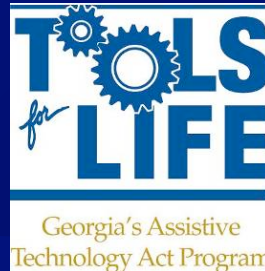


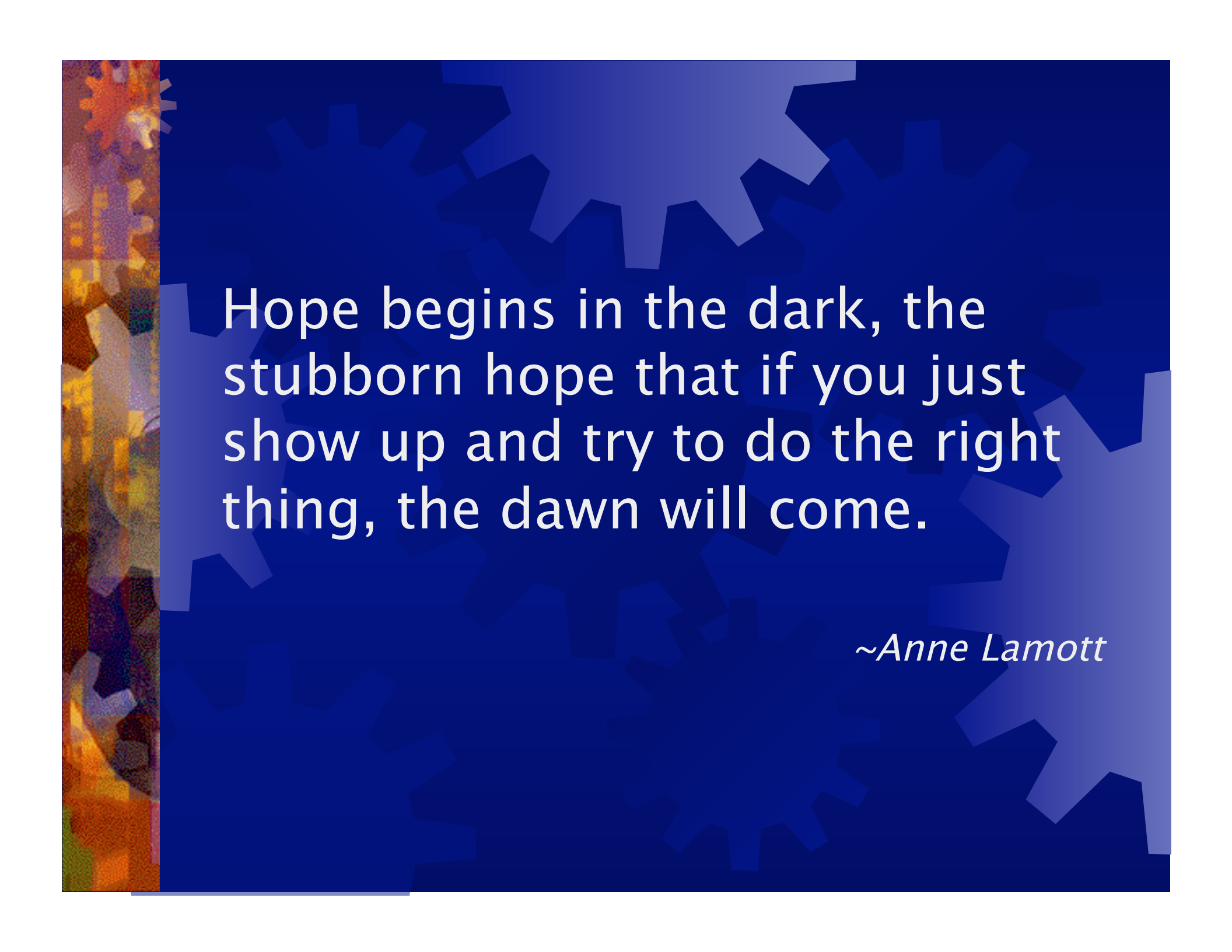
Tools for Life Network – GA's Assistive Technology Resource Centers, ReBoot, and FODAC

Helping You get the Technology
that Your Students Need!



Carolyn Phillips, Martha Rust & Liz Persaud

Tools for Life
www.gatfl.org



Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come.

~Anne Lamott

Agenda

- ✦ Tools for Life – a Brief History
- ✦ Exploring the AT Act of 2004 and the GA AT State Plan
- ✦ AT Direct Service Activities
 - A Tour of Your Assistive Technology Resource Centers
 - Tech-Able, Touch the Future, Disability Connections, Walton Options
 - Tools for Independence
 - ReBoot – Georgia’s Computer Reutilization Program
 - FODAC – Friend’s of Disabled Adults and Children
 - TFL Funding Initiatives – An Overview
 - Dollars & Sense, gTrade, Credit-Able
- ✦ AT State Leadership Activities
- ✦ AT Reuse Initiatives
 - Pass It On Center and STAR Network
- ✦ Freeware and Resources



Why Are We Here Today?

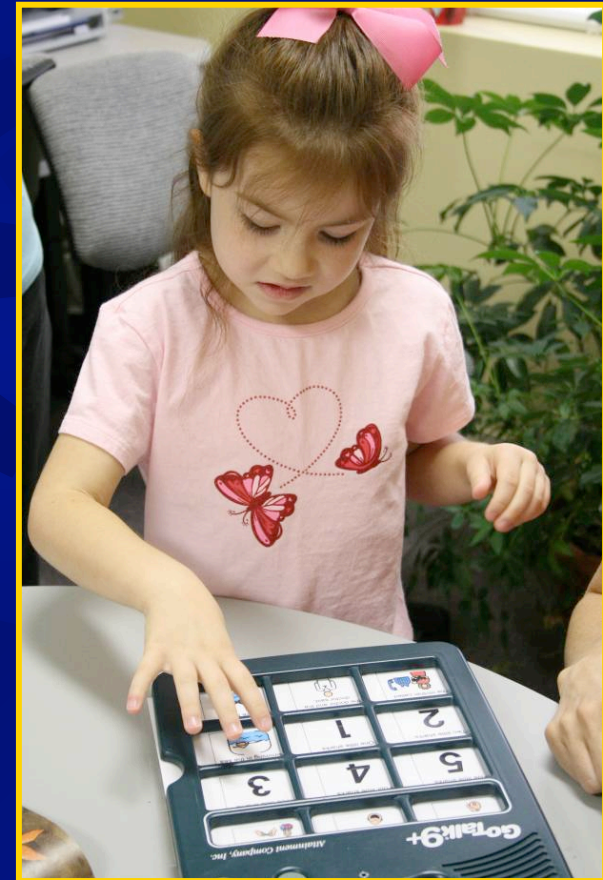
- ✦ To Discuss Tools for Life and our Partnerships
- ✦ Educate about Assistive Technology and
- ✦ Educate You so Your Students are able to get the Assistive Technology they need!



Georgia's AT Act Program

Defining Assistive Technology

- ★ Assistive technology – “Any item, piece of equipment, product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.”
- ★ Assistive technology service – “Any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.”



Why Assistive Technology?

- ★ For a person without a disability, technology makes things easier....
- ★ For a person with a disability, technology makes things possible.



“Technology gives me hope
& I need a lot of Hope!”

~ Earnestine



Guiding Principles

- ✦ We – Collectively – are Brilliant & Can find an Innovative Path and Create Brighter Futures
- ✦ We must Think, Live and Act from a place of Abundance – We Have enough time, money, resources...
- ✦ We Must Focus on Abilities!
- ✦ YOU have the Power to make the Difference!



Georgia's AT Act Program

...a brief History

1988 Tech-Act and Georgia's 1991 Program

- ★ Congressional Findings:
 - Power of AT to change lives – but many barriers!
 - Programs needed at state level to address barriers – all ages, all income levels, all agencies
- ★ Georgia's 1991 Program:
 - 7 Assistive Tech Resource Centers
 - Information & Referral: funding and resources for AT
 - Public Awareness and Outreach Initiatives



Georgia's AT Act Program ...a brief History

Defining Program Priorities – Consumers!!!

- ★ Advisory Group of consumers and agencies began working on the program in early 1989
- ★ 7 public forums in 1990 – Initial priorities
- ★ Other public forums identified new priorities:
 - Affordable access to computers ⇒ ReBoot
 - Affordable ways to finance AT ⇒ Credit-Able
 - Want ads for AT ⇒ G-Trade, Online Exchange



Significant Accomplishments

- ✦ Changes in policies, laws, funding infrastructures to increase access to AT devices and AT services
 - ✦ Medicaid coverage of AAC Devices
 - ✦ Establishment of ATRC/Reboot Consortium for AT ⇒ State Funding
 - ✦ Impacts on AWT, DOL and other agencies



Tools for Life

A Closer Look at the AT Act 2004 and Georgia's State Plan for Assistive Technology





Guiding Principles of AT Act

- ★ Over 54,000,000+ individuals in the United States have disabilities that affect their ability to:
 - see,
 - hear,
 - communicate,
 - reason,
 - walk, or
 - perform other basic life functions.



Guiding Principles of AT Act

- ✦ Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to—
 - (A) live independently;
 - (B) enjoy self-determination and make choices;
 - (C) benefit from an education;
 - (D) pursue meaningful careers; and
 - (E) enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of society in the United States.



Guiding Principles of AT Act

- ★ Over the last 15 years, the Federal Government has invested in the development of comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance, which have proven effective in assisting individuals with disabilities in accessing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

Georgia's Three-Year Plan for
AT is Designed to Increase

Access to AT
&
Acquisition of AT



Georgia's AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org

Georgia's Three-Year Plan for AT is Focused on:

**Education,
Employment,
Community Living and IT/
Telecommunications**



Georgia's AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org

Georgia's Three-Year Plan for AT has:

Two Distinct Activities to Accomplish Plan

Direct AT Service Activities

State Leadership AT Activities



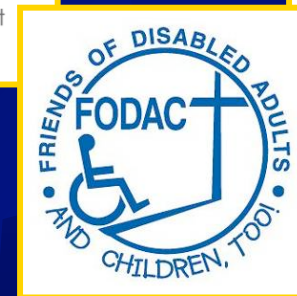
Direct AT Service Activities

- ◆ AT Loan Library
- ◆ AT Evaluations & Training
- ◆ AT Demos – Promote Choice
- ◆ Resource and Referral



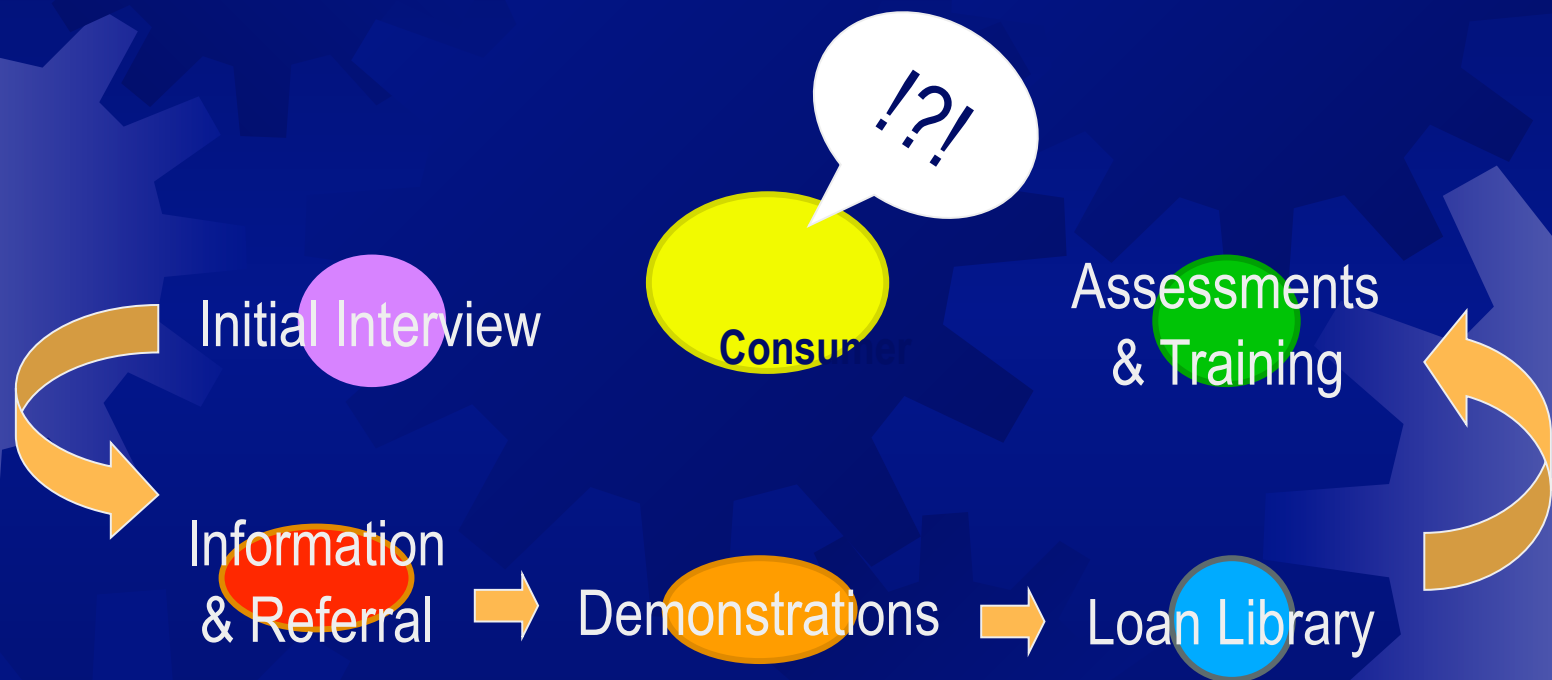
Disability
Connections

The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.



Your Local ATRC

Let's Get Started!





Your Local ATRC

Lifelong Learning Lab

Computer stations with AT hardware, ergonomic and software solutions. Teaching computer skills with AT, collaborating with Post Secondary Education and other agencies.

New AT Equipment & Software

AT products sold in GA at a cost savings! Assist with finding both the device and the best price.

Refurbished Equipment

ADL adaptive devices, AT electronic equipment, such as Hand Held Computers, CCTV's, switches and Computers.

Staff Specialties

ATP, Occupational Therapist, JAWS Trainer, Speech Therapy Consultant, Engineer, Certified Computer Technicians, Computer Software Education Specialist





Tech-Able

Computer Classes
Distribution

Helping close the digital divide (Outreach)

Tech-Reach

Training and AT Service Program

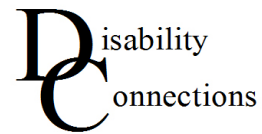
Products

Switch Adapted Mice & Switches

Funding

Credit-Able more on that later!!!

Tech-Able: www.tech-able.org



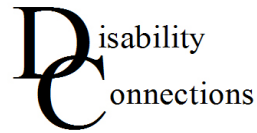
The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Disability Connections

DC is...

- ◆ Non-Residential Center for Independent Living
- ◆ Private Non-Profit Organization
- ◆ Serving People of All Ages with All Types of Disabilities
- ◆ Serving a Twelve County area in Middle Georgia (IL Services) & Assistive Technology serving the Southwest Quadrant of Georgia
- ◆ Consumer Controlled

Disability Connections: www.disabilityconnections.com

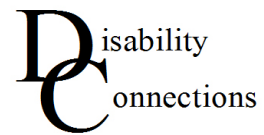


The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Five Core Services:

- ◆ Information and Referral – Making sense of information and community resources that relate to disability.
- ◆ Peer Support – Connect people with disabilities together with peers who share their own valuable life experiences.
- ◆ Advocacy – Empower individuals to advocate in their own lives and advocating for the rights of all people with disabilities.
- ◆ Independent Living Skills Training – Give people with disabilities the knowledge and skills to lead a more productive and independent life.
- ◆ Nursing Home Transition – Assist people to relocate from nursing homes and other institutions into their own community.

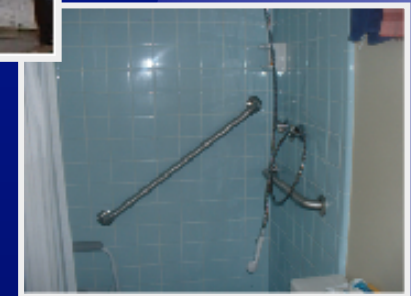
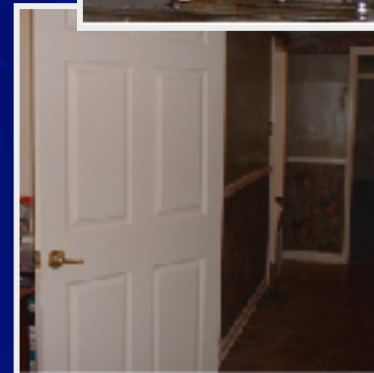
Disability Connections: www.disabilityconnections.com



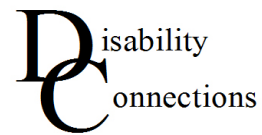
The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

HOME MODIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Ramps
- ◆ Bathroom Modifications
- ◆ Kitchen Modifications
- ◆ Widening Doorways



Disability Connections: www.disabilityconnections.com



The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

DC Tech – A Tools for Life Technology Resource Center

- ◆ Assistive Devices for Loan
- ◆ Computer Skills Training
- ◆ Computer Recycling
Distribution
- ◆ Scholarship for Assistive
Devices
- ◆ AT Assessments &
Training





Walton Options For Independent Living

Mission:

Empowering persons of all ages with all types of disabilities to reach their highest level of independence, including community inclusion and employment.



Walton Options for Independent Living

- ◆ Non-Residential, Consumer Controlled Center for Independent Living
- ◆ Private Non-Profit Organization
- ◆ Serving People of All Ages with All Types of Disabilities
- ◆ Providing IL and BPAO Services in 30 counties in Georgia and 10 counties in Western South Carolina
- ◆ Providing Assistive Technology services to Eastern Georgia



Walton Options for Independent Living

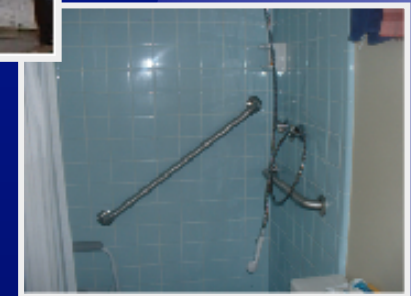
Five Core Services:

- Information and Referral – Making sense of information and community resources that relate to disability.
- ◆ Peer Support – Connecting people with disabilities together with peers who share their own valuable life experiences.
- ◆ Advocacy – Empowering individuals to advocate in their own lives and advocating for the rights of all people with disabilities.
- ◆ Independent Living Skills Training – Giving people with disabilities the knowledge and skills to lead a more productive and independent life.
- ◆ Nursing Home Transition – Assist people to relocate from nursing homes and other institutions into their own community.

Walton Options

HOME MODIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Ramps
- ◆ Bathroom Modifications
- ◆ Kitchen Modifications
- ◆ Widening Doorways



Walton Options

A Tools for Life Technology Resource Center

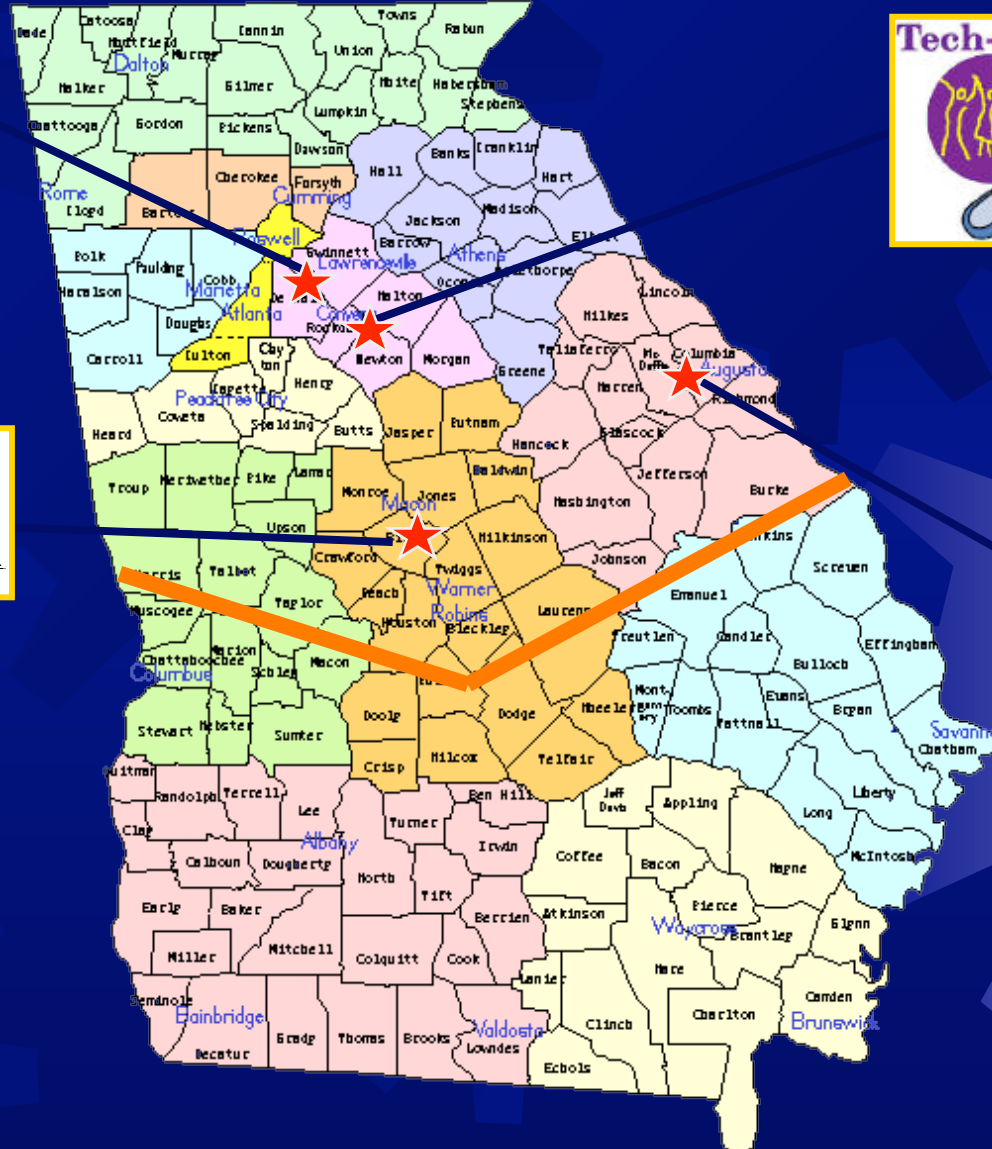
- ◆ Technology Demos, Tours and Loans
- ◆ ReBoot
- ◆ AT Assessments & Training
- ◆ AT Re-use Loan Closet
- ◆ Older Blind Services



ATRC Network in Georgia



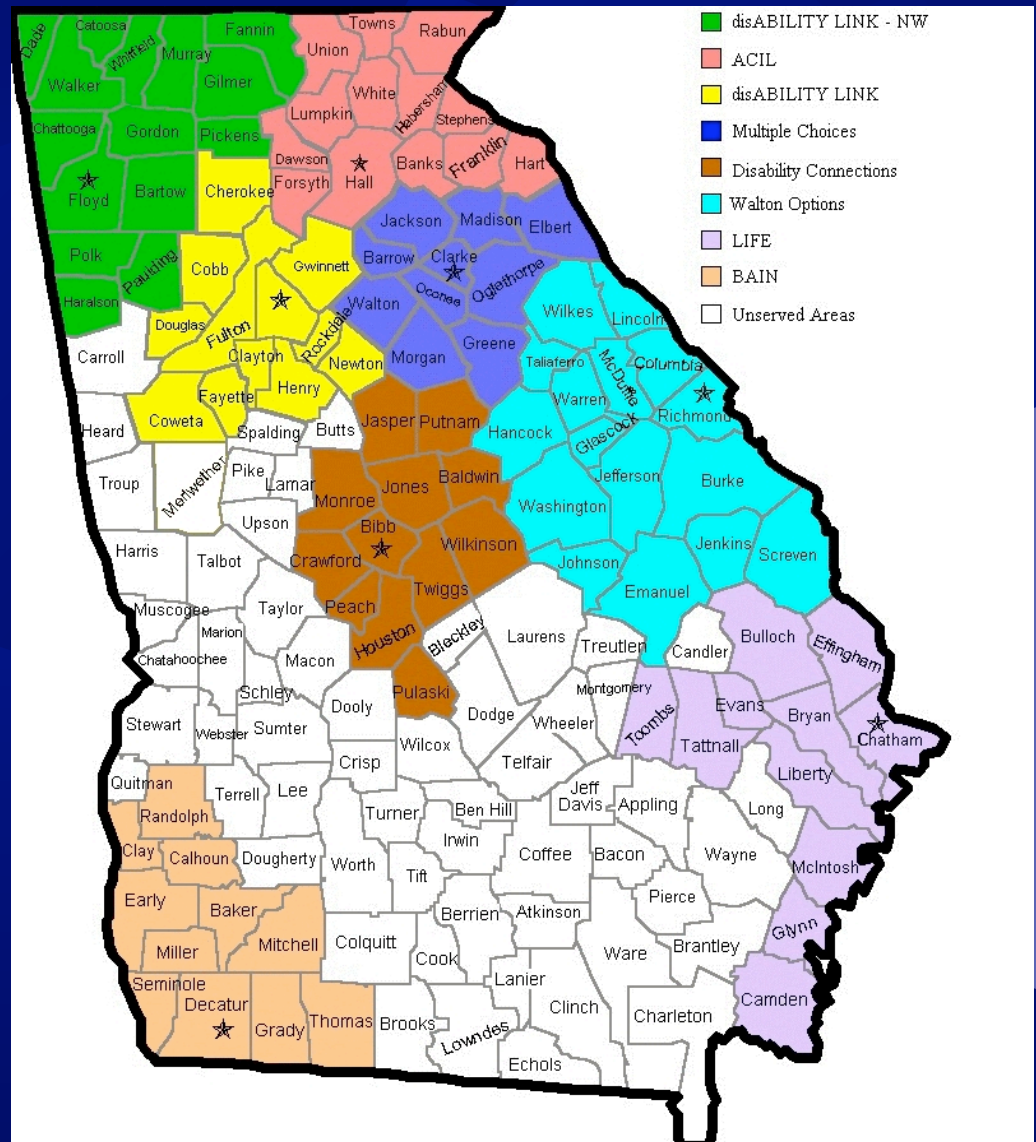
www.gatfl.org





STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF GEORGIA, INC

Current Centers for Independent Living



Combining Efforts to Better Serve Georgia!



STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF GEORGIA, INC



DisAbility Link NW



CATOC

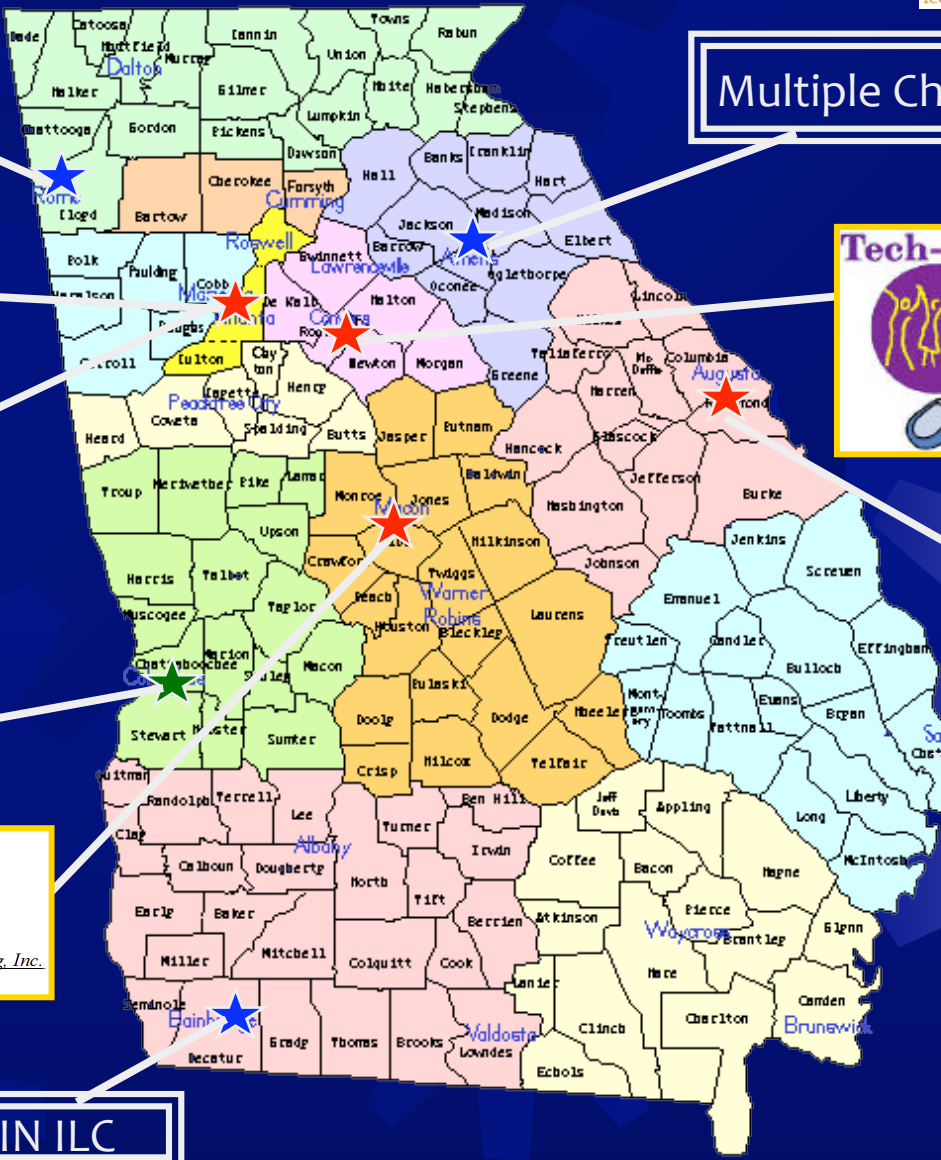


BAIN ILC

Multiple Choices ILC



LIFE ILC



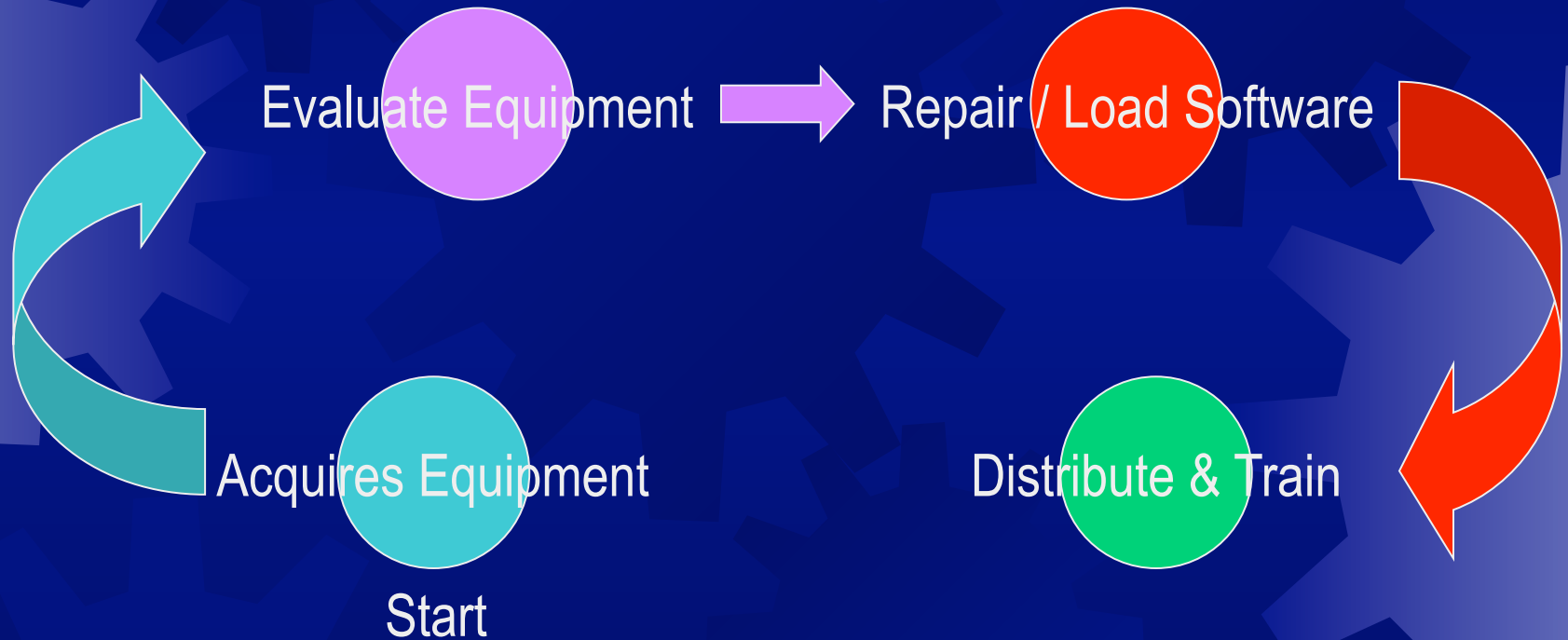


ReBoot – Georgia’s Computer and AT Reutilization Program

- ☀ ReBoot is a nonprofit, statewide, collaborative effort dedicated to actively promoting independence for people with disabilities through Assistive Technology & computer reuse.
- ☀ Over 9,200 refurbished computer systems have been matched with people throughout Georgia and the United States.



The ReBoot Process





ReBoot Benefits of Reuse

Tax Benefits

Receive a Tax receipt for charitable donation and...

Donation

Consider a donation of \$10 per system which...

Environment

Assures that items are kept out of our landfills.



ReBoot

Many Options to Suite Many Needs!

- ◆ ReBoot offers many computer packages and specifications to ensure that each potential recipient is matched to a system that will best suit their needs and enhance their abilities, further giving them independence.
- ◆ Computer packages range from a system with no sound and modem (Pkg A) to building a new system to your request (Pkg D).
- ◆ Laptops are also available based on supply.



ReBoot

Getting a Computer



Be an individual with a disability (any age), or be a senior, or an agency providing disability services



Give 20 hours of volunteer time to a nonprofit of your choice



Complete the application, receive computer and basic training session



ReBoot Technical Support



- Help desk available by phone
- ReBoot & other system repairs are done on site
- 6 month to 1 year warranties on all hardware
- ReBoot Support Training for outreach sites



ReBoot Future Goals!

More Powerful Systems

Continue to upgrade computer systems as higher- end equipment becomes available

More Locations

Increase distribution locations and delivery services in GA

ISP Provider

Explore possibilities of becoming an ISP provider or providing low cost internet services

More Software

Increase enhancements to systems with AT software at low or no cost



Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!



FODAC is a statewide provider of Durable medical equipment and has given away over 16,000 wheelchairs since 1986.

During this time, 45 states and 65 countries have received some equipment over those years.

FODAC is providing the physical needs of people with disabilities of all types and ages through:

- Durable medical equipment – wheelchairs and mobility aids
- Ramps for Champs – home access ramps and modifications
- ReMount – wheelchair and scooter lifts for vehicles
- Disposable medical equipment – catheters, braces, liquid nutrition, etc.



Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!

Durable Medical Equipment



- FODAC provides wheelchairs, scooters, bathroom aids, hospital beds, walkers, quad canes, and a host of other items such as standers, corner chairs and numerous other therapeutic aids.
- FODAC has collection sites around Atlanta and nearby cities that collect used DME. FODAC picks up these donations from local rehab hospitals, DME companies, and homes. Equipment is checked out, cleaned by staff and volunteers, and issued to clients who have no benefits or who have to wait for benefits from Medicare/Medicaid.
- FODAC averages 2000 clients served each year, some with multiple items.



Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!

Ramps for Champs



- Home access ramps
- Bathroom modifications
- Kitchen modifications
- Door widening
- Stair lift installation
- Donated labor is used to build home access ramps in the Metro Atlanta area.
- Other home modifications are completed in collaboration with contractors and installers.
- Current and Pending contracts include:
 - Dept. of Community Affairs
 - Federal Home Loan Bank
 - Woodmen of the World
 - Gwinnett County CDBG funds
 - Cobb County CDBG funds



Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!



ReMount

Installing donated and new adaptive equipment in vehicles for people in need.



Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!



International

Through several partnerships, FODAC ships hundreds of wheelchairs every year to countries around the world.



Direct AT Service Activities

Credit-Able: Georgia's Alternative Loan Program

Provides loan guarantees to grant Georgians with disabilities access to affordable financing for Assistive Technology, home and vehicle modifications

Credit-Able: www.thecfii.org

Direct AT Service Activities



Dollars and Sense Funding Guide

- ◆ Web-based Technical Assistance
- ◆ A resource for locating funding sources for AT devices and services. This guide was developed to make the funding process easier and to assist consumers in getting the assistive technology they need.



Direct AT Service Activities



Dollars and Sense Funding Guide

- ◆ Simple to use!
- ◆ Possible funding sources are listed by assistive technology categories
- ◆ All possible funding sources are new and updated





**Return to TFL
homepage**

Tools for Life Dollars and Sense

“Navigating the Funding Streams” Funding Guide



Feedback Survey



**Funding Services &
Service Providers**



FAQs



Contact ATRC



Sample Materials



Dictionary



Little Shop of AT Laws



Getting Started

Direct AT Service Activities



- ◆ Web-based
- ◆ FREE resource for finding and exchanging assistive technology (AT) devices online
- ◆ Place an ad requesting items for sale, donation, or needed



Direct AT Service Activities



- ◆ gTRADE and Tools for Life encourages members to offer AT devices and information for sale or by donation to others who may benefit from using technology and equipment no longer in need by others
- ◆ This online equipment exchange program was developed to make to make AT devices and services available and accessible to Georgians with disAbilities
- ◆ www.gtradeonline.org





Furnishings

[\[Return to Top of Page\]](#)

Item/Description	Location	Price	Seller
roho cushion 01/03/06 (ad210)	Marietta, GA	\$100	l_laverne@comcast.net
two padded bath chairs 01/03/06 (ad210)	Marietta, GA	\$34 each	l_laverne@comcast.net
electric hospital bed 01/03/06 (ad210)	Marietta, GA	\$500	l_laverne@comcast.net
electric hospital bed 01/03/06 (ad210)	Marietta, GA	\$400	l_laverne@comcast.net
CRAFTMATIC ADJUSTABLE QUEEN SIZED BED 11/22/05 (ad209)	Stone Mountain, GA	\$400	MARCUS.BEYNUM@GMAIL.COM
CRAFTMATIC ADJUSTABLE BED 09/17/05 (ad202)	Stone Mountain, GA	\$100	MARCUS.BEYNUM@GMAIL.COM
LA-Z-Boy Luxury-Lift Power Recliner, blue fabric 07/26-04 (ad169)	Lawrenceville, GA	\$700	ehrhardt@mindspring.com
Hospital beds, etc. (go to website)	Stone Mountain, GA		

Georgia's AT Act Program

State Leadership Activities (6)

- ◆ Training and technical assistance
- ◆ Transition assistance – www.gatransition.org
- ◆ Public-awareness activities
- ◆ Statewide information and assistance
- ◆ Coordination and collaboration
- ◆ Touch the Future/Transition Conference and Expo in 2010



AT Reuse Initiatives

Behind every
Reused Assistive
Technology device
there is –

A Story to be Told,
A Dream being
Realized,
A Goal being Met.



www.passitoncenter.org



www.star-network.org



Why Reuse AT?

- ✦ Assistive Technology (AT) reutilization is a concept that was born out of need.
- ✦ From local grassroots efforts, it has grown to become a nationally recognized response to providing AT to those people who would otherwise “go without”.
- ✦ Many successful AT reuse programs are built on strong partnerships



Pass It On
C E N T E R

... the National AT Reuse Center

Why focus on Reuse?

- Reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998
- New Freedom Initiative
- Hurricane Katrina
- Prevalence of activity



Pass It On
C E N T E R

... the National AT Reuse Center

RSA – Goal of Reuse Initiative

- ✦ To increase the availability of assistive technology (AT) through promoting and supporting the appropriate, effective reuse of AT devices at the state and local level.



How OSERS Supports Reuse

- ★ State and local entities OSERS supports include:
 - 56 Statewide AT Programs funded under the *Assistive Technology Act*
 - 12 Demonstrations of AT reuse funded under the *Rehabilitation Act*
 - 1 National Technical Assistance Center (Pass It On Center)



Pass It On
C E N T E R

National Assistive Technology Device Reutilization Coordination and Technical Assistance Center

A Look at Your National Pass It On Center

Pass It On Center – www.passitoncenter.org



Pass It On
C E N T E R

... the National AT Reuse Center

The Pass It On Center is Actively -

- Providing Technical Assistance about AT Reuse
- Identifying and Educating about Successful Practices & Quality Indicators
- Establishing and Coordinating a National Collaborative
 - including a coordinated plan to respond to natural disasters
- Working with a National Task Force to identify and create solutions for national issues affecting AT Reuse



Pass It On
C E N T E R

... the National AT Reuse Center

Activities for the National AT Community

- Activities Include:
 - Monthly Webinars (Topics determined by AT Community)
 - AT Reuse Session Strand at the Assistive Technology Industries Association (ATIA) Conference in, Orlando and Chicago
 - Committee Meeting on Emergency Preparedness and Response
 - Focus Group Meetings to build stronger relationships with Manufacturers and Vendors at ATIA and MedTrade



Activities for the National AT Community

- ✦ Activities Include:
 - E-Alerts of Pass It On Center Activities
 - Produce 3 Modules for the AT Reuse Policies, Procedures & Quality Indicators Guide
 - Continue to identify and educate community about successful AT Reuse solutions
 - Continue to work with NATTAP to build the National AT Reuse Database



STAR network

southeastern technology access and reuse network

What is the STAR Network?

- ✪ Grant funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration & administered by the Georgia Department of Labor, Tools for Life Program (TFL).
- ✪ Identifies and establishes partnerships of new & existing reuse efforts across our region.
- ✪ Increases access to and acquisition of Computers, Assistive Technology (AT), and Durable Medical Equipment (DME)



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



STAR Network – www.star-network.org



STAR network

southeastern technology access and reuse network

Purpose of the STAR Network

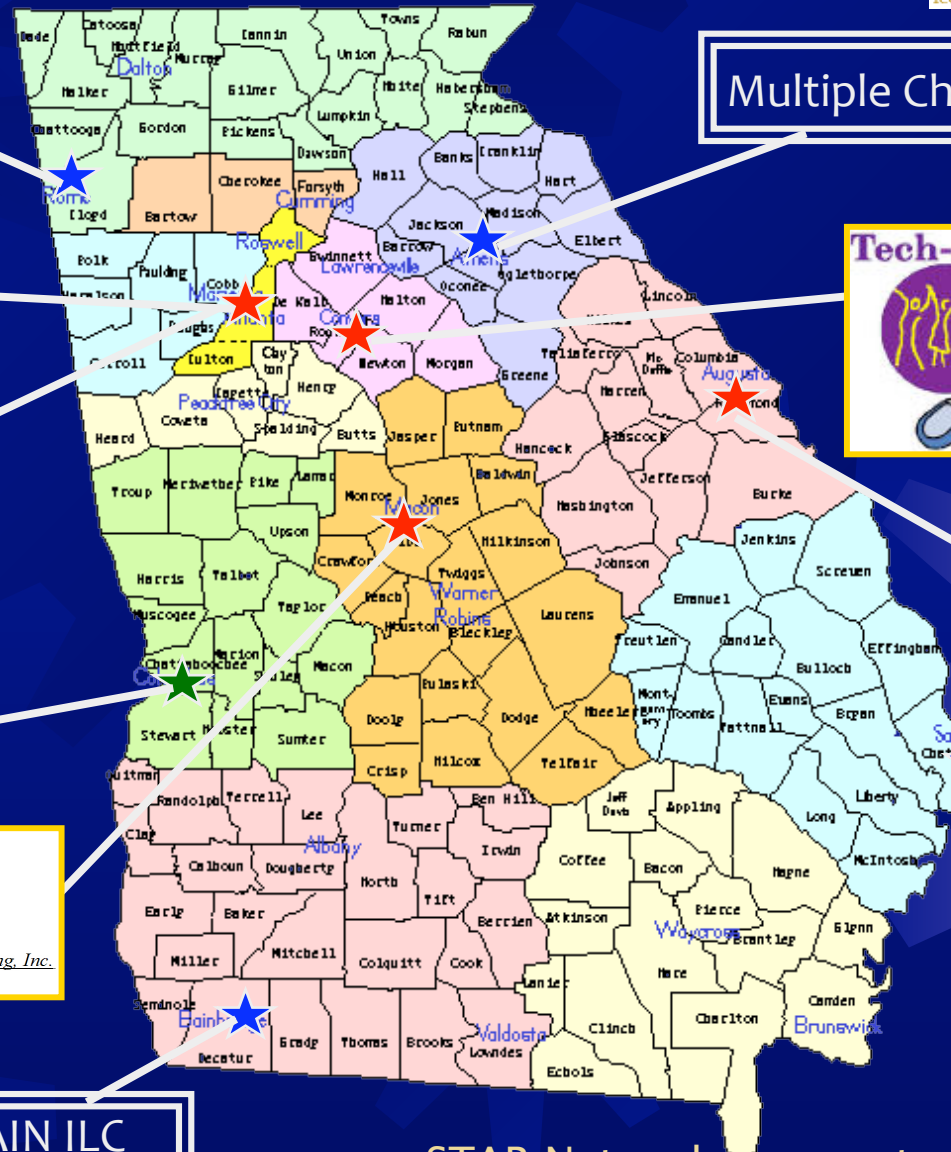
- ✪ Create the Southeastern Technology Access and Reuse (STAR) Network to meet the Challenges of AT Acquisition
- ✪ We also want to develop a Stronger AT Network in Georgia and across the SE
- ✪ AT Reuse has a Positive Impact in the Lives of people with disAbilities



Combining Efforts to Better Serve Georgia!



STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF GEORGIA, INC



DisAbility Link NW

Multiple Choices ILC

touch the future
Promoting Independent Living

Tech-Able

FRIENDS OF DISABLED ADULTS AND CHILDREN, TOO
FODAC

WALTON
options
for Independent Living

CATOC

LIFE ILC

Disability connections
The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

BAIN ILC

STAR Network - www.star-network.org



STAR network

southeastern technology access and reuse network

Organizational Structure

TFL Management Team

Administers, markets, and networks with potential membership candidates and donors



ReBoot™ Computer
And AT Reuse

Star Equipment Depot Coordinators



Home Health/Durable Medical Equipment

- ★ Perform coordination and operational activities
- ★ Gather, refurbish, sanitize and distribute
 - ★ Determine distribution and donation Logistics
 - ★ Establish policies and procedures
 - ★ Train STAR Members (Outreach Centers)



STAR network

southeastern technology access and reuse network

Equipment Depots

Touch the Future
and
Friends of Disabled Adults
and Children (FODAC)

Serve as one central
equipment depot to
gather, refurbish, sanitize
and distribute
Computers, AT and DME
items providing regional
training and resources





STAR network

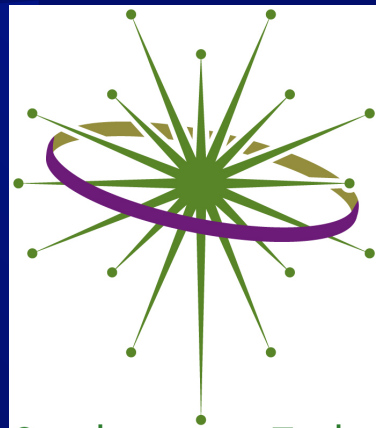
southeastern technology access and reuse network

Outreach Centers



The Outreach Centers serve their communities by:

- ✪ Accepting donations and providing service delivery
- ✪ Bringing Computer, AT, and DME knowledge and equipment to underserved individuals and areas
- ✪ Creating consumer independence & increased activities in education, community and work environments.



STAR
network

Southeastern Technology Access and ReUse Network

Let us know how the STAR Network can help you and your students get the AT they need!

www.star-network.org

Shareware and Freeware

- ★ ReadPlease – www.readplease.com
(text-to-speech software)
- ★ Easy Office – www.tucows.com
(offers 30,000 freeware/shareware downloads)
- ★ Talk To Me – www.talk-to-me.net
(20 free trials)
- ★ Click 'n Type – www.lakefolks.org/cnt
(on-screen virtual keyboard)



FREE Classroom Solutions!

- ★ Firefox Browser v2 with Firefox Text-To-Speech: When linked to the Firefox TTS engine, it reads. Can also install one-click dictionaries and right-click translations.
 - www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/ (Install Firefox)
 - www.firefox.clcworld.net/clc-4tts_bundle_v2.8_release.xpi (Install Firefox)
 - <https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/918/> (Install gTranslate)
 - www.m-.com/downloads/firefox/index.htm (Dictionary Installs)
- ★ Google Notebook: Allows students to grab online data, organize it, and share it- from Google Labs <http://labs.google.com>
- ★ Google Docs and Spreadsheets: Sharable (within the room or worldwide), free, word-processing and spreadsheets. www.google.com/google-d-s/tour1.html (a tour with get started links)
- ★ Open Office www.openoffice.org
- ★ LetMeType <http://www.clasohm.com/lmt/en/> – a simple word completion program which works with ANY program.

The Starfish

There was a young man walking down a deserted beach just before dawn.
In the distance he saw a older woman
appear to be dancing.

As he approached the woman,
he saw her picking up stranded
starfish and throwing them back into the sea.

The young man gazed in wonder
as the woman again and again
threw the small starfish from the sand to the water.

He asked, "Why do you spend so much energy doing what seems to be a waste of
time."

The woman explained that the
stranded starfish would die
if left in the morning sun.

"But there must be thousands of
beaches and millions of starfish!"
exclaimed the young man.

"How can you make any difference?"
The woman looked at the small starfish
in her hand and as she threw
it to the safety of the sea, she said,

"It makes a difference to this one!".



Contact Us!

Carolyn Phillips
TFL Program Director
carolyn@gatfl.org

Martha Rust
AT Specialist
martha@gatfl.org

Liz Persaud
Training and Development
Coordinator
liz@gatfl.org



Tools for Life
1700 Century Circle,
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30345

1-800-497-8665
404-638-0390
www.gatfl.org

Thank You for Your Time & Interest!