Exploring Assistive Technology and Disability Awareness

Sam Peters, Liz Persaud, Ben Jacobs, Tori Holder

Tools for Life

AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center

Georgia Tech

www.gatfl.gatech.edu

www.amacusg.org

Tools for Life

We're here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.
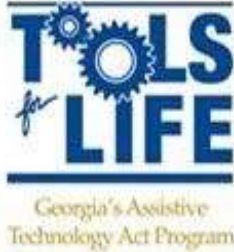
Tools for Life
Georgia's Federal AT Act Program

- Tools for Life is a program of AMAC Accessibility Services, Georgia Tech
- We serve individuals of all ages & disabilities in Georgia
- TFL Network
  - Assistive Technology Resource Centers/Outreach Sites
  - Lending Libraries
  - Training and Demonstrations
  - AT Reuse
  - AT Funding Education/Assistance and Resources
- Online Resources
  - www.gatfl.org

NWGA CIL

disABILITY LINK
the center for rights & resources

DRC Disability Resource Center

MULTIPLEchoices
Center for Independent Living

TooLS for LIFE
Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

WALTON
options
for Independent Living

Ca Credit-Able

C4ATX
Center4ATExcellence

LIFE
Living Independence for Everyone

fodac
friends of disabled adults & children

Coastal Regional Commission
OF GEORGIA
AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Access 2 Independence

Disability Connections
The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Bridging The Gap
BAIN, Inc.
Center For Independent Living

BAIN, INC
Center For Independent Living

Guiding Principle

- 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

The Power of Language

- **Language is continually evolving**, and that includes language related to people with disabilities.

- Staying current is important, not to show that you are "politically correct" but to communicate effectively and with respect.

Value-Laden Terminology

Abnormal
Afflicted
Burdened
Defect
Deformity
Mental
Mute (Deaf and Mute)
Palsied
Spastic
Stricken with
Sufferer
Victim
Invalid

Why Assistive Technology?

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

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

VGo Telepresence Robot

- Enables a person to replicate themself in a distant location and have the freedom to move around as if they were physically there

- Reduces travel costs

- School

- Hospital

- Work from home

Amazon Echo

- Speech-controlled speaker system
- Voice recognition - further distances
- All functions are server side
- Compatible with many EC Brands
- $179.99

Philips Hue Light Bulbs

- Wifi Connected
- Dimmable
- Displays Over 16 Million Colors
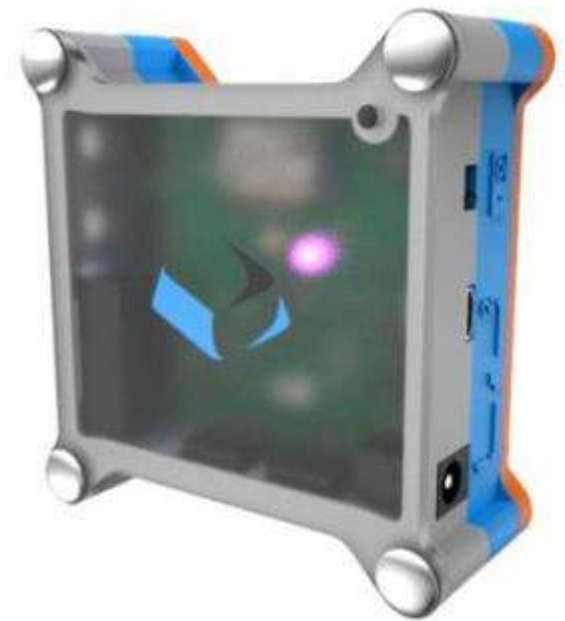- Compatible with Amazon Echo
- Color Starter Kit $174.99

Fact!

If you can control your computer, you can control your environment!

Tecla Shield

- Wireless device that controls smartphones and tablets using your external switches or the driver controls of your power wheelchair

- The only switch interface that works with both iOS® and Android mobile devices.

Xbox One with Kinect

- Control your entertainment with your voice

- Netflix, Skype, Youtube, Internet Browser, Music, Television, etc.

- Gesture Control

- Price varies depending on bundle.

- Xbox One ~ $~~350~~ $299

- Kinect ~ $100

TFL Gaming Initiative

- Tools for Life has recognized the importance of play and is starting an initiative dedicated to gaming with disabilities. Some objectives of the program are:
  - Demonstrate the accessibility of gaming
  - Build relationships with developers and aid in creating more accessible games
  - Increase public awareness of the importance of accessibility in games

- There are many benefits to playing games
  - Improved Hand/Eye coordination
  - Increased problem solving and cognitive function
  - Better handle stressful environments
  - Social outlet

XOGO

- The first fully customizable adapter that connects people with disabilities to consumer technology.

- Compatible with USB and HID devices, switches, game controllers, and Bluetooth.

- Control for your console as well as cable boxes, media devices, and smart home technology.

Boogie Dice

- First self rolling, sound activated, programmable dice.

- Activated using sound.
  - Clap, snap, thump

- Set roll duration, LED colors and more.

- Smartphone app can also be used to activate the dice.

The Team

Carolyn Phillips
Director, Tools for Life
Carolyn.Phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu

Sarah Endicott
Research Scientist
sarah.endicott@design.gatech.edu

Danny Housley
AT Funding & Resource Specialist
Danny.Housley@gatfl.gatech.edu

Justin Ingham
Support Specialist
jingham3@gatech.edu

Ben Jacobs
Accommodations Specialist
Ben.Jacobs@gatfl.gatech.edu

Krista Mullen
Speech Language Pathologist
krista.mullen@gatfl.gatech.edu

Samantha Peters
Training Specialist
samantha.peters@gatfl.gatech.edu

Liz Persaud
Training and Outreach Coordinator
Liz.Persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu

Martha Rust
AT Specialist
Martha.Rust@gatfl.gatech.edu

Rachel Wilson
AT Specialist
Rachel.Wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu