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In this issue: Happy New Year, Chocolate Myracles, RTS, AT Conference, and Resources.

WashingtonAccess**Fund**

Independence is priceless. We make it affordable.

Access Fund News   January 2014

Do you have a story to share? Is there something you would like to learn about? Send your ideas to info@washingtonaccessfund.org! We'll include them in our newsletter and/or on Facebook.

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to each and every one of you! The Access Fund is looking forward to seeing what's in store for 2014. We know it's going to be a busy one!

Thank you so much to everyone for your support and for your donations at the end of 2013. We wanted to give a special thank you to **Kevin and Melinda Berg** of CompuPane on behalf of what was formerly the Access Life Foundation. Kevin and Melinda gave the donation in Francie's honor and had this to say, "Thank you Francie for making the Washington Access Fund into the invaluable resource that it has become!" Wow! Your generous donation to the Access Fund will help us continue to grow our program and serve even more people with disabilities.

Chocolate Myracles

Order early for Valentine's Day! Julie Balassa Myracle, the Master Chocolatier behind Chocolate Myracles, is an Access Fund client and a wonderful person! This chocolate shop is committed to using chocolates and couvetures made from fairly traded cacao beans. Julia's shop features the most delightful truffles, adorable chocolate bears, a variety of bars and lovely hearts just in time for Valentine's Day!

To place an order or for more information, you can contact Julia directly at julia@chocolatemyracles.com. You can find Chocolate Myracles on Facebook and keep up with the various activities and events that are going on (we recommend going to a Family Chocolate Tasting and Story Time!).

Read more about Julia's background and involvement with the Access Fund in a profile she did with us a few years back: Business Equipment Refinanced.

Rebuilding Together Seattle

A Call for Applicants! Rebuilding Together Seattle (RTS) brings volunteers and communities together to help low income homeowners live in warmth, safety and independence. RTS serves low income homeowners who are elderly, disabled, families with children, and/or veterans in need.

The RTS office has begun the process of planning for their Spring programs, including their 24th Annual Spring Rebuilding Day (Saturday, April 26, 2014), where they hope to help 27 homeowners in the greater Seattle area with the support of over 1,000 volunteers. They also hope to help 30 more families through their year-round maintenance program, Safe at Home, and 16 more families through their Team Build program by June 30th. They are currently accepting applicants to consider for all of their programs.

While Rebuilding Together Seattle accepts applications year round, they are requesting that interested homeowners apply ASAP or by **January 17, 2014** to be considered for their Spring programs. For more information and to download the homeowner (or volunteer!) application please visit the following link: Rebuilding Together Seattle forms.

WISE Assistive Technology Conferences

AT Conferences in Eastern and Western WA: Citizens experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities are using all types of equipment to live, work, and have fun. As individuals, families, and providers, we push to keep ahead of the curve while meeting today's need for solutions and resources.

WISE invites you to join others in our state to share and learn in the 21st Century.

Join this conference in the **Western** part of the State on **March 12th, 2014** from 9:00am-4:00pm at North Seattle Community College in Seattle. For more information, keynote speakers, and to register please visit AT Conference - Western WA.

Join this conference in the **Eastern** part of the State on **March 13th, 2014** from 9:00am-4:00pm at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. For more information, keynote speakers, and to register please visit AT Conference - Eastern WA.

Sponsored by: Washington State Developmental Disabilities Administration, Roads to Community Living Project. Clock hours available for teachers, Credit hours available for DVR staff.

January Resources

Special Education Technology Center: The SETC offers webinars on various software programs and devices, they are a great way to learn about the different programs! Here is one upcoming webinar (be sure to check out the website for more!).

- **January 14th**: AT Ideas for Home-School Connections webinar
- **January 16th**: iPad: Accessibility Features (iOS7) webinar
- **January 27th**: AT for the Disorganized Student webinar

Washington Initiative for Supported Employment: WISE has some great webinars coming up, check them out! Residents of Washington and Oregon are able to take the webinars below for free. (You can find the appropriate discount codes on the webinar information pages). For those outside of Washington and Oregon the costs are $30.

- **January 22nd**: Rural Job Development

- **February 5th**: Your Business, Our Business: Expanding Connections
- **February 19th**: Self-Employment for People Who Experience Significant Disabilities

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Our mission is to promote access to technology and economic opportunity for individuals with disabilities in Washington State. The Washington Access Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).

Washington Access Fund provides: Assistive Technology Loans, Business Equipment Loans, CCTV Rentals, and Matched Savings IDAs

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