



COMPUTER - DISABILITY

*News*

THE COMPUTER RESOURCE QUARTERLY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY**

**BOARD:**

**Alan J. Brightman, Ph.D.**

*Editor, Apple Education  
Foundation*

**Cindy Bryant**

*Educational Microcomputer  
Consultant*

**Lynda Burke**

*President, Matrix  
Marketing Support Systems*

**Sharon Connor**

*Affirmative Action Rep.*

*Hewlett Packard*

**Dudley Childress, Ph.D.**

*Director, Rehabilitation Engineering  
Program, Northwestern University*

**Justin W. De\*1, Jr**

*League of Disabled Voters*

**Brent England**

*Amer. Hosp. Assn.*

**John Eulenberg, Ph.D.**

*Artificial Language Laboratory  
Michigan State University*

**Douglas Fenderson, Ph.D.**

*Director, National Institute of  
Handicapped Research*

**David Keele**

*Manager, Special Education  
Projects, IBM*

**Russell L. Malone, Ph.D.**

*Director, Public Information  
American Speech-Language-  
Hearing Association*

**Peter McWilliams**

*Author*

**Margaret Nosek**

*Rehabilitation Counselor*

**Nancy Piotrowski**

*Marketing Program Development  
Texas Instruments*

**John H. Potter**

*Director, Planned Giving*

*Rochester Institute of Technology*

**Richard Schoech, Ph.D.**

*Coordinator/Editor*

*Computer Use in Social Services  
Network*

**Thomas R. Shworles**

*Chairman, Committee on*

*Personal Computers*

*& the Handicapped*

**Gregg Vanderheiden**

*Director, Trace Research and*

*Development Center*

**THE EASTER SEAL**

**COMMITTEE ON PERSONAL**

**COMPUTERS & DISABILITIES:**

**John A. Wishnew, Chairman**

**J. Edward Beck, Jr.**

**Vladimir Josifek**

**Mary Payton Minkus**

**Michael S. Robertson**

**Kenneth W. Sebasta**

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

WINTER, 1984-85

## LATEST IN COMPUTERIZED ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS: A HOUSE THAT OBEYS VOICE COMMANDS

For persons with severe disabilities, a new computerized "house of the future" is now available through a firm located in Miami, Florida. The environmentally shapeable model responds to vocalized requests made anywhere within its walls, and also to commands made over a user pre-coded telephone line.

This house with a "brain" accepts and responds to requests to dim the lights, raise the temperature level, or answer the phone. It can respond to informational queries as well; for instance, persons who ask the house's main computer to state the time or date will receive a vocalized response indicating the correct information. Additionally, persons who are not mobile will likely be particularly pleased by the vocally controlled house security system.

The firm which designed this home is also equipped to custom design and install a system in any existing home or business. Demonstration of the home or of the system is available on request, along with cost estimates. **Contact:** Andrew or Kathleen Allocco, Better Homes Construction Services, Computer House Division, P.O. Box 33156, Miami, FL 33156; tel. (305) 667-0003.

## JOB TRAINING AT INDIANA EASTER SEAL CENTER BENEFITS EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

Computer job training is one of the most important new vistas in rehabilitation. At the Crossroads Rehabilitation Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, progress in the computerized job training area is particularly promising. Titled the "Information Processing Career Training Program," the Crossroads program offers course work in data entry, word processing, and computer programming. Last year, nearly all of the individuals who completed the ten-month curriculum available at Crossroads were able to find jobs.

Students in the computer training division are selected following a special vocational evaluation week, during which aptitudes and interests are measured. Once accepted, students undergo rigorous schooling in such computer-relevant areas as COBOL, program debugging, and business systems. Job-seeking and retention skills are also stressed as integral to the individual's ability to access the job market.

Roger Miller of Ft. Wayne, Indiana is one person whose life has been significantly enhanced by the Crossroads efforts. Mr. Miller is quadriplegic, having sustained a broken neck and spinal cord injury during an accident several years ago. Miller's interest in amateur radio operation and microprocessing led to a similar fascination with computer programming, and 2 years ago to enrollment at Crossroads. Following completion of his studies, he is solidly and happily employed as a computer programmer with Mutual Security Life Insurance Company in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. "I have nothing but positive things to say about Crossroads," Miller says. "It's true the individual must take the initiative, that the training is only as good as the person, but this program really provides a unique and special opportunity for persons with disabilities."

The Crossroads venture is intended to achieve a threefold goal—benefits to