



# Journeys

## Meet Artist Lauren Blakely

Lauren Blakely is an ATP client who was born with Spastic Athetoid Cerebral Palsy. This remarkable 22-year-old is a student at Metropolitan State College of Denver, working toward a certificate in the nonprofit sector.

In addition to her studies, Lauren enjoys creating art. She took up painting two years ago, and we are delighted to report that she is a young woman of considerable talent. In August of 2004, she had her first exhibit at the VSA Arts of Colorado in Denver, where her work was well received.

In December, ATP staff were pleased to purchase one of Lauren's paintings as a gift for Advisory Council Chairman Bill Caile.

Lauren says her interests, in addition to painting, include music, basketball, hanging out with friends, shopping and disability-related activities.



Advisory Council Chairman **Bill Caile** poses proudly with original art created by **Laura Blakely** and presented to him by the staff of ATP.

## Scholarship Helps Engineering Student Toward AT Career



Tony Arnt, a senior student majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Colorado at Denver, has worked as an intern at Assistive Technology Partners for over a year. He also works as a manager on duty and lifeguard at the Littleton YMCA. Despite working two jobs, Tony is on the dean's honor role.

This year, Tony received a scholarship of \$2,350 made possible by generous donors to ATP. The scholarship is helping him pursue his dream of helping others with assistive technology. Tony says, "Words can't describe how incredibly grateful I am" for the scholarship, which covered his current semester's tuition. "It was unbelievable. I just want to say thank you. Thank you to everyone who donated."

## ATP Receives Prestigious Grants

Assistive Technology Partners is proud to announce that we have been honored with three prestigious grants that will enable us to provide more and better services for people with disabilities.

One of these major grants, funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, will bring together universities in Colorado, Kansas, California, Illinois, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Under the direction of Dr. Cathy Bodine, the team will research, develop, evaluate and disseminate technologies for people with cognitive disabilities such as Alzheimers disease and traumatic brain injury.

The second grant addresses the shortage of trained personnel to meet the technology needs of children. ATP will train 60 graduate students to work with children with low-incidence disabilities, and develop Masters and Doctoral programs in Assistive Technology at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center.

Under the third grant, ATP will study the effectiveness of AT devices and services with large groups of users. Development of new measurement systems will help guide research into more effective technological devices and improve the quality of life for users of assistive technology.

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The mission of ATP is for persons with cognitive, sensory and/or physical disabilities to reach their highest possible potential at home, school, work and play through the addition of appropriate assistive technologies (AT) to their lives. We do this by offering excellent

- Educational opportunities,
- Clinical services,
- Research and development, and
- Information/Outreach services.

## Assistive Technology Partners

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## Advisory Council Members

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JC Bourque  
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Lisa Buckley  
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Sara Caille  
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Michele McKinney  
Ron Norby  
Karen Schneider  
Genie Waters  
Steve Waters

Thanks to JC Bourque and  
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they created.

## Join Our April 20th Open House

Plan to join us on April 20 from 5:30-8 p.m. when we host our next open house. You will be able to tour our facility, see our computer and seating laboratories and meet some of our clients. The open house will take place at our main offices located at 1245 East Colfax Avenue, Suite 200, Denver.

We hope to see you then!

## ATP Clinics Need Your Help

Although Assistive Technology Partners has received three prestigious grants in recent months, none of these fund the clinics that provide direct services to people with disabilities. And the reality is that the number of people of all ages — from infants to senior citizens — who need assistive technology to live life to the fullest continues to grow.

We want the ATP clinic to literally be the best in the world — and we're on our way! Our dedicated Advisory Council members and other contributors have helped us achieve a \$50,000 milestone, but we need your help so that ATP can do more for more people. Our annual goal for 2005 is \$250,000.

We currently provide direct services to 500 individuals in our clinics each year. By the end of 2005, our goal is to have served 850. Unfortunately, it is expensive to operate a clinic as complex, specialized and focused on individual needs as ours.

ATP's annual cost of providing direct services to clients is approximately \$615,000. Many of the clients we serve have complex disabilities and require individualized AT solutions. In fact, it might surprise you to know that it takes an average of eight hours to provide individualized evaluation for just one individual! Many additional hours are spent in follow-up therapies and services. The average cost for an evaluation is \$450, while a full day of clinic services is \$600.

Our work with clients is very hands-on, very specialized, and very, very labor-intensive.

If you can help us to help others, please contact Miya Adams at 303-315-1280, or send your contribution to CU Foundation/Assistive Technology Partners, 1245 E. Colfax Ave, Suite 200, Denver, CO 80218.

Each contribution to ATP is a step toward independence and fulfillment for a person with disabilities. Your help can change lives.

## Donor Appreciation Night Planned

The Advisory Council's Chair Bill Caille and his wife Sara will host Assistive Technology Partners' first Donor Appreciation Night, and there's still time for you to be invited — by donating to ATP today!

This special appreciation event will be held at the beautiful Denver Country Club on Thursday, August 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Everyone who has donated \$100 or more to ATP in 2004 or 2005 will be on the guest list.

Don't miss out! Become a donor today.



**BREAKING BARRIERS. CHANGING LIVES.**

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