



# News

APRIL, 1986

# VISTA

*lives on...*

... BUT NOT AT CTD

THE CTD VISTA Program is now history. After more than four years of volunteer assistance and financial support, the CTD VISTA program bids a farewell to its VISTA Volunteers. The VISTA program has played a major role in CTD's development. Over 50 individuals have served and given selflessly of their skills, time and energy, to the work of the Coalition and our member organizations. The VISTA program has been one of the greatest services CTD has been able to provide its membership and Texans in general. The CTD Program has been one of the largest and most successful in the country.

The VISTA Volunteers have lent their skills, knowledge and abilities to develop programs and advocate for improved services that have greatly benefited CTD and its member organizations. All of us involved with CTD want to thank each VISTA Volunteer for all their hard work and wish them the best of everything in the future. We hope they will continue working for the rights and needs of individuals with disabilities.

A special thank you also goes out to Joe Bruch and Jerry Thompson at the State Action office for support they have provided over the years for the CTD VISTA Program. We hope to show them that the seeds they have helped plant with the VISTA program has grown into a healthy and strong organization that will continue....the challenge is ours.

YOU CAN HELP CTD

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10<sup>c</sup>

25<sup>c</sup>

CTD is asking your support in helping us continue our work. CTD's Federal VISTA grant has ended and with it a significant portion of our funding. The CTD Board of Directors and staff are pursuing ways to raise the necessary funds to keep our current advocacy efforts alive. At the last board meeting the Board found it necessary to raise individual membership dues to \$12.00, the first increase in CTD's eight years. We need the support of our members, but membership dues alone will not pay to run CTD.

If you know of any corporation or foundation that would be supportive of our work please let us know. We have a packet of information available to use to approach possible funding sources. Also encourage your friends, relatives, co-workers, pets... everyone to join CTD!! We have brochures available and would be happy to send information to any prospective members.

If CTD is to continue to be active and provide the consumer's view at the State level we must all help.



### PRODUCTS FOR THE DISABLED

DIAL 1-800 34NARIC (Washington, D.C. callers: 202 635-5826) and talk to a National Rehabilitation Information Center representative for information about products for the disabled. This organization produces ABLEDATA, a computerized listing of over 12,000 products designed to make living easier for a person with a physical limitation. The phone call is free but there is a \$10 charge for a customized list of products. Included are product descriptions, price information and names and addresses of manufacturers.



## **POLIO HANDBOOK**

The Handbook on the Late Effects of Poliomyelitis for Physicians and Survivors, published by G.I.N.I. sold out of its first printing and is now in its second printing.

5,000 copies were sold to the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation for distribution to their chapters.

Copies are available for \$5.00 postpaid from G.I.N.I., 4502 Maryland Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63108.

(The proceedings of Rehabilitation Gazette's Second International Post-Polio Conference and Symposium on Living Independently with Severe Disability, \$15.00 postpaid from G.I.N.I. is also in its second printing.



## **A UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR HANDICAPPED PARKING?**

H.R. 3889/S.B. 1936, bills to amend Title 23, United States Code, would establish a uniform system for handicapped parking. Currently handicapped parking rules and decals vary from state to state. If this sounds like a good idea to you, contact your federal legislators and express your support.

Something has been bothering me since the ADAPT (American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit) march/APTA (American Public Transit Association) convention last October. Outside disabled individuals were saying how poor para-transit in their cities is, while inside the APTA officials had all the statistics to prove that handicapped riders preferred para-transit 50 to 1.

Where is the truth?

My own experience has not validated the APTA position, but has been more closely aligned with that of the disabled demonstrators.

In our own city, my husband, who uses a motorized wheelchair, doesn't qualify for para-transit service. First, because he has a job earning more than \$17,000 per year and second, because he owns a van with a lift. This is all well and good until his van goes in for repairs. Private van service in our area runs \$30 a pick up, or \$60 a day to get to and from work. For those of you not so rapid in math, that's \$300 a week just for transportation. I don't know many people who can afford this, do you?

Somehow mass transit officials justify (to Congress) their funding of regular fixed route buses because "so many riders are using the system to get to and from work everyday." A funny thing happens when these same officials start talking about transit for the "Elderly and Handicapped." They don't think disabled individuals require transportation to and from work everyday on a punctual basis.

Jim Fleming, who is an APTA spokesperson for para-transit, told reporters last October in L.A. that he uses the para-transit system in Washington, D.C. to get to work everyday. That's

exactly what he said and that's exactly what he meant—to work. The information that he did not volunteer to reporters, but revealed to me when I pressed him for details of such a great system, was that he had to find his own way home each night.

This is perhaps typical of the half truths APTA propagates. APTA can tell you what each lift costs and the cost per ride. How can they accurately determine this figure when many bus drivers are too busy to report the number of wheelchair users they pick up and don't pick up. What is the real cost of not lift-equipping buses? Who is adding up the cost of the private person who has to pay out-of-pocket for transportation and the cost to State Vocational Rehabilitation Departments and insurance companies which have to provide individuals with vehicles because there is no public transportation? What is the cost in the loss of human resources when people elect to stay home instead of seeking gainful employment because it is just too difficult to arrange transportation everyday?

I have talked with people across the country and I have yet to hear of a single public para-transit system that works so well that "handicapped riders prefer it 50 to 1." Is this in preference to no service at all?

Does such a para-transit service really exist? If you know of one, please send me the details. I don't mean examples where you need transit once or twice a month, but where you use it for work, for play, to visit friends, to go shopping—everything everyone else uses public transit for.

Please write to me at 2973 Beech St., San Diego, CA 92102. Thanks!

Cyndi Jones  
Publisher/Editor



## UMTA GRANTS

### Broken Contracts?

The Urban Mass Transit Association, UMTA, has a clause in their grant contracts which states that equipment bought with UMTA funds for a specific purpose must be maintained and properly utilized. If equipment is misused (or not used) by a transit system that is a violation and monies should be paid back to UMTA.

Many cities have bought lifts for their bus systems with UMTA dollars but are not using or property maintaining these lifts. Here in Texas, Fort Worth and El Paso are two examples of transit systems which are violating their UMTA contracts.

### RURAL FUNDING

UMTA gives grants for rural transportation systems. Section 18 (of the UMTA Act of 1964 as Ammended) provides funds for rural transit system grants. Despite the fact that Texas is primarily a rural state we turn back a good portion of these monies to the federal government at the end of each year. There are several working rural transit systems in Texas. Is there one in your area? To find outmore you can contact the State Highway Department office in your area.





## P.U.C. PLACES A MORATORIUM ON L.M.S.

Senator Chet Edwards (D-Duncanville) announced that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) has issued an order to place a moratorium on optional local measured telephone service (LMS). LMS is a form of pricing for each local call by the distance, duration and time of day, similar to pricing for long distance service. The decision was unanimous and the Commissioners will be collecting data on the potential cost of LMS.

Presently, telephone service for residences and businesses is based on an average monthly rate. Southwestern Bell has proposed LMS as an option in the past; however, the company withdrew the proposal because of the massive public outcry. "LMS would develop into an option which customers could not refuse because of the necessary rise in our present flat rate telephone service to cover the millions of dollars in costs to implement LMS. New electronic switching stations, and measuring and billing for each call are very expensive. Someone must pay the bill- my best guess is it will be the customer", Edwards stated.

Edwards sponsored legislation during the last legislative session to place a moratorium on LMS and has been named by Lt. Governor Hobby as Chairman of an interim study committee on the issue. The Committee has scheduled public hearings on June 6th in Houston, June 16th in San Antonio, July 10th in Waco, and July 24th in Dallas.

## WOMAN SEEKS SUPPORT FOR FIBROSITIS SYNDROME

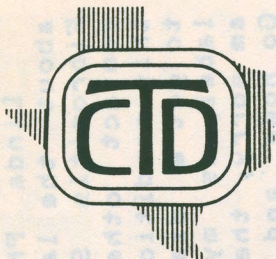
Linda Phelps of Austin, Texas is concerned about the lack of support and public awareness of Fibrositis Syndrome (FS). She is trying to contact other individuals who have experienced this condition. "It took me three years and \$8500 to get a diagnosis of Fibrositis. Once I got the label, as my doctor referred to it," he said, "I am sorry, there is nothing I can do to help you. Go home and try to stay out of pain." There is no definitive test to diagnose F.S. therefore it tends to be frustrating to both doctor and patient."

Linda has contacted all her State legislators and the Senate's committee on Health and Human Resources hoping to educated them of the need for research and support in Fibrositis. If you are interested in contacting Linda about her efforts, write her at 9004 Viking Drive, Austin, Texas 78758.



### 11th Annual Convention of American Association of the Deaf Blind

The American-Association of the Deaf-Blind has set their 11th Annual National Convention for June 22 - 29 at Galluadet College in Washington, D.C. The convention activities will coincide with Deaf-Blind Awareness Week and the national birthday celebration honoring Helen Keller. The needs and concerns of deaf-blind individuals in the areas of education, employment, residential living and transportation will be presented.



# Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

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