

# Children's Assistive Technology Service



# Message from Our Founder

Dear Friends,

2020 began with a great deal of excitement with Mary Baldwin University student intern, Danielle Moll, bringing Adaptive Design initiative to CATS, spreading her enthusiasm for low cost do-it-yourself construction to several of our volunteers. Then there was the offer of a great worksite location, at a price we could afford, which met all of Roanoke CATS needs for space to collect, clean, repair, store and fit equipment to children, under one big roof. Previously volunteers were driving all over Timbuktu to find items in five different storage sites. That move to the new location was fortuitous, because right at that same time, the coronavirus pandemic hit.

Suddenly, gone were our college students and community volunteers who made up our workforce for cleaning equipment. Administrative Staff had to become involved with that challenging job, adding to their workload. As the dust settled, and the summer was upon us, CATS was busy again. Because everyone was staying home, guess what?! They were cleaning out closets, garages and basements, and we simply had to resume picking up all those donations of used equipment. So we adapted our Equipment Scrub procedures and the college students came back in the fall. We were swapping outgrown wheelchairs and medical strollers for ones that fit; getting kids on their feet in standers and gait trainers; and making bath time possible for a child with a tracheostomy. We loved getting photos of what was possible: puddle stomping in an empty parking lot; helping dye Easter eggs in the kitchen; going to school at home with a sit to stand desk; being mobile enough to leave the hospital after a tragic car accident; and finally decorating the Christmas tree with a self-propel standing frame.

But wait, I can't leave out Hallowheels! This is CATS' annual fund-raising event which typically involves teams of college students. As the pandemic raged on, we realized that we had to reconfigure again. The families were on their own, designing and building their own Halloween costumes for this competition on wheels. And what a fantastic job they did! With real prizes from generous sponsors this year, everyone went all in, and the virtual event went off without a hitch, more successful than ever at attracting attention to CATS mission.

The year concluded with outstanding community support truly fulfilling our vision to give families, rehabilitation professionals and donors the organization they desire to create communities in which all available adaptive equipment is in use by kids who need it. I so appreciate the opportunity to have been at the helm of Children's Assistive Technology Service. It was a dream come true, thanks to a great many people. May your dreams come true in 2021!

  
Cathie Cummins

## Who are we?

Children's Assistive Technology Service (CATS) was incorporated on July 17, 2014. CATS has been growing and reaching more children each year.



## Our Mission

**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.

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

**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 income.

# The Need

**Every dollar** donated to CATS, **equals \$125 in equipment** provided to a child and therefore helps the family.

In 2020 CATS provided **793 children** with **1011 pieces of equipment**, valued at **\$1,117,839**.

## Key successes in 2020

More than **384 volunteers** contributed **6,251 service hours**, including Board Members who fill unpaid staff positions.

**Equipment valued at \$1,117,839** was returned to communities and reassigned to children with disabilities.

**Communication Loan Library** in Hampton Roads flourished with services to **35 children**.

**Fourth Annual Hallowheels Fun-raiser** was a smashing success even in the challenging times of COVID, with parents and family members creating the costumes from basic framing kits, for thirteen children.

New **CATS logo** was designed and trademarked.

Moved the main Roanoke location to Moneta, Va.

Continued despite COVID-19 pandemic which not only closed our locations for several weeks, but which also limited volunteers. Plenty of equipment was donated, as people cleaned out their homes, basements and garages.

CATS collaborated with Emory and Henry College, to open a fourth location. This will increase CATS presence in Southwest VA and will be a partnership with the college and the occupational therapy students.

CATS accomplished an adaptive design project with Mary Baldwin student Danielle Moll.

## Despite the pandemic, the following activities continued:

Equipment cleaning, sanitizing and refurbishing at all locations.

Kids Equipment Paloozas with University of Lynchburg Students and GoBabyGo at Roanoke CATS

Moved equipment from each area of the state as needed.

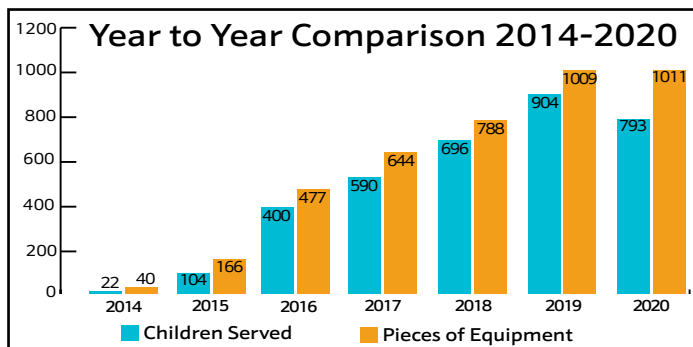
Hallowheels, re-invented with family teams



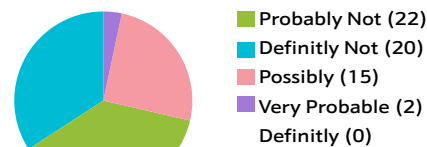
# How CATS Works

CATS accepts appropriate used children's equipment, sanitizes, and refurbishes the equipment. Parents and therapists can then pick from the website inventory of ready equipment for their child. The equipment is then fitted by the therapist to ensure any adjustments needed and appropriateness of equipment for the child. Donations are requested to help continue the mission of CATS. The receipt of the equipment is not dependent on the donation.

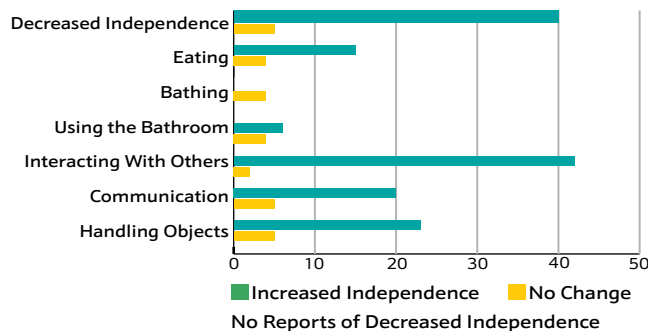
**94.9%**  
of parents said this  
equipment made a  
positive change in their  
children's lives.



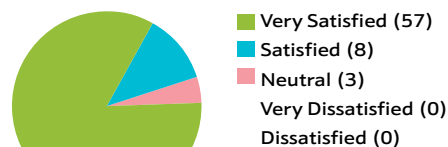
## Would You Have Been Able to Get This Equipment Without CATS ?



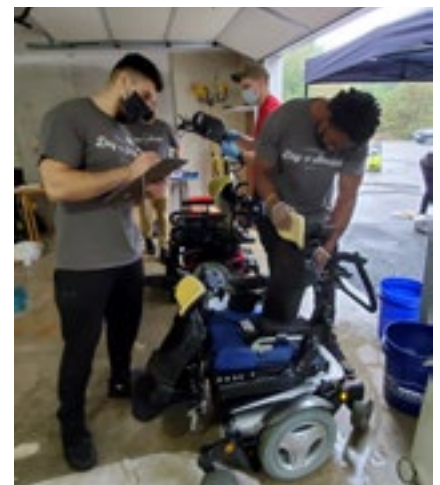
## How Did This Equipment Affect Your Child's Independence



## How Satisfied Were You With the Process of Receiving the Equipment?



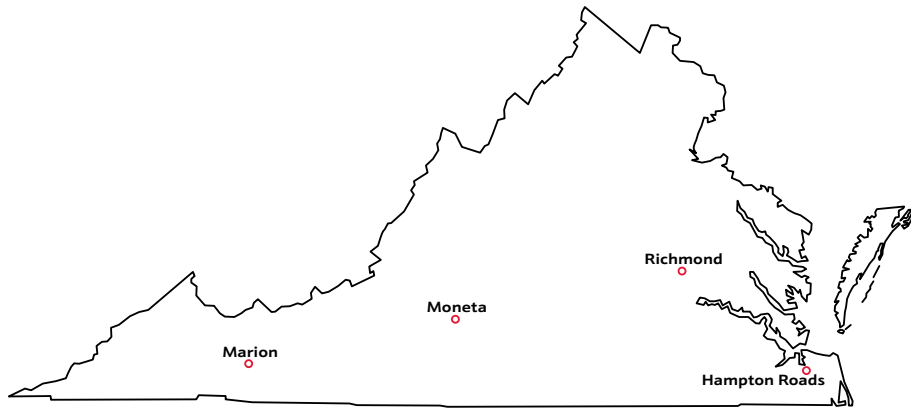
**CATS**  
works  
because  
of our  
volunteers





# CATS serves Virginia

Children from birth to age 18+, who need assistance for mobility, positioning and communication, regardless of where they live in Virginia or socio-economic status.



## Moneta, Va. (Home office) CATS

Program Director, Founder, Executive Director: Cathie Cummins, PT  
Program Manager: John Naples

Main Office Location:  
12801 Moneta Road,  
Moneta, Va. 24121



## Emory and Henry College CATS

Program Managers:  
Gardner Umbarger, PhD  
Lynne Umbarger, PhD, OT

Emory & Henry College,  
School of Health Sciences  
565 Radio Hill Rd  
Marion, VA 24354



## Richmond CATS

Program Director: Francie Mitchell,  
PT, DPT PCS

Program Manager: Cathy Watkins

Location: 2545 Gayton Centre Dr.  
Richmond VA 23238



## Hampton Roads CATS

Program Director: Beth Beach, MS,  
OTR/L, ATP

Program Manager: Linda Dew

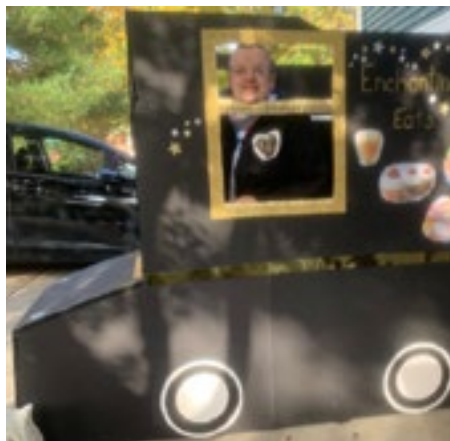
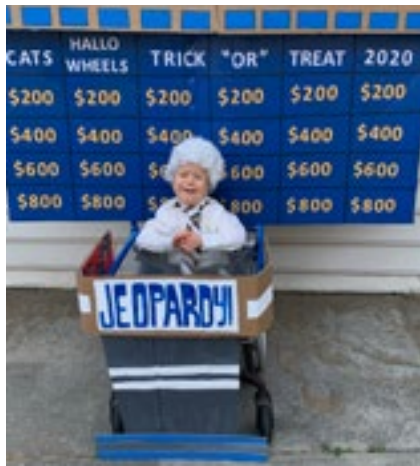
<https://www.chkd.org/Blog/CH-KD-Collaborates-with-CATS-to-Help-Kids-with-Disabilities/>

CATS equipment helps  
the child's development,  
quality of life and  
functional skills  
in many ways.

# Hallowheels

The fourth Annual Hallowheels was a tremendous success, with the help of many families, volunteers, and donors.

<https://hr.atdevicesforkids.org/hallowheels-2020/>

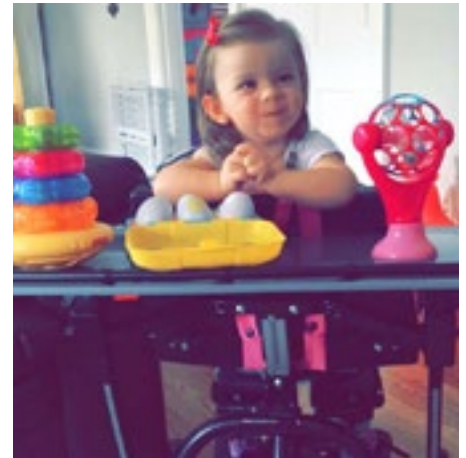




# Success Stories

## Meet Burgin

Three years ago, when Burgin's mom, Aven, picked out her activity chair, high muscle tone was not something they were concerned with and so she picked Burgin's chair accordingly. In the three years since, her tone has increased significantly, making it difficult to have her seated correctly in her chair. She soon found herself dreading having to use the chair, and eventually avoided it all together. Without it, however, Burgin would have nowhere to safely eat or play, so she did not have much of a choice. It was just a week before Christmas, and after the struggle of 2020, the last thing Burgin's mom wanted to do was fight with insurance for a new chair; so, she went to CATS. After browsing the inventory on CATS' website, she found the PERFECT chair for Burgin. It was the correct size, had all the necessary postural supports, and was even the exact same chair Burgin uses in school, so Aven was confident it would work for her! A few days later Burgin was already using the chair and it came in especially handy when it was time to open Christmas gifts with family! Both her old chair, and a stander she had recently outgrown, were both donated to CATS the same day Burgin received her new chair and will go on to live another life with a new child.



*"I could have waited until her next doctors apt where I could ask for a referral to a seating clinic, waited for the apt at the seating clinic, waited for paperwork to be filled out and submitted to insurance, most likely been denied since it hasn't been 5 years since her last chair was ordered, or if miraculously approved, wait for the chair to be ordered and delivered. Nothing this year has been easy but obtaining this chair for Burgin was a breeze!! Thanks CATS!!!"*

*-Aven*



# Success Stories

## Meet Macie

After a major hip surgery in 2019, Macie Leiphart needed a standing frame to aid in her recovery. Unfortunately, insurance was refusing to pay and fighting with them would cost more than just money; it would cost Macie precious time. So, Macie's mom, Laura, with the help of Macie's therapist, went to the only place they knew that could make this process easier, CATS. After looking through the inventory online they were able to obtain the exact same stander their insurance refused to cover, and better yet, they had it within a week. Macie's stander is used in the home as a way for her to do more things alongside her family. Helping in the kitchen, decorating the house for the holidays, and fun crafts are just a few things she has been able to do with her loved ones since getting her stander. The best part, however, is that while she is participating in these fun activities, she is simultaneously strengthening her muscles in order to learn to walk. Laura reports that within the last couple of weeks Macie has been able to walk in her gait trainer with minimal assistance! Oh, the places Macie will go!



***"I truly feel that this would not have been possible for her to stand independently in her gait trainer, if not for having the stander at home. All thanks to CATS and her physical therapists!"***

***-Laura Leiphart,  
Macie's Mom***





# Student Experiences



## Volunteers

Twenty – twenty, 2020.... What can we say?  
2020 was not the year we all were expecting.  
CATS had to find new ways to do old things.

Volunteers had to find new ways to do SCRUBS and repairs.  
CATS has some amazing volunteers,  
who kept working to provide  
1010 pieces of equipment working  
through and with COVID precautions.

**Thank you to our wonderful Volunteers!**

**CATS could not provide all the equipment without you!**



# Kids Equipment Palooza



## Board of Directors 2020

Cathie Cummins  
*Founder, P.T., President/CEO*

### Officers

Laura Alexander, PT, DPT,  
*Chairperson*

Aven Alford, B.A.,  
*Vice Chairperson*

Beth Beach, M.S., OTR/L, ATP,  
*Secretary*

David Bates, CPA.  
*Treasurer*

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Susan A. Elmore, PhD, TRS, QIDP

Dave English, DBA

Connie Mills, OTD, M.Ed.,  
OTR/L, ATP

Francie Mitchell, PT, DPT, PCS

## Go Baby Go





# 2020 Grants & Major Donors to CATS

Lynn and Foster Friess \$100,000  
Virginia Assistive Technology System \$25,000  
Max and Victoria Dreyfuss Foundation \$15,000  
Langley for Families Foundation \$10,000  
Al Stroobants Foundation \$10,000  
E.C. Wareheim Foundation \$10,000  
Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation \$9,000  
Roanoke Valley Children's Fund \$7,870  
Edgar A Thurman Charitable Foundation for Children \$5,000  
Pacific Life Foundation \$5,000  
Children's Hospital of Richmond \$5,000  
CORAKids \$5,000  
Marjorie Sutton Foundation \$5,000  
Kiwanis Club of Chesapeake \$5,000  
Carilion Community Outreach \$5,000  
Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia \$4,800  
Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund \$2,500  
CE Richardson Benevolent Foundation \$2,500  
Hampton Roads Community Foundation \$1,500  
HELP Charities \* \$1,000

## Looking Ahead – Strategic Plan for 2021

The three major goals for 2021 include the areas of:

**Increase the size, depth, and diversity of CATS Board of Directors**

**Increase awareness of CATS, including but not limited to: education opportunities on assistive technology for families, therapists and the general public throughout Virginia**

**Increase sustainable service delivery models**

### In kind support

Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters  
University of Lynchburg  
Emory & Henry College

## Thank you to our 2020 donors

### \$10,000 - \$100,000

Foster and Lynn Friess  
Community Foundation  
Serving Western Virginia  
Max and Victoria Dreyfuss  
Foundation  
Al Stroobants Foundation  
E. C. Wareheim Foundation  
Langley for Families  
Foundation

### \$5,000 to \$10,000

Greater Lynchburg  
Community Foundation  
Cathie & Randy Cummins  
Kiwanis Club of Chesapeake  
Roanoke Valley Children's  
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Katherine Poarch  
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### \$2,000 - \$4,999

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Rotary Club of Norfolk  
Friends on Facebook  
C.E. Richardson Benevolent  
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Bill King-agent  
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Eric & Christina Deutsch  
Francie Mitchell  
SML Antique and Classic  
Boat Society  
Lee and Mary Murphy  
Cindy Wood  
Hampton Roads Community  
Foundation  
Aven & Jason Alford  
SML Civitan

### \$500 to \$1,999

Stacy & James Armistead  
Jeffrey Bernfeld  
Thomas Bloom  
Mary Margaret Burtis  
David and Donna English  
Patsy Hubbard  
Brent Hutson  
Scott Lucas  
Alan Ronk  
Cindy Shelor  
James Bennett  
& Marion Wagner  
Adaptivemall/Special  
Tomato Equipment  
Enabling Devices Co.  
Pinnacle Bank  
EZ Rampz  
Tycon Medical  
Preceptor Omicron Sorority

# Thank you to our 2020 donors

## \$500 to \$1,999 cont'd

Housing Media - Americas  
Home Place  
University of Lynchburg  
DPT Go Serve Club  
Smith Mountain Lake  
Women's Club  
Roanoke Valley Children's  
Fund  
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HELP Charities

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Jerry Barnes  
Monica Beach  
Jennie Black  
Amy Braziel  
Susan Carlson  
Claudette Carrion-Wardlaw  
Nicole Collier  
Ann Conner  
Tyler Cooke



# Thank you to our 2020 donors

## \$25- \$199 cont'd

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	Justine Bullock	Janis Smith	



Many children with physical ability challenges depend on assistive technology to be able to participate with their families at home, with friends at school, or in their communities. Getting the child in appropriate fitting mobility equipment will benefit them throughout their lives.

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

Main Office Location:  
12801 Moneta Road  
Moneta, Va. 24121

[www.ATDevicesForKids.org](http://www.ATDevicesForKids.org)  
Email: [info@ATDevicesforKids.org](mailto:info@ATDevicesforKids.org)  
[ROA@ATDevicesForKids.org](mailto:ROA@ATDevicesForKids.org)

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


**Richmond** - (540) 420-0554 [RVA@ATDevicesForKids.org](mailto:RVA@ATDevicesForKids.org)

**Hampton Roads** - (757) 763-8905 [HR@ATDevicesForKids.org](mailto:HR@ATDevicesForKids.org)

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