,000 other people."

Recent Grant Awards from Community Partners Support SHARE's Work

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following corporations and organizations for their recent grant awards in support of SHARE:

- > Access Westchester
- > Association for the Relief of Aged Women of New Bedford
- > Carney Family Foundation
- > Eversource Energy Foundation
- > Fallon Health
- > Inter-Church Council Elderly Housing Fund
- > Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club
- > Servedwell Hospitality
- > Southcoast Health
- > Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation
- > Think Energy

Their generosity will help make it possible for us to continue providing critically needed services to the many clients who rely on SHARE.



Matching Gift Programs Can Double the Impact of Your Donation to SHARE

Corporate matching gift programs are an easy way to grow the impact of your donation to the SHARE Foundation. Companies often have funds designated for this purpose as part of their overall community engagement strategy, matching employee donations to eligible charities on a 1:1 ratio or even higher.

Consider asking the human resources department at your workplace if they will match your donation to SHARE. We will be happy to help fill out any required matching gift program paperwork. No matter how large or small, your gift will go a long way to make life better for children and adults with disabilities. Thank you for your support and generosity!

Donations to SHARE may be made online at thesharefoundation.org or by calling SHARE at 774-992-0674. You can also mail your check (payable to the SHARE Foundation) to us at 128 Union Street, Box 6, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Charitable Giving Impacted by Tax Law Changes

Starting in the 2026 tax year, new tax law changes have reshaped the tax benefits of charitable giving — and donors to the SHARE Foundation may want to consider adjusting their giving strategies.

Non-itemizers now can take their standard deduction and add to that a deduction for itemized contributions totaling up to \$1,000 for single filers and \$2,000 for those who file jointly. For itemizers, the law introduced a new floor: only donations exceeding .5% of adjusted gross income count for deduction, and total itemized deductions face tighter caps.

These changes make planning more important — small donors benefit immediately, while higher income donors should evaluate gift timing to preserve tax efficiency.

One tax-wise strategy was unaffected by the changes. If you are over age 70½, consider using qualified charitable distributions from your IRA for your giving. These distributions count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), while reducing your overall taxable income.



By Tom Meggison
SHARE Adaptive Technology Specialist

PC scams are common. Stay skeptical of unsolicited contacts, protect remote access, and never call support numbers shown in browser pop-ups.

Ignore unsolicited pop-ups and calls.

Legitimate companies (for example, Bank of America, Amazon, Microsoft) will not call or pop up in your browser out of the blue to warn you about a virus or demand payment.

Never grant remote access.

Scammers often ask you to run commands, download software, or allow remote control tools so they can “fix” a problem. Don’t give anyone remote access to your computer unless you initiated the contact and can verify the technician’s identity.

Never pay with gift cards or cryptocurrency.

Real tech support will not demand payment via gift cards or crypto. If someone asks for these payment methods, it’s a scam.

Keep security software updated.

Use the built-in protections (Windows Security) or a reputable third-party antivirus, and keep them up to date. Note that security software sometimes won’t block deceptive browser pop-ups, so remain cautious.

Manage credentials. Use unique, complex passwords for each account and consider a reputable password manager. Always enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) where available.

If you’re unsure whether a support contact is legitimate, contact the company using a verified phone number or support page — not the number or link provided in the pop-up or unsolicited message. Any legitimate company will welcome a call to verify the authenticity of a transaction.

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www.thesharefoundation.org

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Thursday, October 1, 2026

Dine In or Take Out at

110 Grill

and mention you're supporting
the SHARE Foundation.

**10% of your purchase
of food and non-alcoholic beverages*
will be donated to SHARE!**

*Excludes online ordering

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Coordinator Beverly Thorn at 774-992-0674.