



## Children's Assistive Technology Service

2017 Annual Report



*"Moving Children Ahead Four Wheels at a Time"*

# Who We Are

*IRS designated as a 501(c)(3)  
Public Charity*

Dear Friends of CATS,

2017 has been a year of tremendous growth for Children's Assistive Technology Service, and all because of the support we have received from communities. Remarkable volunteers and generosity have paved the way for new initiatives and many more children being served.



Your support has been critical to our unique organization capturing the attention of doctors, therapists, orthotists and assistive technology professionals, as well as all three children's hospitals across the state.

At a recent meeting with physicians from the University of Virginia's Children's Hospital, I was told that CATS is now considered an **essential partner**, no longer just a startup, and **we must keep going!**

You have played an integral role in helping us provide children with the critical equipment they need for health, participation and learning when insurance programs, early intervention and school systems cannot.

Most of all, I want to say "Thank You" to the key players in our Mission – the truly wonderful parents of children with disAbilities who are willing to pass equipment on to other families. With deepest gratitude for making all of this work so well, I thank you all.

Sincerely,

Cathie Cummins  
President and Founder

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Cathie Cummins**, President and Founder, Union Hall, VA

**David Bates**, Treasurer, Roanoke, VA

**Beth Beach**, Vice President, Norfolk, VA

**Laura Alexander**, Secretary, Roanoke, VA

### DIRECTORS:

Aven Alford, Lynchburg, VA

Laura Connor, Moneta, VA

Phyllis Edwards, Portsmouth, VA

Francie Mitchell, Herndon, VA

*(One seat is currently vacant with candidate search ongoing)*

# Our Mission

*Lightly used equipment is refurbished and given to new, young owners.*

1. **To ensure that ALL children with disAbilities** can have access to adaptive devices which allow them to participate with others, achieve mobility, connect socially, and improve health.
2. **To raise community awareness** that the cost of raising a child with disability, on average, costs **10 times more** than the cost of raising a typically developing child.
3. **To advocate for policy reform** so that assistive technology, as defined by the “*Individual with Disabilities Education Act*,” is **accessible** to all children who need it, **regardless of family income**.





# Key Accomplishments

*To date, CATS has distributed more than 1,200 pieces of adaptive and mobility equipment to families throughout Virginia.*

- ✓ Dramatic upswing in volunteer support, with more than **2,800 hours** provided by nearly **200 college students**, more than **50 retirees**, and **professional volunteers**!
- ✓ Workshop established to provide a home for our **GoBabyGo** initiative, and **for repairing and refurbishing equipment**. This is located at Smith Mountain Lake community of Hardy, and is convenient for our retiree volunteers who handle this work.
- ✓ Our dream of a **Hallowheels Fun(d)raiser** made a successful debut in Roanoke, **with the construction of fantastic wheelchair-mobile Halloween costumes for six local children** who depend on wheeled mobility.
- ✓ **Kids on the Move Expo** made its debut at our Hampton Roads location. Free for families, this is a new equipment demonstration event which included 22 manufacturers and vendors.
- ✓ **Kids Equipment Palooza** is a monthly event conducted collaboratively with Lynchburg College Community Health Clinic, providing access to CATS equipment for fitting and trials.



# The Need

The average cost of a single piece of assistive technology is \$2,000.

The cost of raising a child with a disability is **10x** the cost of raising a typically developing child.



A child dependent on a power wheel chair for mobility may have assistive technology **costing over \$500,000 during his or her childhood**, including additional equipment for:

- Independent Mobility
- Standing
- Exercise
- Bathing
- Communication
- Community Accessibility
- Vehicle Accessibility



Yet, with the opportunities this equipment provides, this individual can attend school, college, get a job, and have a life.



# What We Do

*Receive, refurbish and re-assign gently used pediatric equipment.*

**Children's Assistive Technology Service (CATS)** provides for the re-use of pediatric rehabilitation equipment and assistive technology devices in Virginia.

CATS serves as a no-cost resource for children with disabilities who need adaptive equipment and whose families have limited resources.



**Children with adaptive equipment can:**

- Play with their friends and siblings
- Participate in meals and bath times
- Explore their world, moving and learning
- Be more independent

# Who We Serve

*In 2017, CATS distributed 644 pieces of equipment -- serving 590 kids and their families.*

**CATS serves the entire state of Virginia!**



Children, from birth to age 18+, who need assistance for mobility, positioning and communication.



The **depreciated value** of the refurbished assistive equipment given back to the community in 2017 was nearly \$800,000. If purchased new, this same equipment would cost well over \$1 million.



# Dagan's Story

*If it weren't for CATS, insurance denials would be the end of the line for these kids. Instead, they are able to get the equipment they need – FREE OF CHARGE!*



When Dagan outgrew her second gait trainer, she was denied a new one because the insurance company claimed that it was “*medically unnecessary.*”

Through ***Kids Equipment Palooza***, a monthly event at Lynchburg College where CATS works with the DPT (Doctorate of Physical Therapy) students, CATS was able to provide Dagan with a bigger gait trainer, the Rifton Pacer, size 3.

This bigger gait trainer fits her properly, and gives her the chance of freedom, and continued practice of her walking skills. Additionally, her family donated the one she had just outgrown back to CATS.

***Kids Equipment Palooza*** at Lynchburg College Community Health Clinic, sponsored by [Centra Foundation](#), gives families the opportunity to request equipment from [CATS ROANOKE online](#) inventory and DPT students and local physical therapists will help with fitting and trials.

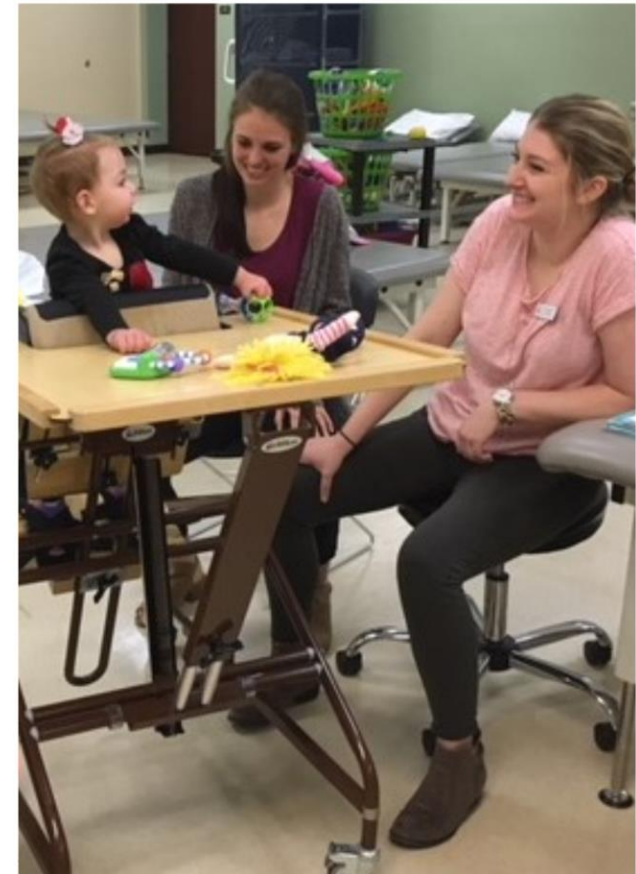


# Our Partners

*CATS success is a result of communication, collaboration and coordination among professionals across the State of Virginia.*

We depend on volunteer support from Lynchburg College, Radford University, Jefferson College of Health Science, Tidewater Community College, Virginia Commonwealth University and Ferrum College.

We collaborate with Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Children's Hospital at University of Virginia, Easter Seals / UCP of North Carolina & Virginia, Carilion Children's Hospital, National Seating and Mobility, NuMotion, and speech, physical & occupational therapists all over Virginia.



# Our Donors

*For every dollar donated to CATS in 2017, \$16 worth of refurbished equipment was returned to the community.*

## Corporate Sponsors:

- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Centra Foundation
- ET Gresham Company
- Hampton Roads Community Foundation
- Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund
- Kiwanis Club of Chesapeake
- Kroger Company
- Marjorie Sutton Memorial Foundation of Martinsville, VA
- Maximus Foundation
- Moneta Lions Club
- 100+ Women Wo Care @ Smith Mountain Lake
- Roanoke County Women's Club
- Rotary Club of Norfolk
- Schwab Charitable Foundation
- Smith Mountain Lake Civitan Club
- Smith Mountain Lake Rotary Club
- Tidewater Children's Foundation
- United Way of Roanoke Valley
- Walmart at 1504 N. Parham Rd., Richmond, VA
- Walmart at 1149 Nimbo Pkwy., Virginia Beach, VA

## In-Kind and Collaborative Sponsors:

- AbleNet
- Beach-Stant, LLC
- Capps Home Building Center
- Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters
- Clarke Health Care Products
- Comfort Company
- Convaid
- Coughdrop
- Easter Seals / UCP of NC and VA
- Ki Mobility
- Lowe's Home Improvement
- Lynchburg College
- The McKelvey Companies
- National Seating and Mobility
- NuMotion
- Rifton
- Sleepsafe Beds
- The Home Depot
- Tidewater Community College



# Moving Forward

*CATS has served as many children in 2017 as in all of 2014 2015 & 2016 combined! As someone has said: "If you build it, they will come."*

## 2018 Goals & Objectives:

1. Expanding to new locations.
2. Developing the Communication Loan Library.
3. Providing education to families.
4. Providing access to early mobility through **GoBabyGo!**
5. Increasing community interaction and involvement through opportunities for children and volunteers.





# Contact Us

*Without Assistive Technology, many children with disAbilities CANNOT PARTICIPATE with their families at home, with friends at school, or in their communities.*

**Children's Assistive Technology Service (CATS)**

**P.O. Box 121**

**Union Hall, VA 24176**

**[www.atdevicesforkids.org](http://www.atdevicesforkids.org)**

**Email : [info@atdevicesforkids.org](mailto:info@atdevicesforkids.org)**

**Phone:**

**Roanoke/Lynchburg Area -- (540) 493-2285**

**Hampton Road -- (757) 763-8905**

**Richmond --(540) 420-0554**

**Follow us on Facebook:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/atdevicesforkids.org/>**

