



Independence

TECHNOLOGY

Over the years, Good Shepherd therapists have developed an unmatched level of expertise with assistive technology, using the **most advanced** training and evaluation methods. They are specially trained to adapt different types of technology to fit the need of each patient, resident or child. From adaptive communication devices to customized environmental control units, these devices give people with disabilities more control and independence.

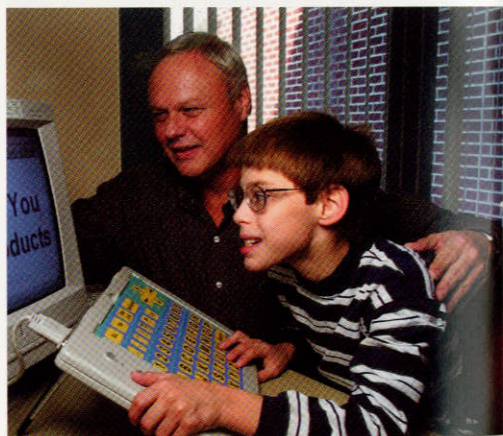
A Technology Center

Tapping Into Undiscovered Potential

Almost every resident of Good Shepherd's long-term care facilities in Allentown and Bethlehem uses technology to **function** and communicate. One resident uses a simple switch-controlled measuring cup to help bake a cake, a task he could not otherwise accomplish. Another resident who is unable to speak uses a complex augmentative communication device to simulate speech. Most of the residents have motorized wheelchairs with controls adjusted to suit their needs. They also have the ability to operate Good Shepherd elevators with infrared technology.

Every day, **advances** in technology provide more essential tools for people with disabilities. The newest – environmental control units – centralize the control of almost every aspect of a home environment, including telephone and television access, lighting, doors and windows and other switch-operated devices. Such technology will allow them to communicate and **express** themselves in ways never before possible.

Technology is also an integral tool for children who receive therapy in Good Shepherd's pediatrics program. Technology helps kids **overcome** barriers and become an active participant in their learning environment. Adaptive switches used to activate a toy, for example, allow for more **independent** play. Using a touch screen or single switch on a computer allows a child to experience the vibrant pictures, animations and sounds of computer software.



To provide easier access to technology, Good Shepherd plans to one day create a state-of-the-art technology center that will combine the expertise of Good Shepherd's staff with the latest in assistive technology. This type of one-stop center will facilitate access to high-tech equipment and services for people with disabilities and their caregivers within Good Shepherd and in the community.

Supported Independent Living

Glimpse the future...an apartment building completely accessible to dozens of wheelchair-users. A residence where creative adaptations give people with disabilities the **tools** to make their own choices and the **freedom** to design their own lives. And a community-based approach to living where people with disabilities support one another in reaching their **dreams**.

Good Shepherd's new Supported Independent Living apartment building promises this and more for people with disabilities. SuppIL, the nickname for this new Good Shepherd facility, stands for supported independent living.

People with disabilities along with architects and designers are structuring the Supported Independent Living apartment building with technology to maximize **convenience** and **cost** savings for residents. *Some of the extraordinary features include:*

- hallways wide enough for two motorized wheelchairs to pass side by side
- ceiling-tracks for personal transfer units
- elevator designed for people with mobility, hearing and visual disabilities
- secured entrances controlled automatically by residents
- energy-efficient motorized windows
- environmental controls that command thermostats, lights, telephones and doors with voice activation
- modified kitchens with roll-under counters and sinks that adjust to the height of the tenant in his or her wheelchair
- roll-in showers, faucets with preset temperatures, accessible automatic toilets and grab bar placement based on each resident's needs



In Spring 2002 Good Shepherd will break ground for this state-of-the-art **18 unit apartment building** for low-income adults with physical disabilities.