

## Welcome to the **Tools for Life Town Hall Meeting 2006 Technology for People with disAbilities** Georgia Assistive Technology Project, Tools for Life **Department of Labor/Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Program/Assistive Technology Unit** 1-800-497-8665 www.gatfl.org

info@gatfl.org

# Agenda

- 11:00 Welcome & Introductions Carolyn
- 11:05 Tools for Life a Brief History Joy
- 11:15 Exploring the AT Act of 2004 and the GA AT State Plan
- 11:30 AT Direct Service Activities Liz P
  - Tech-Able & ReBoot-ATRC Joe Tedesco & Joanne Willis
    - Your Assistive Technology Resource Center
  - ReBoot Computer and AT Reutilization Program Joanne Willis
  - Credit-Able Jackie Wilks-Weathers
  - AT Co-OP Carolyn
  - Dollars & Sense Liz
  - G-Trade Liz
- 12:05 AT State Leadership Activities Carolyn & Liz
  - Touch the Future and Transition 2006 Conference and Expo
  - Public Awareness Activities Liz Persaud
  - Partnerships and Collaborations
- 12:20 We Need YOUR Input! (Facilitated Small Groups) 1:00 Report Back from Small Groups – 1 Representative - Tom
- 1:45 Wrap-up –
- 12:50 Lunch and Learn
  - Education and Action ATRC & ReBoot Consortium





# Why Are We Here Today? To Discuss Tools for Life and to: Educate folks about Assistive Technology Educate You and Your Community about how to get Assistive Technology

 AND – Get YOUR Ideas about how to do these 2 things more effectively.



## **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."

Public Law 108-364



# Why Assistive Technology?

 For a person without a disability, technology makes things easier....

 For a person with a disability, technology makes things possible.





# **Town Hall Meetings**





# **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!
   Change vs. Progress (Bob Phillips)



## 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



## **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, On-Line Exchange



Significant Accomplishments – Defined by User Satisfaction Data

Helping consumers acquire appropriate AT
 Dollars \$\$\$ And Sense – 1992 and beyond
 AT lending libraries
 Working with agencies that pay for AT
 ReBoot Computer Recyling Program
 Credit-Able Loan Guarantee Services

**Every TFL customer told 3 or more people about TFL!** 

## **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

# **AT Training Impacts**

Touch the Future Conference & Expo
 1986 – First TTF Conference – 200 people!
 11 Touch the Future Conference & Expos
 Transition Conference 2003 & 2005
 Workforce Development Conference 2006

All Training – TF, One-to-One & Group
 AT Awareness, Knowledge, Skills and GOALS!

# Where We Are Going... Tools for Life: A Closer Look at the AT Act 2004 and Georgia's State Plan for **Assistive Technology**



www.gatfl.org



Georgia's AT Act Program 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. Public Law 108-364



# **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.

Public Law 108-364



# 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.

Public Law 108-364



## Georgia's Three-Year Plan for AT

# Designed to Increase Access to AT & Acquisition of AT



Georgia's Three-Year Plan for AT

Focused on: Education, Employment, Community Living and IT/Telecommunications



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 Domos
- AT Demos Promote
- Choice
- **Resource and Referral**







State Plan for AT
Direct Service
State Leadership
We Need YOUR

Ideas!







## Your Local ATRCs







## & You!

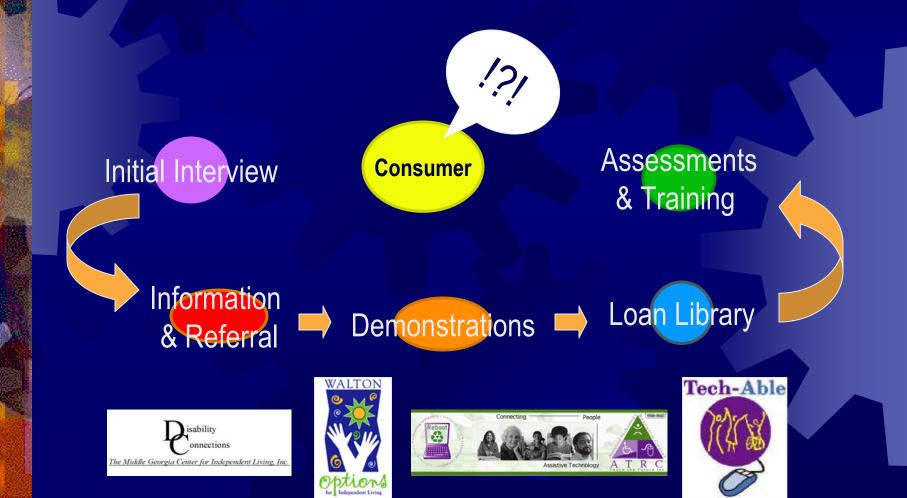






# Your Local ATRC

## 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**

#### **Staff Specialties**

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

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













#### Computer Classes Distribution

Helping close the digital divide (Outreach)

Tech-Reach

**Training and AT Service Program** 



**Switch Adapted Mice & Switches** 



**Credit-Able more on that later!!!** 

The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

## 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** 



### **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.



#### HOME MODIFICATIONS: Ramps



- Kitchen Modifications
- Widening Doorways







## **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:**

State Plan for AT Direct Service State Leadership We Need YOUR Ideas! 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 Walton Options is...

- 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: www.waltonoptions.org

State Plan for AT Direct Service State Leadership We Need YOUR Ideas!



# Walton Options for Independent Living Five Core Services:

**Information and Referral** – Making sense of information and community resources that relate to disability.

- **<u>Peer Support</u>** 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.

State Plan for AT Direct Service State Leadership We Need YOUR Ideas! 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 for Independent Living: www.waltonoptions.org



# Walton Options for Independent Living

## HOME MODIFICATIONS:

- Ramps
- Bathroom Modifications
- Kitchen Modifications
  - Widening Doorways

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Walton Options for Independent Living: www.waltonoptions.org



# Walton Options for Independent Living

### **Tools for Life Technology Resource Center**

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



Walton Options for Independent Living: www.waltonoptions.org







# Our Programs / Services continue to GROW because of ideas and comments from those we meet!



## ReBoot - Georgia's Computer and AT Reutilization Program

## ReBoot

 ReBoot is a nonprofit, statewide, collaborative effort dedicated to actively promoting independence for people with disabilities through Assistive Technology & computer recycling.

 7,200 recycled computer systems with people throughout Georgia and the United States.

ReBoot–ATRC: www.reboot-atrc.org



# ReBoot How We Recycle

Evaluate Equipment Repair / Load Software



Start

Distribute & Train

ReBoot–ATRC: www.reboot-atrc.org



## ReBoot Benefits of Recycling

Tax Benefits

Minimal fee



Tax receipt for charitable donation

Request a recycling donation of \$10 per system

Assures that items are kept out of our landfills





#### Many Options to Suite Many Needs!

- Pkg A \$0 300-450 MHz, no sound, no modem, 98 OS
- Pkg AG+ \$35 300-450 MHz, sound, speakers, no modem, 98 OS
- Pkg B \$150 500-700 MHz, 5-10 GB Hard Drive, 64 RAM, A Drive, CD ROM, sound, speakers, modem, 2000 Pro OS
- Pkg BV \$200 500-700 MHz, 6+ GB Hard Drive, 256 RAM, A Drive, CD ROM, sound, speakers, modem, 98 OS
- **Pkg C** Custom built to your needs. Price starts at \$250
- Laptops Available based on supply. Price starts at \$150
- **Pkg D** New System built to your request. Price quoted



## 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 Getting a Computer





ReBoot - Georgia's Computer and AT Reutilization Program

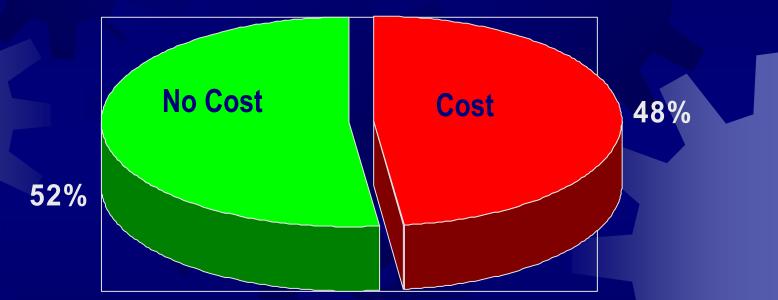
#### **ReBoot Technical Support**



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



#### ReBoot – Georgia's Computer Recycling and Reutilization Center



384 Issued Computers



### ReBoot Future Goals!

More Powerful \$ystems

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

More Locations



Increase distribution locations and delivery services in GA

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



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





State Plan for AT Direct Service State Leadership We Need YOUR Ideas! FODAC is a statewide provider of Durable medical equipment and has given away over 16,000 wheelchairs since 1986. 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.





State Plan for AT Direct Service State Leadership We Need YOUR Ideas!

#### **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.



#### **Ramps for Champs**



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Ideas!

- Home access ramps
- Bathroom modifications
- Kitchen modifications
- Door widening
- Stairlift 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



#### ReMount



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

State Plan for AT Direct Service State Leadership We Need YOUR Ideas!





State Plan for AT Direct Service State Leadership We Need YOUR Ideas!

#### International

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



#### Georgia's Alternative Loan Program

Credit-Able is a partnership between many organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Georgians with disabilities, including ...

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Ideas!



#### Georgia's Alternative Loan Program for Assistive Technology

Credit-Able is a collaborative effort between:

#### •Georgia Department of Labor – serving as the Lead Agency

•Responsible for managing federal grant funds and assisting with marketing & outreach

#### •Tech-Able – serving as the Community Based Organization

•Responsible for providing disability and AT expertise, AT lending library, and advisory & oversight

•Georgia Credit Union Foundation & GettingAhead Association – serving as our Financial Partner

•Responsible for ensuring the link with credit unions and managing the loan guarantee fund

#### •Other Partners –

•Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund

•Georgia Department of Community Affairs



#### Credit-Able Alternative Financing Program

Acceptable Assistive Technology: Credit-Able loan guarantees can ONLY be used to purchase Assistive Technology, home modifications or vehicle modifications

 Other Criteria:
 Applicants must be able to demonstrate the ability to repay the loan.



Georgia's Alternative Loan Program

**Direct AT Service Activities:** Provides loan guarantees to grant Georgians with disabilities access to affordable financing for Assistive Technology, home and vehicle modifications



#### Credit-Able Alternative Financing Program

**Eligible Applicants:** Georgia residents with a disability, their family members, or legal guardian Employers who want to accommodate their worksite for an employee with a disability

#### What your loan might look like:

#### **Traditional Financing**

- \$25,000
- 12.9% interest
- 6 year term
- Monthly payment = \$500.53
- Interest Paid = \$11,038.46

#### **Credit-Able Financing**

- \$25,000
- 4.9% interest
- 8 year term
- Monthly payment = \$315.31

 Interest Paid = \$5,629.69

With a Credit-Able loan, the monthly payment is reduced by **\$185.22** and total interest paid is reduced by **\$5,408.31** 



## **Direct AT Service Activities:**

#### State financing activities Creating an AT Co-Op



#### Direct AT Service Activities: Dollars and Sense Guide Web-based Technical Assistance

- "Navigating the Funding Streams"
- The Dollars and Sense Funding Guide is 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 Guide Simple to use!

 Possible funding sources are listed by assistive technology categories

 All possible funding sources are new and updated



## Direct AT Service Activities: G-Trade

Georgia's Assistive Technology Online Equipment Exchange Program 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: G-Trade

- 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



#### **State Leadership Activities (6)**

- Training and technical assistance
- Transition assistance
- Public-awareness activities
- Statewide information and assistance
- Coordination and collaboration

#### AND

State Plan for AT Direct Service State Leadership We Need YOUR Ideas!

Touch the Future & Transition Conference Athens, GA - November 2006!



**State Leadership AT Activities** 

Training and Technical Assistance

AND

State Plan for AT Direct Service State Leadership We Need YOUR Ideas!  Touch the Future & Transition Conference Athens GA – Oct 31 – Nov 3 2006!



#### Workforce Development & Touch the Future – Transition Conference



Athens Classic Center October 31 – November 3, 2006



# State Leadership AT Activities Information and Assistance

State Plan for AT Direct Service State Leadership We Need YOUR Ideas!  Coordination and collaboration
 Georgia Advocacy Office

## One Example of Collaboration: AgrAbility

Assist people with disabilities employed in agriculture.

Link the Cooperative Extension Service, Universities, Federal State and Local services to provide practical education and assistance that promotes independence in agricultural production and rural living.

The AgrAbility Project assists people involved in production agriculture who work both on small and large operations.





Georgia's AT Act Program We Need YOUR Input!

We will now Break into Small Groups for a Facilitated Discussion then Report to the large group



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## Georgia's AT Act Program

#### **Topics for Small Groups:**

- How can Tools for Life assist you and your community better?
  AT Co-Op would it help You?
  Should ReBoot expand to reutilize more AT?
  - What AT devices would you like to see ATRCs have?
- What are the barriers to AT Access and Acquisition?
- What legislative work needs to be done in regard to Assistive Technology in Georgia?
- What is the one thing Tools For Life can do to assist Georgians with disAbilities?



## **Report from Small Groups**

State Plan for AT

**Direct Service** 

State Leadership

We Need YOUR Ideas!



### **Next Steps** Hold other Town Hall Meetings in GA Amend the Georgia AT State Plan based on your input Post this on the Tools for Life Web-site Put new aspects of the Plan in Action



## THANK YOU for Your Time, Ideas and Support!