

## Automated medication dispenser puts Newtown woman at ease

Stacy Davis, Staff Writer • Published 08:32 p.m., Sunday, December 26, 2010

NEWTOWN — Marie Kreiser's father was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and he was forgetting to take his medications, she said.

Every week Kreiser, 49, of Newtown, would drive to Yorktown, N.Y., to refill her father's pill boxes, she said. But they would still hold the previous week's pills.

With his new diagnosis, Kreiser knew her father could not afford to be missing dosages of his prescribed medications.

"That was just not an option anymore," she said.

Shortly thereafter, Kreiser saw a flier for an automated medication dispenser, she said. She thought this might be a good option for her father, so she contacted [Direct Link](#).

Direct Link, a division of [Home Helpers](#), is a local company that started selling and installing automated medical dispensers only a few months ago, said [Tony Chieffo](#), who owns the company with his wife, Jeanene.

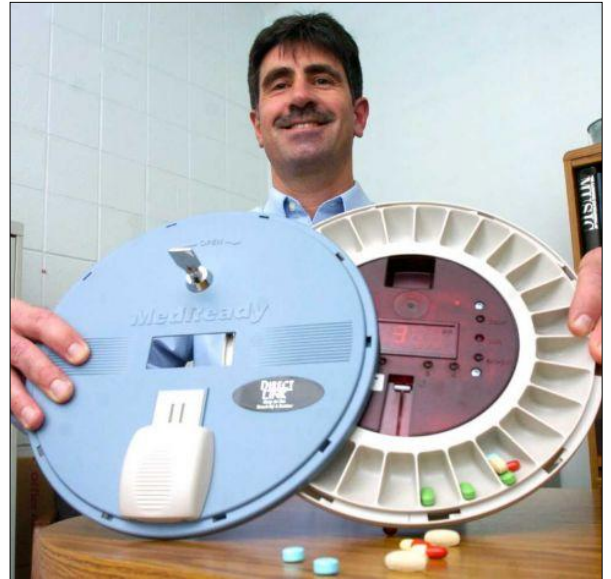
"This Med Dispenser instantly alleviates the stress of forgetting to take a medication, taking double doses, taking a medication at the wrong time, opening and closing pill bottles, which is especially helpful if an individual is visually impaired," Chieffo said.

The dispenser can hold up to 28 doses of medication, he said. It is designed to dispense multiple pills at a certain time each day using a digital alarm clock.

When it is time for someone to take his medicine, an alarm sounds and a red light flashes, Chieffo said. If the person does not take what's required, the dispenser, which is connected to a telephone line, will ring a call center in Ohio.

A representative of the center will call the person who missed his dosage, he said. If he does not answer the phone, the representative will continue calling people on an emergency call list the client provided, until they are able to notify someone that their loved one did not take his pills, Chieffo said.

Kreiser is pleased with the dispenser. "I now know my father is taking the medication," she said. "This is just a really good thing."



Tony Chieffo, of Home Helpers & Direct Link, is