

POINT OF SAIL

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SPRING FLING 2009

Spring Fling was held on May 21st in Marquette at the Masonic building. There were over 80 people attending. A great time was had by all. The evening included dinner, dancing and door prizes.



We would like to thank everyone for coming and hope that you had as much fun as we did!

Thanks go out to our door prize donors, all of the staff and volunteers who showed up to help out with set-up, serving and clean-up, and to Colin & Tia Van for their recipes and cooking skills that provided the dinner.



Also, we want to thank Econo Foods for the wonderful cake, and MarqTran for coordinating and providing after-hours transportation for many of the attendees.

Check this out!

- Spring Fling photos! If you missed Spring Fling and are looking for an opportunity to get together, the next Independence will be June 25th.
- Save your Econo Foods receipts - see page 4 to find out why.
- See back page for a list of upcoming events—or check us out on the web by visiting us at www.upsail.com

TEN YEARS AND COUNTING

Janice Peterson recently celebrated a tremendous milestone as the longest serving member of SAIL staff. In April of this year, staff gathered to celebrate Janice's 10th anniversary. When Janice was first hired, it was as a 10-hour per week employee. Now, she is known as the 'go-to' person and is truly missed whenever she takes a day off! We are so glad to have Janice on staff and hope she remains a constant at SAIL for another decade or two!

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 15, 2009 WALK & ROLL?



SAIL Staff

Amy Maes
Executive Director

Judy Vivian
Deputy Director

Janice Peterson
Systems Change Advocate

Elicia Herkert
AT Specialist

Sarah Peura
AT Specialist & Recreation Coordinator

Linda Elliott
IL Advocate/Transition Coordinator

Michelle Christunas
IL Advocate/Transition Coordinator

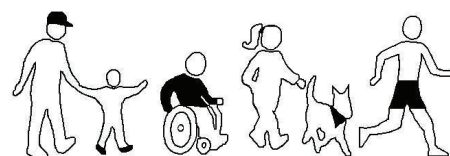
Anna Hubbard
Advocate

Colin Van
American Indian Outreach

Suzanne Price
Administrative Assistant

Walk & Roll is a fundraising & awareness event that will be held at Mattson Lower Harbor Park in Marquette. We plan to make Walk & Roll an annual event, so please join us for the First Annual Walk & Roll August 15, 2009. There will be 3 different length routes to choose from—so everyone has the opportunity to participate. By any means...by foot or by wheel. Join us for Walk & Roll!

More details will follow as they become available. Registration & contribution forms will be available in July.



NEW STAFF

If you've called or visited our office recently, you've probably noticed some new voices and/or faces.

Sarah Peura is an AT specialist and Recreation Coordinator. If you've attended a recent dance or been involved in forming a recent digi story, you're familiar with Sarah. If you were a Magnification Place customer, then you also know Sarah. Although the Magnification Place is no longer open for business in Marquette, many of the services provided there can still be accessed by contacting Sarah in the SAIL office.

After spending the past several months as an Intern with SAIL, **Michelle Christunas** recently graduated from NMU and is our "newest" staff member. She will be working as an Independent Living Advocate/Transition Coordinator.

SAIL's new administrative assistant, **Suzanne Price**, joined SAIL in March. Prior to coming to SAIL, she worked for an Elder Law attorney in Marquette and was program director for The Arc of Morgan County in Alabama.

SAIL is pleased to welcome these individuals to our staff and look forward to the increased services that we will be able to provide as a result of their contributions.

MICHIGAN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN FUND

Do you need to purchase an assistive technology device or service? Do you wish you had the money on hand to purchase a piece of equipment that would allow you to improve your independence and quality of life?

If so, then the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan fund may be able to help you. This program provides affordable independence with low cost, fixed-rate loans to qualified applicants to finance the purchase of assistive technology devices and services. To participate in the program applicants must be individuals with disabilities, senior citizens, or parents or guardians of individuals with disabilities.

Examples include (but are not limited to): wheelchairs, scooters, hearing aids, vision aids, vehicle modifications, home modifications, (e.g. ramps, widened doorways, roll-in showers), and much more. Equipment or products may be acquired commercially from a store, a specialty dealer, private seller, or may be custom made.

Applicants will need to become a member of the Option One Credit Union in order to obtain a loan. The membership fee is \$5.00

The maximum loan amount is \$30,000. There is no minimum amount that can be borrowed. Your ability to repay the amount requested will help determine if your loan request is approved. Interest rates are determined by the Option One Credit Union at the beginning of each quarter. Loan interest rates are currently between 4.5 and 7.75%. The rates are dependent on how long it takes you to repay the loan.

Repayment terms are based on the expected useful life of the assistive technology device and on your ability to make the monthly loan payments. Repayment terms are as long as possible (up to 7 years) in order to give the applicant the lowest monthly payment possible.

For more information or to apply for a loan, please contact Sarah Peura at SAIL or visit the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund website at michiganloanfunds.org.

Board of Directors

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Terry James

Vice President
Kerry Laitinen

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Bob Karvinen

Members at Large

Carolyn Fowler

Susan Mosca

Ed Haines

UP PUBLIC FORUM— JUNE 11

There's still time to register for the UP Public Forum in Marquette. SAIL is hosting the Our Hopes, A Community Conversation in Marquette. Organized by the Michigan DD Council, MDRC, and UCP, this is your chance to say what is important to you. They are gathering information for the next 5-year State plan.

Advance registration is required, so contact Sarah Peura at SAIL (1-906-228-5744 or 1-800-379-7242) or sign up on line by going to this web address: <http://www.copower.org/ohreg/index.pho>

Registration deadline is June 4, 2009.

ONGOING FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

- Do you ever shop at Econo Foods?
- Are you familiar with the We Share Program from Econo Foods?
- Did you know that receipts from Econo Foods can be turned into cash for SAIL?

SAIL is registered with the Econo Foods We Share Program and we collect receipts on an on-going basis. We can turn in collected receipts and receive 1% of the total purchases on those receipts.

Sure, 1% doesn't sound like much... but it isn't hard to see it add up when we put our receipts together.

Please think of SAIL when you shop at Econo Foods. You can drop off your receipts at the office, or any SAIL-sponsored event.



THE TOMATO SHOW



On May 8th and 9th, SAIL offered a presentation in Marquette by Master Gardener Karren Cram. Each presentation was originally planned for a maximum of 25 participants and we were not disappointed. After filling the room on Friday, and even though Marquette had snow off and on all day, we were standing-room-only on Saturday as well. We immediately scheduled a follow-up event in Sault Ste. Marie for May 31 which was also well attended.

The presentations covered proper care of garden in our unique climate and how to avoid losing your garden's bounty to animals, insects and/or weather-related damage. These presentations were informative and fun, and each guest was presented with a tomato plant to take home and grow.



The Tomato Show was a wonderful event and we look forward to offering other educational opportunities in the future

WHAT IS SPAR?

SINGLE POINT FOR
ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION



SPAR is the name given to recreational and leisure events and activities that are SAIL-sponsored. Since the acronym SAIL (Superior Alliance for Independent Living) is how most people know our organization, we thought it might be interesting to identify our programs with other nautical terminology. SPAR stands for "Single Point for Activities and Recreation" and in boating terminology, it is a "pole, mast, or boom, that supports a sail." If you see "SPAR" by something in the newsletter or in other SAIL advertising, this indicates that it is related to a recreational event or activity.

In case you were wondering about the new name of the newsletter, it also comes from boating terminology. "Point of Sail", the name of our newsletter, is the boating term for "the different angles from the wind on which a boat may sail; the boat's course relative to the direction of the wind."

Superior Alliance for Independent Living
129 W. Baraga Ave., Suite H
Marquette, MI 49855

Phone: 906-228-5744
Fax: 906-228-5573

We're on the Web!
www.upsail.com

SAIL promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities into our communities on a full and equal basis through empowerment, education, participation and choice.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Indepen-dances** are currently scheduled for: June 25, July 16, August 20 & September 17, 2009 in the banquet room at the Masonic Building (Washington Street, Marquette)
- **Walk & Roll** – August 15, 2009 – a fundraising event for SAIL's SPAR (Single Point for Activities & Recreation)
- **Board Meetings** are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at 11am and are normally held in the conference room at the Non-Profit Commons (129 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette)

Please visit the SAIL website any time at www.upsail.com for a current listing of upcoming events