Congratulations to the Emmaus SeniorNet Learning Center for being awarded one of the 14 CTC Net “Connections for All” Accessibility Grants! Accessibility Grant recipients were selected using a competitive grant application process and notified of their award in early April.

In the summer of 2006, Emmaus Services for the Aging in partnership with SeniorNet developed the CyberSeniors Computer Lab at The Arthur S. Flemming Center in Washington, D.C. The Emmaus SeniorNet Learning Center offers regular computer classes to elderly men and women living in the city, helping them develop basic computer skills, familiarity with Microsoft programs, and the ability to research information on the internet and remain connected to friends and family through e-mail. The CyberSeniors Accessibility Project will improve the accessibility of the computer lab, training programs, and outreach to enable seniors with a wide variety of abilities to benefit from our computer classes.

Emmaus currently provides significant outreach to the community to inform seniors about their programs and services; however, they were interested in improving the accessibility of outreach materials. Thanks to grant funding from CTC Net they now have the ability and resources to train their staff to better understand the needs of the disabled seniors they serve, and how to effectively respond to those needs in order to increase participation at their Learning Center.

Emmaus SeniorNet Learning Center will receive $20,000 of grant funding to be used toward staff training, staff time dedicated to addressing access issues, and the purchase of assistive and accessible tools. In addition they will receive 30 hours of technical assistance from a local Assistive Technology Resource Center that will include training on assistive technology tools and strategies.

Kudos again to the Emmaus Learning Center for being selected as a grant recipient! To learn more about the grant and other recipients please visit: http://www.ctcnet.org/what/initiatives/C4All/grant.htm .