Involved, Informed and Included: Encouraging Self-Advocacy
Danny Housley, Tools for Life
Charlie Miller, GVRA
Your Presenters
Danny Housley

- NFBGA Atlanta Executive Board
- CDFI Coalition Board
- CLD Community Advisory Council
- disABILITY LINK Board Member
- ADAPT
Charlie Miller

• Board Member of SILC of GA
• Disability Community Specialist.
• Active GA ADAPT
Tools for Life Mission

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.
GVRA Mission

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency operates five integrated and interdependent statutory programs that share a primary goal - to help people with disabilities to become fully productive members of society by achieving independence and meaningful employment.
Danny’s Advocacy Journey

- Kindergarten
- High school
- College
- IL
- Civil disobedience
- Walking the line
- It all started because of an educator
“Advocacy is having a severe case of sass mouth and using it for good.”

-Danny Housley
Charlie’s Advocacy Journey

- Sometimes the doctors are not always right.
- Training handles off, no more handles for people to push me!
- Finding yourself and Advocating in College.
- Civil Disobedience and how the Disability Community Uses it.
Advocates are not always well behaved (and shouldn’t be)
Who is your biggest advocacy influencer?
Why is self-advocacy important?
When was it difficult to advocate for yourself?
Were you involved with your IEP?
Talk about your experience with self advocacy in the workplace.
“of” vs “for”
Peer Led Organizations in Georgia

- National Federation of the Blind
- Georgia Coalition of the Blind
- Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard and Hearing
- People First
- ADAPT
- Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association
- Georgia Association of the Deaf
- Centers for Independent Living
Support Agencies in Georgia

- Center for the Visually Impaired
- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Metro Fair Housing
- Georgia Lion’s Lighthouse
- Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
- DBDHH
- ADRCs
- FODAC
Questions?
Comments?
Small Jokes?
Thanks and Don’t Forget to Rate!
The Tools for Life Team

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

Danny Housley  
AT Acquisition Manager  
danny.housley@gatfl.gatech.edu

Liz Persaud  
Program and Outreach Manager  
liz.persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu

Martha Rust  
AT Access Team Manager  
martha.rust@gatfl.gatech.edu

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

Tori Holder  
Outreach Specialist  
tori.holder@gatfl.gatech.edu

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

Annabel Joyner  
Graphic Design Intern  
ajoyner8@gatech.edu
The Tools for Life Team (continued)

Asha Kumar
AT Lab Specialist
asha.kumar@gatfl.gatech.edu

JR McCall
CFII Administrative Assistant
jmccall32@gatech.edu

Ciara Montes
Direct Services Inter
ciara.montes@gatfl.gatech.edu

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

Sam Peters
Program Specialist
speters37@gatech.edu

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