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THE TOOLS FOR
INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE
OF THE

**INDEPENDENT
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PARTNERSHIP**

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You Need.....
Or How You
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Make Your Life
Easier**

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The nonprofit Independent Living Partnership (ILP) - working for the rights of all to live independently in their own homes and communities.

No More Burns From Touching Hot Oven Racks



With the **Cool Touch Oven Rack Guards**, you will never get burned again if you accidentally touch or brush against hot oven racks. The guards are made from a special fabric the vendor says was developed to protect fire-fighters. The snap-on guard units fit all standard

oven racks, and are 18" long so they cover a wide area. And the vendor claims they will protect against temperatures up to 500 degrees. They can stay on the oven racks between use and are machine washable. NOTE: According to the vendor, the guards should not be used under the broiler, during the oven cleaning cycle or to pull out a hot oven rack. A two-guard set sells for \$19.95 at MaxiAids. Visit www.maxiaids.com or call 1-800-522-6294, 1-800-281-3555 for TTY. Item #550674.

Dial Loved Ones With a Touch of Their Picture

No more trying to memorize phone numbers or taking time to look them up. The **One-Touch Photo Dialer** turns an ordinary phone into a picture driven speed dial device. The unit comes with 12 easy-to-program memory buttons with spaces for individual photos. Once programmed, simply press the picture and the number is automatically dialed. Ac-



According to the vendor, it connects directly to your phone, so no power supply or batteries are required. The Photo Dialer is available for \$29.99 from Gold Violin. Find out more by calling 1-877-648-8400 or visit www.goldviolin.com. Product Code #91544.

Keep Cold, Arthritic Hands Warm and Relaxed

The **Bed Buddy Warming Mittens** are ideal for anyone with sore arthritic hands. Each set of mittens comes with lightly fragranced scent packs of eucalyptus, clove and cinnamon to revitalize, comfort and calm you. The heat packs provide aromatherapy as well as heat therapy for sore hands. Filled

with 100% organic materials, the packs heat quickly in the microwave for lasting warmth. The mittens measure 7-1/2" wide by 10-1/4" long and cost \$13.50. Read more about them at Youcan Toocan at www.youcantoocan.com or by calling 1-888-663-9396. Item #11268.



Afraid of Stumbling at Night? Try Slippers With Lights

These **Bright Feet Lighted Slippers** lower your risk of running into or tripping on objects in the dark. According to the vendor, the powerful LED headlights on the toes of the slippers are angled upward to provide 20 to 25 feet of light, and the non-skid soles help prevent falls. The lights are activated by weight and light sensors so they come on only when you step into them and it is dark. Batteries are included. The slippers come in five colors and fit both men and women. They are available from Active Forever for \$39.95. Check them out at www.activeforever.com or call 1-800-377-8033. Item A15210-01 (starting with smallest size).

If You Have Trouble Hearing the Doorbell.....

The **Alertmaster Door Announcer AM-DX** amplifies the chime or buzzer so you can easily hear it when it rings. The device mounts right next to your existing doorbell chime or buzzer and automatically picks up the sound. According to the vendor, it is wireless so it does not have to be plugged in or hard-wired. With the **AM-RX2 Remote Receiver**, you can also connect the receiver to lamps in any room up to 80 feet away from the unit and the lights will automatically flash in a distinctive pattern when the doorbell rings. Lights on the receiver also flash to tell you the doorbell is ringing. Again, it is wireless, so you can just plug it in and it is ready to go. The Alertmaster Door Announcer AM-DX sells for \$49.95 (product #48) and the Alertmaster Remote Receiver AM-RX2 is \$59.95 (Product #42). Both are available at www.UnitedTTY.com or by calling 1-866-889-4872 or 1-866-TTY-4USA.



Chess and Checker Board With Easy to Handle Pieces

The black and white squares of this **chess/checker board** provide a very sharp contrast and the white squares are lower than the black squares for tactual differentiation. This also helps keep the checker pieces from sliding around the board. The black **checker** pieces are square and the white pieces are round for easy identification. The black **chess** pieces are also



square and the white pieces are round for easy identification. The chess pieces are pegged and fit into a hole in each square to keep them firmly in place. The chess pieces also have tactual markings to help identify the two sides. The set is available for \$39.95 at Independent Living Aids. Call 1-800-537-2118 or view at www.independentliving.com. Item #375000.

No More Straining to Reach Your Back



With the **Body ReachMate Plus 22" Super FLEX+ Wand** applicator, you can apply medications, lotions and ointments to hard-to-reach and otherwise inaccessible areas of your body. And it is bendable so it is ideal for anyone with limited to severely limited range of motion. It works with a range of unique and helpful attachments, so you have a complete system for overall skin care. Cost: \$24.95 from ReachMate Plus. Learn about this product at www.lotionapplicators.com or by calling 1-866-834-3535. Item MSRP. NOTE: Two other models are available for specific range-of-motion challenges.

Check Out The TOOLS Resource Center —

Our new TOOLS Resource Center features links to organizations, other Web sites and groups that can provide you with useful information and help with your questions about assistive technology, caregiving and independent living. Our web site also hosts a blog written by TOOLS editor Michael Carbine with news, updates and notes of interest, and a collection of back issues of the *TOOLS for Independence* newsletter. You can also take a survey and tell us how we can make TOOLS more helpful and useful for you. Visit us at www.TOOLSforIndependence.org.

Adhesive Labels Fit Right Over Computer Keys

With these **large-type labels**, you can convert your computer keyboard to a large print keyboard without the expense of buying a new one. The adhesive-backed labels come in three color combinations, each designed to make it easier to see the letters: Large black characters on a beige background; large white characters on a black background; or large black characters on a yellow background. They are \$14.95 per set from Fentek Industries. Visit www.fentek-ind.com or call 1-800-639-0710. Item SLrgPrt for black/beige, SLrgPrtW for white/black, and SLrgPrtY for black/yellow.





TOOLS for IndependenceTM

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This newsletter is published by the INDEPENDENT LIVING PARTNERSHIP (ILP)

ILP works to ensure the independence and dignity of older adults and people with disabilities, their families and caregivers through education and access to empowering services and resources. This is accomplished through collaborative and cooperative partnering with public and private organizations, agencies and businesses. The goal is to help people lead more satisfying and rewarding lives, often in spite of significant health and mobility challenges.

See Who is Calling You From Anywhere in the Room



No need to drop what you are doing and run to the phone to see who is calling. The **Tel-Note Large Display Caller ID and Clock** features a large (1" x 8-1/4"), bright display screen so you can easily tell the time and see who is calling when the phone rings. The display

unit comes in black and includes 3 snap-on skins in platinum, bronze and stainless silver, so you have a total of four colors to match the room. The clock will automatically reset itself in case of a power outage. Caller memory keeps the last 25 calls received. Comes with a 90-day warrantee. **NOTE:** You must subscribe to Caller ID for that function to work. Cost: \$49.95. Find out more by calling 1-800-288-8303, 1-800-536-8890 for TTY, or check www.hitec.com. Item #TL-1215.

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