



2019 Annual Report

Letter From The Executive Director

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

Dear Friends,

Children's Assistive Technology Service has continued to grow, providing 1,009 pieces of equipment in 2019 to 905 children. The value of equipment we put back in to use in Virginia communities and beyond was \$1,220,731.00! Since we began, we have served over 2,600 children, and saved their families 3.5 million dollars. Unfortunately, our costs have gone up, too, and financial support, while outstanding, did not keep up and we had to dip into our reserves. Working at the pace we do, we had to hire staff to handle operations day in and day out. I remain a volunteer in the executive director position but we will need to hire someone to replace me in the coming year—someone who can take this organization to the next level.

Children's Assistive Technology Service is developing its board of directors, recruiting new members from a variety of sectors in the community. We are working on a sustainable business model and improving our efficiency. We'd like to bring all operations under one roof in Roanoke if we could, as we did in Richmond. Right now we spend too much time on the road between various storage units and the workshop. Hampton Roads is needing more space, too. Emory & Henry is trying to squeeze in some space on campus to house C.A.T.S. down in southwest Virginia.



Letter From The Executive Director

C.A.T.S. believes that a child challenged by disabilities deserves the same opportunities as a typical child.



We know that C.A.T.S. has made a difference from the comments we get from families who return our survey, sent out electronically three months after receiving equipment. Here are just a few lines from what parents, grandparents and teachers have to say: *Thank you so much for what you do! You've made such a huge difference in this 5-year old's life who has never had a wheelchair due to no insurance coverage or the financial means to purchase one.*

Really appreciate the C.A.T.S. program and have seen it make a difference in my student's school access.

Thank you so much for doing this! It directly impacts our daughter's independence and health. I love C.A.T.S., it is a wonderful support for my students with special needs who need special equipment.

Thank you for providing this service!

We cannot begin to thank you enough for everything you do. THANK YOU!

We hope that all who are reading this letter will continue to follow and support Children's Assistive Technology Service on its mission to fill the gaps in our health care and education systems. We are trying to improve access to assistive technology for all children with disabilities. Assistive technology allows individuals to be able to do more.

Doing more means learning more and living better. Thank you!

Cathie Cummins

Volunteer Executive Director
February 16th , 2020

Key Successes

To date, C.A.T.S. has distributed more than 3,000 pieces of adaptive and mobility equipment to families throughout Virginia.

➤ New staff hires

Cathy Watkins and Linda Dew joined John Naples on our small paid staff. John was promoted to Senior Program Manager and works at Roanoke C.A.T.S., and assists the executive director in managing operations.



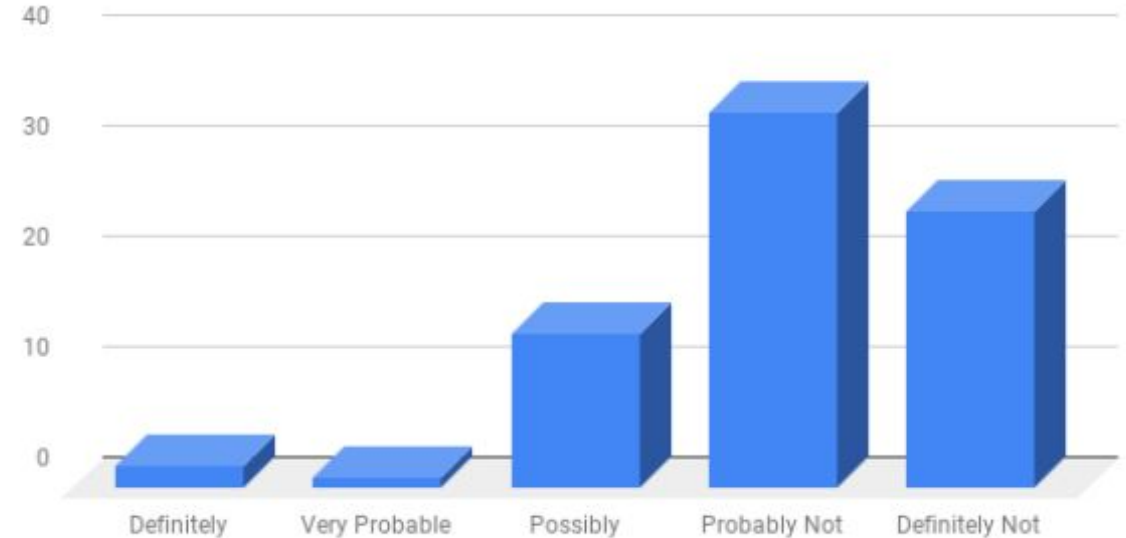
Cathy Watkins is program manager at Richmond C.A.T.S. and takes care of day to day operations there.



Linda Dew (on the left) is the program manager for Hampton Roads C.A.T.S., our busiest location.

➤ Follow up survey

Would you have been able to get this equipment without the C.A.T.S. program?



An online follow up summary to parents and caregivers was implemented in spring of 2019, thanks to Rachel Wagner, who took this on as her Capstone Project for her doctorate in occupational therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University. Those who responded say they are very satisfied with C.A.T.S. Services.

Hallowheels

Transforming wheelchairs from social liability to social asset!

Hallowheels took on new dimensions in 2019, growing to include 22 children in four cities: Roanoke, Lynchburg, Charlottesville, and Richmond. The annual fund raiser brought in \$6000 in event sponsorship and \$15,000 in donations. Overall winner for most money raised: University of Lynchburg, Team Two, with Captain America



Here are some of our favorite costumes!



Our Mission

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

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 promote the economical and environmentally sound practice** of assistive technology (adaptive and mobility equipment) re-use.
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.**

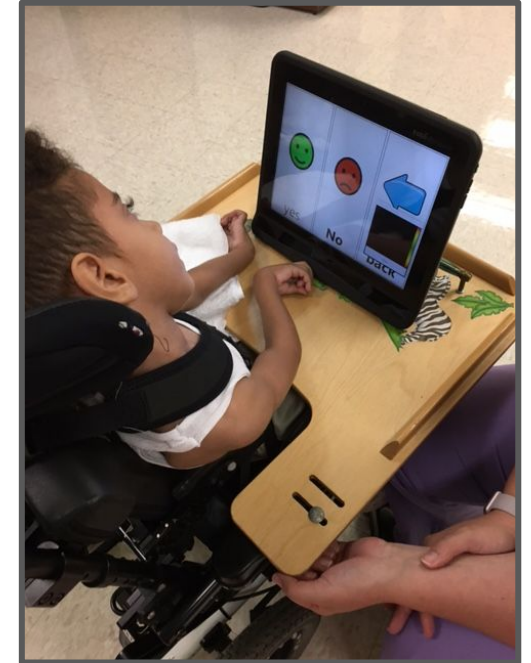


Our Programs

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

Assistive Technology Re-use

Hundreds of families whose children have outgrown or no longer need expensive adaptive devices and mobility equipment have continued to donate these items to CATS for re-use. Hand-me-downs for a hand-up -- C.A.T.S. is filling the gap in Virginia healthcare for children with disabilities when third-party payers deny equipment or the process stretches into months or years before approval for needed equipment is finally achieved. Families have expressed overwhelming satisfaction with the work of college students and community volunteers who provide clean equipment, in good repair, in collaboration with a child's health-care team.



Communication Loan Library

The C.A.T.S. Communication Loan Library provides Augmentative and Assistive Communication devices. Requested by a child's speech therapist, introductory, low and light tech communication systems can be checked out for a three month period for the purpose of determining what type of device may best serve the child at home or school, before a purchase is made. The Library has locations in both Hampton Roads and southwest Virginia.

Our Programs

It's all about opportunities for learning and doing!

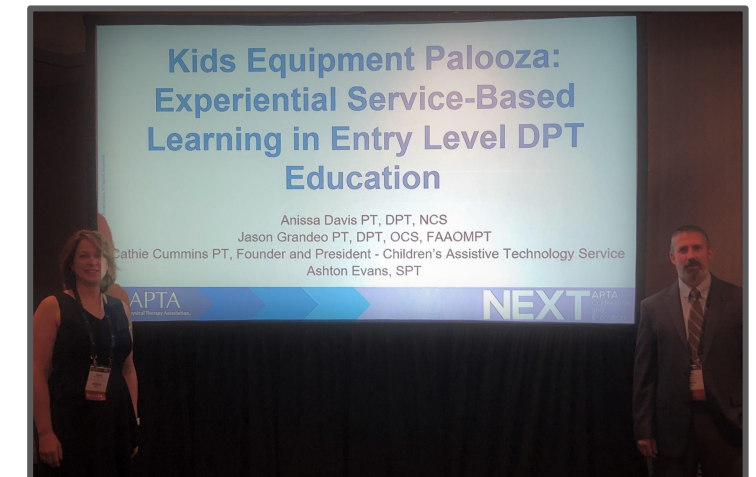


GoBabyGo

C.A.T.S. participates in the GoBabyGo initiative of University of Delaware's Dr. Cole Galloway. C.A.T.S. has teams of volunteers with experience in adapting off-the-shelf ride-on powered toy cars for individual children, to meet GoBabyGo's vision: all people exploring their world via independent mobility. Children, ages 2 to 6, can be referred to C.A.T.S. GoBabyGo program by their physical, occupational or speech therapist. The opportunity to be mobile in a setting enjoyed by typically-developing children provides the chance to move about on their own, explore, and make new friends, free of a walker or a wheelchair.

Kids Equipment Palooza

Kids Equipment Paloozas allow families the opportunity to request equipment from CATS online inventory (referral from child's physical or occupational therapist is recommended) and meet in person with Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) students and local physical therapists to assist with fitting and trials. The University of Lynchburg and Radford University participate in C.A.T.S. Equipment Paloozas, which received recognition at the American Physical Therapy Association 2019 NEXT Conference in Chicago.



Providing Opportunities For Success

C.A.T.S. fills the gap when waiting through the months long insurance approval process, meeting a child's immediate needs!

Jaxon Carson is a busy three-year-old, happy to be on his feet, yet struggling to learn how to use them. Because his health insurance already provided a standing frame for the toddler two years ago, the gait trainer you see him using in the photo was denied. Prescribed by his physician, it was provided through C.A.T.S. volunteers at no cost to the family. A child somewhere else no longer needed it.



Providing Opportunities For Success

If it weren't for C.A.T.S., insurance denials would be the end of the line for these kids. Instead, they are able to get the equipment they need, at no cost, because of the generosity of others

Brandon's physician and therapist believed it imperative that he resume use of a standing frame to keep up his strength and prevent contractures.

Though Brandon used a standing frame years ago, his health insurance now denies this piece of equipment which he could use at home. Within a week of receiving a phone call from his physical therapist, John Pero of CORA Physical Therapy, C.A.T.S. was able to provide it at no cost to the family. We hear that Brandon enjoys using the stander daily and making improvements. He is thrilled to be interacting with people face to face, standing up, instead of always sitting.



Volunteers

C.A.T.S. success is a result of communication, collaboration and coordination among professionals across Virginia.

The largest group of volunteers are the students and community volunteers who clean donated equipment. The list of colleges involved continues to grow.

- University of Lynchburg
- Radford University
- Tidewater Community College
- Virginia Western Community College
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- ECPI University
- South University
- Virginia Tech
- Old Dominion University
- Mary Baldwin University
- Roanoke College
- Ferrum College
- Randolph College



Volunteers contributed more than 6,000 hours on the operating of C.A.T.S., not including our annual fundraiser, Hallowheels. This includes volunteers who clean, assess and repair equipment, work on the GoBabyGo project, drive the vans for equipment redistribution, serve as program directors and in the position of executive director.

Volunteers

College students and retirees make everything happen at C.A.T.S.!

Retirees at Smith Mountain Lake, community/hospital volunteers in Norfolk, assistive technology professionals (ATPs) at National Seating & Mobility and NuMotion in Richmond complete the repairs and refurbishing of donated equipment.

To responsibly ensure that the equipment fits a child correctly, C.A.T.S. collaborates with:

- Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters
- Carilion Hospital System
- Children's Hospital at the University of Virginia
- Children's Hospital of Richmond
- National Seating & Mobility
- NuMotion
- Tycon Medical
- Physical, occupational and speech therapists all over the state



Donor Recognition

For every dollar spent on program and operational costs, \$12 worth of refurbished equipment was returned to the community.

\$10,000+

Virginia Assistive
Technology System

\$5,000-\$9,999

Emergency Physicians of
Tidewater

Carilion Clinic

Roanoke Valley Children's
Fund

Miller Oil Foundation

Marjorie Sutton Foundation

CORA Health

\$2,000-\$4,999

Shentel

Laura Alexander

Randy and Cathie Cummins

We Promise Foundation

Down Syndrome Association of Roanoke

Friends on Facebook

PayPal Giving Fund

Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund

Donor Recognition

Our donors are from all over Virginia . . .

\$500-\$1,999

Kroger
Aetna Foundation
Prime Engineering
HELP Charities
John Naples
Cathy Nault
David and Donna English
Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia
Cindy Wood
Benevity Fund
Bath Saver, Inc.
James Waldrop
Heather and David MacMahon
Civitan

Eric Deutsch
Mary Murphy
Stacy & James Armistead
Star City Corvette Club, Inc.
Mary Margaret Burtis
Melinda Bishop
SML Antique and Classic Boat Society
Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia
Forrest Bassett
Martha Ambler
Jeanne Newcomb
James Bennett & Marion Wagner
Mary Ellen Gross
Kelley Harshman

Suburban Propane
Edward Thurmond
Brent Hutson
Roanoke County Women's Club
Aven and Jason Alford
David Gentry
Housing Media

Donor Recognition

***Making sure that children of all abilities
have the chance to thrive, not just
survive!***

\$200-\$499

Moneta Lions Club

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

TherAdapt Products

Ray and Shirley Holt

Braintree Fund

Heather Lockett

Laura Gresham

Kim Lephart

Anissa Davis

Beth Beach

Teri McCall

Lauren LeMay

Gail McCord

Bob and Janet Sloan

Bertram Spetzler

Debbie Echternach

Greg Nichols

Kiwanis Club of Chesapeake

Pearl Becnel

Jeanne Gentry

Erin Gerbus

Regina Rush

Sarah Horne

Cherie Goodman

David Bates

Sheila Krajnik

Beach Ford

Leslie Santapaul

Mary Plitt

Amanda McDuffie

Jeanne Echternach

Aveanna Healthcare

EZ Rampz

Sleep Safe Beds

Virginia Prosthetics

Papeterie

Camp Easterseals Virginia

NuMotion

Henritze Dental Group

National Seating and Mobility

Justin Tooley

F. Read Hopkins Pediatric
Associates, Inc

Mike Lovelace

Roberto and Cristina Orozco

Louie and Margaret Klein

Laura Connor

Connie Johnson

Patsy Hubbard

Anna Gentry

Carl Rupprecht

Costco Wholesale c/o Mr. Jeff
Long

Donor Recognition

No gift is too small! We appreciate them all!

\$25 to \$199

Krista Currier- Deford * Kristen Vogelbein * Todd and Kimberly Goode * Peter Monroe * Peter Sheldon * Roberta Russell * Ralph Ellison * Becky & Randy Camden* Kirk Cotter * Michelle Stegall * Resurrection Catholic Church * Robert Gower * Frederick Manley * Mark Green * David Hallock * Hal & Melinda Jones * Samantha Charlet * Graham Thorsteinson * Sheree Everhart * Anne Mcveigh * Marc Gilgannon * Richard Phillips * Simon Kelly * Chad Crowley * Michelle Pangburn * Pamela Tennyson * Diane Duran Dixon * Sarah Pangburn * Jeff & Patty Vandersall * Brandy Swinney * Jeanette Thompson * Marie Crizer * Nancy Tompkins * Farah Marks * Debra Poruban * Gretchen Tripp * Wynemah Hinlicky * Deonte Foy * Joe and Marilyn McVeigh * Ann Marie Stecher * Heather Atkins * Melissa Gentry * Ken Davis * Tracy Helmer * Linda Evans * Patrick Holland * Sidnei Barrowood * Gilman Familly * Shelby Jordan * Elizabeth Rogers * Maureen Webber * Emily Carson * John Corley * Alice Smart * Stephanie Webster * Phil Hager * Julie Whitaker * Diane Stanley * Sarah Hunt * Joanna Gruver * Allison Wirt * Charles Makely * Don Hortman * Linda Gillespie * Havala McKinney * Kelly & Damin Altizer * ET Gresham Company * Gini and Alan Milne * Jeanette Hatcher * Molly Gupta * Brian Friend * Virginia Lung * Robert and Lynn Rowe * Michael McVeigh* Carrie Leggett * CORA Blacksburg Va * Janet House * Clifton Knee * David & Sharon Myzie * Mary Thurmond * Alice Ganiaris * Marianne Kubik * Mary Cusack * Jennifer Holland * Lynn Bare * Jean Alford * Marita O. Starr * Terri Rogers * Dick and Robin Atlee * Kathy Vanderslice * Brenda Croxton * Kieshean Dunnaville * Brian & Brianne Friberg * Pamela & Steve Lang * Michael Whitlock * Kathryn Geihlsler * Karen Zylstra * Kiranmai Kesa * Helen MacMahon * Patsy Wingfield * Jeremy Alford * Marci Knight * Charlene Knight * Gorge Blosser * Mike Westmoreland * Aimee McNulty * Mary Ann Peterson * Randall Ruppel * D & D Handyman * Victoria Fowler * Sharon & Jimmy Bunger * Ravon Richardson * Rexanne Domico * Vicki Tambellini * Margie Duncan * Diana Bennett * Brady Wooddell * Susan Kunich * Dennis & Jackie Koelling * Ave Mitta * Ann Fabirkiewicz * Erma Adkins * Juanita Marshall * Mary Beth Hunter * Katherine Crisp * Glenn and Jacqui Newitt * Lynn Nesbit * Traci Alley * Kenneth Allison * Genett Hancock * Tim Hancock * Diana Wellerman * Brent Turner * Debra Huff * DeeDee Hodges

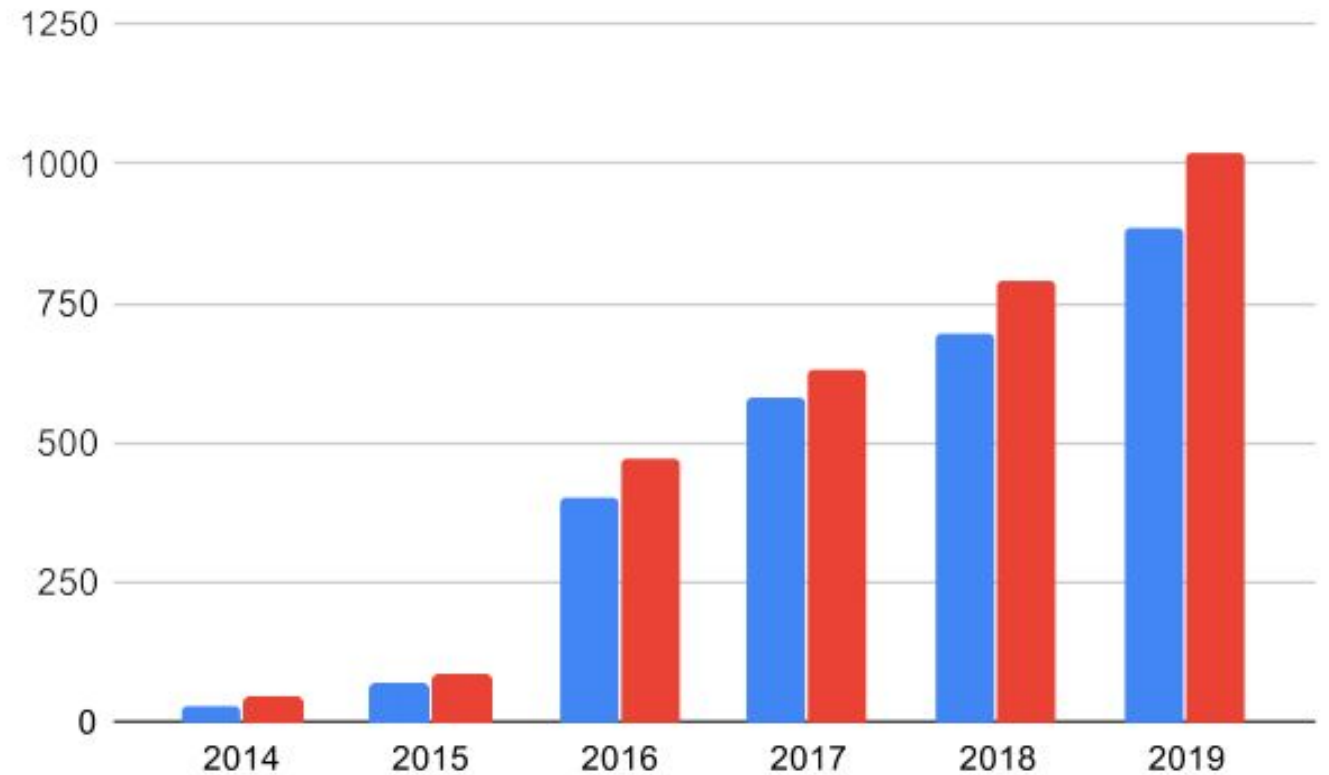
Donor Recognition

\$25 to \$199 Continued

Susan Nolley * Kathleen Jeannin * Carol Higgins * Diane and David Purcell * Cheryl Hartman * Debbie Goodner * Reuben Mcdaniel * Jordan Tucker * Jacqueline Yetka * Donna Schardt * Debra Dulkerian * Carole Friend Anna Hurst * US Alpaca Co - SML Alpaca Farm * American National Bank * Deborah Coffeh * Kaleb Crouch * Charles Murphy * Stacey Dusing * Janet Taylor * Marybeth Hillmer * Doreen Faga * Sam Rasoul * Phil and Betty Basile * Holly Salmon * Harry & Karen Simmerman * David & Cheryl Lord * Ann Short * Christine Collins * Wendy Jennings-Davey * Jesse Anderson * Jim Frith * Ryan & Karla Atkins * Susan Rhoads * Michelle Armes * Sevgi Odgers * Darlene Shochet * Mullens-Thompson Restaurateurs * Brittany Guido * Serafine Lamagna * Christen Palmer * Jerry & Lewis Ann Earles * Margaret & Chip Lang * Steven Keller * Elizabeth Staton * Morgann Krisko * Jason Ferlan * Amber Graham * Whitney Manuel * Deborah Driscoll * Wendy Martin * Kerri Burchett * Brittany Lorentz * Hannah Hancock * William Thomas * Teresa Patterson * Sara LaRa * Megan Anderson * Terry & Deb Broadwater * John & Beth Wohlgemuth * Bart & Ruth Frankena * Kimberly Connel * Kelly Merricks * Karen Sawyer * Kelly Goffigan * Cynthia Hodges * Troy Schools * Arlene Caruso * Nijah Chinn-Gonsalves * Taylor Powell * Deborah Reynolds * Scott Wieser * Susan Jakob * River District Consulting Group * Christy Howard * Camilla Cabaniss * Tracey Williams * Coreen Bookout * Pat Gibbs * Sarah Garrison * Deborah Loizides * Caroline Carter * Matthew Huckfeldt * Cindy Stamer * Mike Maloney * Margie Eason * Angie Dorsey * Charelene Lester * Annette Huckfeldt * Carl Ciosek * Barbara Worrell * Mellissa Sweeney * Cindy Ferguson * Christy Moore * Patricia Pope * Shirley Guess * Robert Street * Marcia Gibson * Judy Hagadorn * Britt Koester * Frann Paige * Sherry Poland * Don Witt * Caleb Knighten * Danielle Saunders * Shelly Latoski * Kelsi Mulaniff * Ray Frieden * Jake Walters * Tracy Henning * Toni and Tim Cochis * Terri York * Kaitlin Mitchell * Ashley Nault * Patrick Horne * Sandra Robertson * Stephen Acree * David Jenkins * Mary Inman * Cheryl-Ann Young * John Canny * Marianne Ramsey * Sharon Pierce * Sandra Holbrook * Kara Macleod * Malcolm Higgins * Erin Haw

How We've Grown

Assistive technology re-use creates communities where all available equipment is in use by children who need it.



CATS Yearly chart of Children served and equipment disbursed 2014 - 2019

■ # of children served ■ # of pieces of equipment

Contact US

Children with disAbilities depend on assistive technology to be able to participate with their families at home, with friends at school, or in their communities.

Children's Assistive Technology Service (C.A.T.S.)

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Phone:

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Linda Dew, Hampton Roads -- (757) 763-8905

Cathy Watkins, Richmond – (540) 420-0554

Follow us on Facebook:

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

Board of Directors & Volunteer Leadership Positions

*Cathie Cummins, PT, ATS, President & Founder,
CEO, Roanoke Program Director,*

David Bates, CPA, Treasurer

Laura Alexander, DPT, Board Chairman, Newsletter Editor

Aven Alford, Parent, Vice-Chairman of the Board

Beth Beach, MS, OTR/L, ATP, Board Member
Hampton Roads Program Director, Website Manager

David English, Board Member

Forrest Bassett, Board member

Francie Mitchell, DPT, Richmond Co-Program Director, Board Member

Andrea Lester, DPT, Richmond Co-Program Director