

# Rocket Scientist Not Required

Strengthening Your Service Delivery  
by Offering Assistive Technology

# Welcome!

## **Part I: Our Story**

-Funding of our Lab /Staffing /Stepping out of Your Comfort Zone

## **Part II: New Strategic Partners**

-GA Tech /FODAC/CIL

## **Part III: Other Funding Streams for Assistive Technology**

- Project Independence/GA Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing /Brain Injury Trust Fund / Fragile Kids Foundation

## **Part IV: Changes in How We Serve People**

- Better I & R / Higher Call Satisfaction/Better Outreach Decreased Placement on Waiting List

## **Part V: Forms and Handouts**

# So What Is Assistive Technology

- Assistive Technology is an item or a piece of equipment that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life, including at school, at work, at home and in the community.

# Part I – Our Story

April 2013



# Finished Product – December 2014!



# How Did We Get The Money To Create Our AT Lab?????

- Original Grant of \$17,000
- Summary of Spending
  - FY 2013 (\$8,000) Initial Year
  - FY 2014 (\$5,000)
  - FY 2015 (\$4,000)
  - FY 2016 and 2017 (\$4,000)
    - Added 2 mobile units
      - Suit Case
      - Tote with most popular items

# Staff Restraints

Delegate when you can!

- Our Regional Commission Administrative Assistant helps with data entry
- IT helps with equipment set up & delivery

Start Slow/Know Your Limits!

Don't try to be the expert on EVERYTHING....

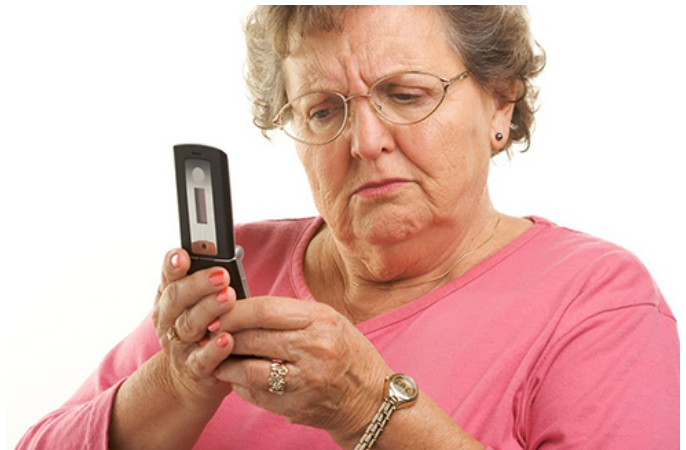
- Point People to The Experts!

# Low Tech Girl.....

## Living in a High Tech World

- Be curious. Surf the net for new equipment
  - Google search for “adaptive eating equipment”
- Don't let technology scare you
- Encourage Reverse Mentorship: Help from Children /grandchildren neighbors/ friends

Don't expect perfection of  
Yourself or your staff





# **Part II – New Strategic Partners**

## **Strengthening Service Delivery to the Disability Community**

Georgia Tech

FODAC

Center for Independent Living

# Georgia's Assistive Technology Program

## **Tools for Life**

Individual Consults as Needed

Specialized Training for Staff

Website Information

app finder

webinars

Ideas Conference

Recording of Demonstrations

# GA Tech/Tools for Life Partners

## How to acquire assistive technology...

Dollars and Sense is your resource for funding, advocacy and organizations that provide assistive technology throughout the state of Georgia. Also, share with us organizations you've used, so others can benefit.

[www.gatfl.gatech.edu/ds](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/ds)

**DOLLARS & SENSE**  
NAVIGATING THE AT FUNDING STREAM

gTRADE is your online swap meet! Have an old piece of equipment you're not using? Place it on gTRADE for a fair price, or for free! Looking for an affordable item? Check out gTRADE to buy or sell assistive technology!

[www.gtradeonline.org](http://www.gtradeonline.org)

**gTRADE**  
Georgia's Assistive Technology Equipment Exchange Program

**Assistive Technology**  
is vital to ensure that people with disabilities can live, work and play in the communities they choose.

FODAC provides free to low cost durable medical equipment, medical supplies, home and vehicle modifications to people with disabilities in Georgia. They also have a low cost refurbished computer service.

**fodac**

1-866-977-1204  
[www.gatfl.gatech.edu/ds](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/ds)

Credit-Able provides small, low interest loans to Georgians with disabilities for the purpose of acquiring assistive technology or modifications to a home or vehicle. They can also provide funding resources in the area.

404-385-7029  
[www.gatfl.gatech.edu/ds](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/ds)

**ca**  
Credit-Able

# FODAC

Do you know someone in need of medical equipment or someone who has medical equipment they would like to donate?



# Center for Independent Living

Coastal AAA contracts with our local CIL who then provides us someone in the lab on a routine basis. (\$10,000 per year – in the lab 1x per week).

- Lines up and conducts all tours
- Helped to give us support with helping younger clients / home and vehicle modification information
- Helped with marketing

# Part III: Other Key Agencies with Funding Streams

- Vocational Rehab: Project Independence
- Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Brain Injury Trust Fund
- Fragile Kids Foundation (Metro Atlanta)

# Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- State Lending Program (paid for by land line telephone bill add on).
- Federal program for Deaf and Blind (covers individuals who are both deaf and blind)
- If you meet the qualifications...it can fund everything from iPads to advanced AAC devices (Augmented and Assisted communication devices)

404-297-9461/1-888-297-9461

# Project Independence (Vocational Rehab): Georgia Vision Program for Seniors

This vision program for seniors 55 and older is **administered by the Georgia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation** and provides services that can help older Georgians remain independent. Services may include:

- Comprehensive low vision evaluations by qualified professionals to assess your needs
- Skills training in your home community by certified rehabilitation specialists
- Mobility training by certified instructors
- Support groups that offer opportunities to learn from and interact with peers
- Assistive devices such as talking watches, big button phones and Magnifiers

Call 844-367-4872 or go to <http://www.silcga.org/project-independence-georgia-vision-program-for-seniors/> to find the agency in your area



# Brain Injury Trust Fund

## Brain Injury Trust Fund

- <http://www.braininjurygeorgia.org/trustfund.htm>

### **Georgia Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund**

If you have been a resident of Georgia for one year and have suffered a traumatic brain injury you may be eligible to apply for a grant from the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission. A grant from the Trust Fund is not intended to be a permanent source of funding for an individual and is not an entitlement. Applicant grant requests for funding should be directly related to the traumatic brain injury."

# Fragile Kids Foundation

For over 25 years, the **Fragile Kids Foundation** has worked to enhance the quality of life and well being of children with support, supplies and prescribed medical equipment not covered by Georgia Medicaid or private insurance for Georgia's medically fragile children living with chronic illnesses, genetic and traumatic disorders and orthopedic and neuromuscular challenges.

# Other Good Resources

- Ablenet University – Hundreds of FREE Recorded Webinars. Don't try to be an expert in all of this.....Point people in the right direction and encourage them to explore on their own, what is right for them.  
[https://www.ablenetinc.com/emails/Newsletters\\_2014/AN-Univ-Sept15-2014.html](https://www.ablenetinc.com/emails/Newsletters_2014/AN-Univ-Sept15-2014.html)
- Center on Technology and Disability – get on email list ([www.ctdinstitute.org](http://www.ctdinstitute.org))
- IDEAS Conference: <http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu>  
FREE conference the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in June-St. Simons Island

# Part IV – Changing How We Serve People

- Better I and R /Higher Call Satisfaction
- AT instead of Tier I / in Conjunction with Tier II (those triaged out)
- Better Outreach

# Better I&R– Ability Solutions Handouts

Follow up by sending Fact Sheets with pictures and estimate prices of items that might work

- Eating
- Homemaking
- Bathing
- Toileting / Incontinence
- Automobile
- Telepresence
- Medication Management





# Using Older American Act funding (3-B) to assist 60+ population with AT

- Has helped us to serve people without putting them on the waiting list.
- Started by giving away bathing equipment
  - Have individuals work with their Doctors to get an PT evaluation. Work with those providers
  - Check to see if you can partner with a home health agency who might deliver for you  
(takes some oversight / well worth it / may look into privately paying a PT to go in and do safety evaluations)
- Expanded to homemaking devices

# AT Versus Traditional Services Under HCBS – Cost Savings

FY 2017

14 Transfer Benches @ \$60 each = \$840

6 Bath Chairs @ @40 each = \$240

24 Tub Safety Bars @ \$30 each = \$720

21 No Contract Alert Systems @ \$70= \$1,470

41 Total Consumers Total= \$3,270

(11 received Emergency Response Only)

What Else have  
We've Learned???????

**People will pay to have their  
independence!**

FY 2017 - Added a component where  
we purchased Items and have them  
available in the lab for a Suggested  
Donation



# Enhanced Outreach

- DBHDD Partners
- School System
- Senior Center Presentations
- Presentations at Housing Units
- Presentations at Civic Organizations
- Hospitals
- Family Connections Meetings
- Mayors Committee
- Support Groups (Stroke/Alzheimer's/etc.)

Questions about funding of items opens up conversations about explanations about....HCBS/CCSP



# Doing A Better Job Serving Everyone... Under 60 and Over 60!



*Happier Callers*

= *Happier Counselors!*



# Contact Information

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800-580-6860