The LiftVest enables caregivers to provide wheelchair users with safer, more comfortable transfers with dignity. From the car ... to the bed... to the toilet ... to a chair, or when a family wants to take their loved one for lunch at a restaurant. LiftVest makes transfer assistance easier, faster, and safer for caregivers and family members.

**How can the LiftVest help the caregiver and family member?**

- Makes wheelchair transfers easier, faster, and safer
- Prevents back injuries as the vest spreads the center of gravity to the entire torso area
- Allows caregivers to find the best position for lifting - from any angle!
- Facilitates quick, effortless positioning (and re-positioning)
- Secure walking aid
- Essential for emergency evacuations
- Won’t slip like a gait belt

For further information, visit the LiftVest Web site at [http://liftvest.com](http://liftvest.com)
Spotlight on TTAP Demonstration Centers
This quarter the TTAP spotlight shines on

REACH of Plano Resource Center
On Independent Living

720 E. Park Blvd., Suite 104
Plano, TX 75074-8844
(972) 398-1111
(972) 398-9649 FAX
E-mail: reachplano@reachcils.org

Services:
- Information and Referral
- Peer Counseling
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Independent Living Skills Training in Office and Online
- Computer Lab
- ADA Training & Technical Assistance
- Nursing Home to Community Living Relocation Assistance
- Peer Support Group Meetings

REACH Centers are located in:

Dallas
(214) 630-4796

Fort Worth
(817) 870-9082

Denton
(940) 383-1062

Plano
(972) 398-1111

Tech Corner

The Adapted Digital Camera is a switch-adapted camera designed for use by individuals with upper extremity or severe physical disabilities.

This kid-friendly camera is mounted on a power-drive platform that can tilt up/down and pan left/right to frame a picture before activating the switch for shooting. Prices range from $300 - $600, including camera.

http://www.enablingdevices.com
BrainGate2 turning brain waves into action
(Photo Courtesy of BrainGate2 Study)

The BrainGate2 is a device in a growing field called brain computer interface. Currently in a human clinical trial at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, the ultimate goal of this system is to help people with spinal cord injury, stroke, muscular dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), limb loss, or other conditions to restore their mobility and independence. BrainGate2 is an investigational technology being developed to detect brain signals and to use those signals to control assistive devices.

The system consists of a “sensor” (a device implanted in the brain that records signals directly related to imagined limb movement), a “decoder” (a set of computers and embedded software that turns the brain signals into a useful command for an external device), and an external device—which could be a standard computer desktop or other communication device, a powered wheelchair, or a prosthetic or robotic limb. Together, the system works miracles. For example, the user has a thought to move a cursor on a computer. The brain emits a signal which is captured by the implanted sensor. The sensor sends the signal to the decoder which translates it into a command for the computer to move the cursor. Preliminary results have demonstrated participants’ ability to use this investigational system to operate computer software, control robotic limbs, and drive a wheelchair. For additional information about BrainGate2, including ongoing trial recruitment, visit www.braingate2.org. Inquiries related to the research can be directed to clinicaltrials@braingate2.org.

These are only a taste of the exciting new technologies changing the way we live and interact with our environment. Not all technologies are appropriate for every condition. If you are considering the use of a device, we strongly recommend meeting with a trained medical professional to see if the device is appropriate for your situation. To learn more about these technologies, please visit www.NeurotechNetwork.org and go to the Education section.

Retinal Prosthesis provides artificial vision
(Photo Courtesy of Second Sight Medical Products)

Based in Sylmar, California, Second Sight is conducting clinical trials with participants who are blind to determine the feasibility of the revolutionary Argus II Retinal Stimulation System to provide artificial vision. The system consists of a tiny camera and transmitter mounted in eyeglasses, an implanted receiver, and an electrode-studded array that is implanted into the participant’s eye, along with a wireless microprocessor and battery pack worn on the belt. The participant wears glasses with the camera, which captures an image and sends the information to the video processor. This image is converted to an electronic signal that is sent to the transmitter on the glasses. The implanted receiver wirelessly receives this data and sends the signals through a tiny cable to the electrode array, stimulating it to emit electrical pulses. The pulses stimulate responses in the retina that travel through the optic nerve to the brain, which perceives patterns of light and dark spots. Participants learn to interpret the visual patterns produced into meaningful images.

To learn more about the system, visit www.2-sight.com. For clinical trial information, visit www.clinicaltrials.gov, key search word Argus II.
What’s on TTAP for Spring

March 22-27       International Conference on Assistive Technology and Persons with Disabilities
San Diego, CA 1-818-677-1200
Sponsor: California State University at Northridge (CSUN)

www.csunconference.org

August 27-29      Abilities Expo
Reliant Park Expo Center
Houston, TX


Save the Date! June 15-18, 2010

Texas Assistive Technology Network Conference, San Antonio

www.texasat.net

Just for Laughs

"You should check your e-mails more often. I fired you over three weeks ago."

TTAP values your input. If you have any suggestions, comments, or would like to have an article included in the newsletter, please let us know at

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