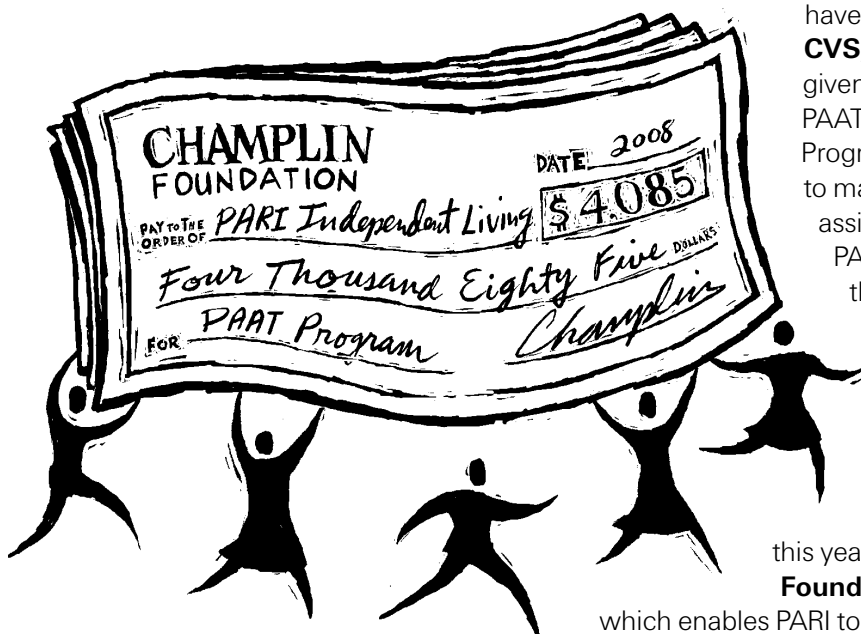


GRANTS RECEIVED FOR PARI PROGRAMS

PARI has received a grant from **The Champlin Foundations** (who gave us a grant for the new van last year) for \$4,085.00 to purchase a storage container for PARI's Affordable Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program. This enables us to accept donations that otherwise we would not



have storage capacity for. **CVS/pharmacy** has also given \$2,500.00 for our PAAT Program. The PAAT Program helps the consumer to maintain mobility and assists in daily living. At PARI, we understand that the right piece of equipment can have a significant impact on daily living.

PARI's Living Well with a Disability has received two grants this year: From the **Nordson Foundation**, \$6,000.00

which enables PARI to offer the program to more consumers, and from the **Christopher**

and Dana Reeve Foundation, \$5,000.00, which enables PARI to offer a second session of Living Well. People with a disability have many questions about living a rewarding life. All of us are faced with so many choices about how to live well. For a person with a disability learning

(Grants continued on page 4)

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Healthy Living Conference

March 28, 2008

Annual Meeting

April 28, 2008

Get Movin' with PARI

June 7, 2008

Volume Eight
Number One
Spring 2008

**PARI BOARD LIST
2007-2008**

Ernest J. Letendre, Jr.
President

Kathleen Leonard
Vice President

Kathleen Fahey
Treasurer

Louis Corvese, III
Secretary

Donald D. Deignan, PhD
Immediate Past President

Members at Large

Lynda Andrade

Richard Barra

Robert Bray, Jr.

Robert DeBlois

Gail DeLuca

Hazel Doesschate

Cynthia Lopes

Susan Olson

James Pitassi, Jr.

Patrick A. Ryan

Paul Tucci

Honorary Board Members

Paul DePace

Congressman

James Langevin

BRAIN INJURY FUND

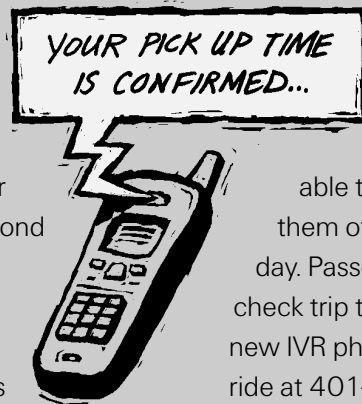
PARI is pleased to announce that we have been awarded the opportunity to disperse \$5,000.00 in grant funding through the Department of Human Services for children and adults with traumatic or other acquired brain injuries. These funds will be dispersed between April 2007– March 2008 or until the fund is depleted.



This fund is to access life in the community that could not be funded from any other source. It pertains to individuals only and there is a cap of \$1,500.00. So put on your thinking caps! For an application or more information, contact Heather Sprague at 725-1966 x16.

RIDE RECEIVING SECOND PHASE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

The Ride Program which serves approximately 2,000 customers a day with over 3,500 trips has received Federal dollars to upgrade its computer system. The upgrades will take place in three phases (see this newsletter to keep informed). The second phase, which will begin in March, will add Interactive Voice Response (IVR) to RIPTA's tools to improve its phone system. IVR is a computerized phone system that integrates with the scheduling system. IVR will



help reduce wait times on the phones by enabling RIPTA passengers to

confirm, cancel, and possibly schedule their own trips using any touch-tone telephone.

The IVR system will be

able to call passengers to remind them of trips scheduled for the next day. Passengers will also be able to check trip times 24 hours a day on the new IVR phone system. You can contact ride at 401-461-9760 or at rideprogram@ripta.com. None of the eligibility rules or operating details of the Ride system will be changed.



GET MOVIN' WITH PARI

June 7th 2008



FROM THE DIRECTOR



by Leo Canuel

Dear Friends,

I know that many of you are worried when you see headlines that the State will cut budgets and curtail services. Please know that we at PARI are advocating for you! We will weather these times together.

As you can see from the report on Annual Giving which is enclosed, we have many friends in the community — not only our granting sources, but each individual who makes the choice to give the gift of independence.

So many programs that enhance life: the PAAT Program; Living Well; the Independent Living Conference; and the Gift of Hearing would have to be curtailed without the support of our donors.

Remembering a loved one with a Memorial Contribution to PARI is a wonderful way to give the Gift of Independence.

Becoming a member helps support our programs as well.

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on April 28th, 2008, right here at Independence Square. I know some people cannot give a monetary gift, but you can support us with your presence!

Remember, we count on each one of you to continue to provide services to people with disabilities. A community that accommodates persons with disabilities makes a stronger community for each one of us. Thank you for your continued support.

PARI STAFF

Executive Director

Leo Canuel

Program Director

Susan Bilodeau

Program Assistant

Amy Lawson

Community Activities

Coordinator

James Litvack

Independent

Living Counselors

Yinka Adenodi

Kimberly Bourgault

Henry Ciesynski

Angel Maissonette

Heather Sprague

Matthew Sullivan

Lucy Therriault

Mobility Specialists

Denise Mitsuma

Casey Crothers

Barbara Sullivan

Health Coordinator

Beverly Valentine

Financial Director

Lesley Barbaro

Administrative

Assistant

Krista Marble

Adaptive Equipment

Coordinator

Allen Parent-Wetmore

Adaptive Equipment

Technician

Jim Poons

Executive Assistant

Jean Cavanaugh

PARI ANNUAL MEETING

PARI's annual meeting will be held April 28, 2008 at the Independence Square Gym, 500 Prospect Street, Pawtucket, RI from 5-7 p.m. There will be a light supper and you'll hear from board members: Lynda Andrade, Cynthia Lopes and Secretary Louis Corvese, III. There is a form to RSVP enclosed with this mailing. Ballots and By-Laws changes (if any) will be mailed to the membership separately.

Please join us!

April 28, 2008

**PARI ANNUAL
COMMUNITY SERVICE
AWARDS**

2002

Paul DePace

**Alan Hassenfeld and
Hasbro, Inc.**

**Congressman
James Langevin**

2003

**Cardi's Furniture
Superstores**

**Donald T. Corder
Clay Osborne**

2004

**Robert DeBlois
Barnaby Evans
Noah Temkin**

2005

Betsy Dalton

**Ben Mondor and
the PawSox
Barbara Morse Silva**

2006

**Andrew Bateson
and Mark Patinkin**

**Pam Malcolm and
Bryant University**

2007

**CVS/pharmacy
Congressman
Patrick Kennedy
Kathleen P. Leonard**

PARI-TICULARS



LIVING HEALTHY FOLLOWING BRAIN INJURY

Friday, March 28, 2008

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI

For additional information contact:

Melinda Bonacore

401-461-6599

401-461-6561

www.biaofri.org

melinda@biaofri.org



SAVE THE DATE!

June 7th at Slater Park—

Get Movin' with PARI.

There will be more information to follow regarding this event.

Come to the annual meeting to hear more.

PROVIDENCE ROTARY CLUB

Service Above Self

The Providence Rotary Club is looking for some good men and women.

- Are you someone who enjoys meeting people from all professional backgrounds?
- Are you available for a weekly luncheon meeting?
- Are you willing to work with others to improve your community?

Come to lunch at the Providence Marriott as our guest and learn all about being part of the largest international charitable organization that serves at the local level.

Call Matt: 247-0011 or Marion: 943-7344 to set a date for lunch.

(Grants continued from page 1)

techniques to enhance daily life is an imperative. Thanks to these grants and to our donors who give The Gift of Independence, more consumers can take advantage of this program.

Board President Ernest Letendre and Treasurer Kathleen Fahey attended, along

with many others in the community, at CVS/pharmacy headquarters. Mr. Letendre and Ms. Fahey were there to accept a grant of \$2,500.00 on behalf of PARI. PARI received the grant as proceeds from the Downtown Run that CVS holds each year. Our president and treasurer said it was a wonderful evening!

DO YOU NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR NEXT MEETING?



PARI's executive director and staff are available to do a presentation on disability related issues for your group or business at no fee.

Call 401-725-1966 (TTY) for topics and details.