



enable link

empowering people with disabilities

fall 2001
newsletter

honorary chairs

Chancellor and Mrs. Shaw Serve as Honorary Chairs of Enable's 2001-2002 Annual Campaign

Kenneth A. Shaw, Chancellor of Syracuse University and his wife, Mary Ann are the honorary chairs of this year's annual campaign set to begin in late November. This yearly fund drive is an important part of Enable's operating budget. Through a personalized letter signed by the Shaws, the agency hopes to raise over \$30,000. These contributions help to offset expenses for services to children and adults with disabilities.

A nationally recognized higher education leader, Chancellor Shaw has served as a university president for nearly 30 years. Prior to coming to Syracuse in 1991, he was President of the University of Wisconsin System. As Chancellor of Syracuse University, Shaw serves more than 10,500 undergraduates and 4,000 graduate students on the Central New York campus.

Mary Ann Shaw is the Associate of the Chancellor of Syracuse University, a position she has held since 1991. She has broad experience in education, fund development, and community service. At Syracuse University, she works closely with the offices of fund development and alumni relations and assists her husband. Mrs. Shaw was instrumental in the development of Success By Six, an innovative community collaboration to ensure that area children are ready to learn and be successful when they enter school. She continues to be one of the program's leading advocates. Mrs. Shaw was the chair of the 1994 United Way of Central New York fund raising

campaign and served 2 years as Chair of the United Way Board.

Syracuse University has had a long relationship with Enable. Many years ago SU hosted football games to benefit what was then known as the Cerebral Palsy Center. Since then, students in fields such as rehabilitation, social work, public administration and speech pathology have served internships and participated in other volunteer activities with Enable. Many of Enable's staff are alumni of the University.

"Enable is fortunate to have the Shaws as our honorary chairs," stated Sara Wall-Bollinger, Executive Director of Enable. "Their dedication to the Syracuse community and involvement with many non-profit organizations will help to make our campaign a success."



interns gain valuable experience at enable

Each year, Enable welcomes a number of college interns. In the past, Enable has accepted interns from Ithaca College, Syracuse University, Lemoyne College, SUNY

Cortland, Cazenovia College, Keuka College, and Utica College. Enable has gained a positive reputation at these schools. The Career Services Departments at these schools often contact Enable to place interns.

Most of the interns that come to Enable are placed in services such as: speech therapy, physical therapy, and facilitated communication. The interns sit in on evaluations, help write reports and make recommendations. The main benefit for the interns is that they get to see how a job develops from start to finish.

Enable has also had a number of business interns from the Syracuse University Maxwell School.

Taking on interns is a very big responsibility. A qualified individual must be available to guide the interns on a 40 hour a week basis. Internships generally last one semester. A program coordinator interviews prospective interns before they are accepted. Once accepted, the intern takes part in the agency orientation, just like any other new employee.

The internship program at Enable has been a big success. In some cases, interns have gone on to become Enable staff members. One such case is Jennifer Geiger, a former intern who now works in community employment at Enable.



"Jonathon Preston, an Alternative and Augmentative Communication intern from Syracuse University, works alongside his supervisor, Shirley Shafer."

clare l. smith memorial golf classic

The Clare L. Smith Memorial Fall Golf Classic to Benefit Enable at the Links at Erie Village was held on September 10, 2001. Although set up and registration were a little bit soggy, at a 1:10 shotgun start, the skies had cleared and we were off and golfing.



With the assistance of the Smith family and our own golf committee, Enable was able to raise approximately \$30,000 for our Infant and Toddler Program. In addition to these profits are proceeds from the Labor for Enable golf tournament, put on by the UAW Local 624, as well as the proceeds from The One Charity Golf Classic. The money raised by the tournament is matched by New York State through Enable's contract with Onondaga County. We expect that the money raised will allow ten additional toddlers to participate in necessary educational and therapy services during the 2001-2002 school year. Enable serves approximately one hundred infants and toddlers each year.

The Department of Health provides Enable with approximately 75% of the funds needed for services to children with special needs and their families. The Clare L. Smith Golf Classic will provide the remaining 25%. On behalf of the children, adults and families of Enable, we THANK YOU for your support!



Next year our tournament is on June 10 at Bellevue Country Club. For more information or to be added to our golf mailing list please contact Lori Davis, event coordinator at Enable 455-7591 ext. 220.

speech enhancer opens door to independence

The Speech Enhancer is an exciting new technology for people who have mild to moderate speech challenges.

People with Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, Traumatic Brain Injury, Spasmodic Dysphonia, Stroke, Parkinson's and paralyzed vocal chords may benefit from the Speech Enhancer. People whose speech is usually only understood by family and those close to them, can now carry on conversations with anyone.

The Speech Enhancer is a battery-powered system that consists of a hands-free microphone and a lightweight speaker that can be worn on the waist or attached to a wheelchair. For individuals who are seeking a system that is more discrete, a "Spectrum VP" model is also available. The "Spectrum VP" offers a near invisible wireless speaker and an over the ear microphone that can be easily concealed. A "Mighty Mouth" model is available for children. The "Mighty Mouth" is bright purple, comes with a waterproof microphone, and is extremely durable to meet the needs of the most active child. All systems are fully automated and require no adjusting or programming. The user simply speaks into the microphone and

their voice is projected out of the speaker sounding just like their own, only clearer. Unlike other speech devices, the Speech Enhancer is not merely an amplification device. The Speech Enhancer is a clarification device that allows users to intelligibly project their own inflections and emotions.

Enable first evaluated the Speech Enhancer last summer. Enable's Speech Pathologist, Shirley Shafer, underwent two days of training in NYC last September. Five adults received individual evaluations. Out of those five, the Speech Enhancer was recommended to three of them. The Speech Enhancer is produced by Electronic Speech Enhancement Incorporated, located in St. Louis, MO. Enable was allowed to borrow the Speech Enhancer for the evaluations, paying only a fifty-dollar shipping fee. The Speech Enhancer kit costs roughly ten thousand dollars, but Medicaid cover the expense for those who are eligible. Anyone who is interested, or knows someone who may benefit from the Speech Enhancer, may send a referral to Enable.



Don Witkowski and Shirley Shafer demonstrating speech enhancer.

Eagle Scout Project Asperger's Syndrome Video

Ryan Southard is a 15-year-old adolescent diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and ADHD. He also has a learning disability in language. He is in 10th grade, takes 11th grade honors classes for math and science and is enrolled in the engineering classes offered at his high school. Ryan is also a Boy Scout working towards his Eagle Scout rank and is currently a member of the Lockheed Martin Explorer Post for robotics. He enjoys a wide range of interests such as computers, legos, and camping. He is also a member of the high school Chess Club.



Ryan, an Asperger adolescent, has always been interested in helping others diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. Inspired by an idea of Dr. Coleman's, co-facilitator of Enable's Social Skill Groups for people diagnosed with Asperger's, Ryan asked permission to produce a video about Asperger's Syndrome for his Eagle Scout Project. The video consists of a series of group interviews with the participants of his Social Skills Group, their parents, and siblings concerning the various aspects of Asperger's Syndrome. To prepare for this, Ryan researched his own diagnosis, interviewed professionals who work with children diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, developed a set of questions asked during the interview and edited the film. While benefiting Ryan and his Eagle Scout project, this series will most certainly benefit the programs provided by Enable and those who view it in an effort to better understand Asperger's Syndrome.

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ENABLE**

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the handiest man helps enable

Paul Roth of Fayetteville recently donated a 1954 Chevrolet Suburban delivery vehicle to Enable. Originally a California car, the green and black panel van has been restored and updated. Tony Farone, The Handiest Man, does home remodeling and repair in Syracuse and lives on the northside where Enable is located. The match was made and everyone benefits. Enable thanks Mr. Roth and Mr. Farone for their generosity.



In memory of mr. william raaflaub

Mr. Raaflaub passed away on July 29, 2001, at the age of 97. He was an active volunteer with the Cerebral Palsy Center in the 60's and 70's.

Mr. Raaflaub was a member of Elks Lodge #31 and a former member of the Enable Board of Directors. He retired in 1966, after 44 years of work at New York Telephone Company. Thank you Mr. Raaflaub for remembering Enable in your will.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

peter carreno
student intern

sara wall-bollinger
executive director



enable's calendar of events

December-February - Enable Annual Campaign

January 31, 2002 - Shining Lights Reception

February 5, 2002 - Syracuse Automobile Dealers Association Charity Preview*

February 26, 2002 - Agency Anniversary - 54 years

April 25, 2002 - Annual Awards Celebration

July 10, 2002 - Clare L. Smith Memorial Golf Classic

July 26, 2002 - 12th Anniversary of the ADA

September 12, 2002 - Visit the Vineyards of the World with Enable

**Please select Enable at registration.*



thank you to brueggers bagels

We are pleased to be a recipient of Brueggers Bagels Cool Gifts/Warm Hearts Campaign that runs from 11/26 - 12/16/01. Brueggers collects new unwrapped toys from their customers - who in turn receive a 1/2 dozen bagels free. Enable is able to select the toys it would like to have for the Project Adapt toy-loan program. Thank you Brueggers

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TTY: (315) 455-1794 • Web Site: www.enable1.org

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Enable's Services

Advocacy
Aquatic Therapy
Assistive Technology
Augmentative Communication
Certified Residential Settings
Computer Access & Training

Day Habilitation
Diagnostic Assessment
Early Intervention Evaluation
Family & Individual Support
Home & Community Based Services
Inclusive Pre-School Special Education
Individual & Group Counseling
Itinerant Special Education
Neurology Services
Occupational Therapy

Personal Assistance
Physical Therapy
Pre-School Evaluation
Residential Habilitation
Service Coordination
Speech & Language Therapy
Support Groups
Wellness Education & Exercise

Memberships:

Cerebral Palsy Association of NYS
United Way of Central New York
United Way of Greater Oswego County
Association for Persons in Supported Employment
American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services
National Association for the Education of Young Children

