



# Lekotek of Georgia

Making a Difference for Children with Disabilities



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2015-2016**

**1983**

Lekotek of Georgia incorporates and receives its 501c3 tax exempt status.

**1984**

Lekotek receives space in the basement of Easter Seals and first grants from Eastern Airlines, The Liz Claiborne Foundation and The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta.

**2000**

Lekotek receives The Award for Excellence from Community Health Charities of Georgia.

**2002**

Lekotek receives a Bobby Dodd Award for Services of Excellence.

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS AND AWARDS

**1986**

Apple donates three computers and technology becomes an integral part of the Lekotek program.



**1997**

Lekotek initiates a computer loan program.



**2010**

With grants from The Harland Foundation and Scott Hudgens Foundation, Lekotek includes iPads in play sessions.

**2003**

Lekotek celebrates its 20th anniversary and with three sites has made a difference for 3,500 children.

**2011**

Lekotek receives an Inclusion Champion Award from The Mitsubishi Foundation.

**2013**

Lekotek celebrates its 30th anniversary and has six centers in Georgia. Lekotek has now reached 5,000 families.

**1991**

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta donates space for the first Lekotek satellite.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR 32 YEARS

I learned about the National Lekotek Center in Evanston, Illinois, 32 years ago, when my sister-in-law and brother-in-law took their oldest son, who has Down syndrome, there. They raved about it. "There is no program like it. Lekotek focuses on abilities and it's fun. You should start one in Atlanta," they said.

I had gone to graduate school to become a special education teacher, and Lekotek seemed like the perfect place to pursue my career. I visited the National Lekotek Center and upon returning home, began my quest for funding and space. Fourteen months later, I conducted the first Lekotek play/learning session in the basement of Easter Seals. That year, we conducted sessions with 52 children. Today, we have six sites and last year 660 families benefited from services. Our initial budget was \$40,000; today it is \$660,000.

My job requires that I wear many hats, but none is more rewarding than helping a child learn through play while developing self-esteem. Watching a child activate a toy, computer or iPad and seeing a parent light up as their child accomplishes a task, thought impossible, are rewarding beyond words.

In 1983, the play session was the one and only service that Lekotek provided, loaning only toys. Today, families can also borrow computers, iPads, adapted keyboards, trackballs and software. Staff members conduct computer/iPad evaluations, computer camp, Saturday music classes, Happy Tails animal-assisted therapy, fishing and rafting trips, play days, family outings in the community, and Sibshop support groups for siblings. The generous support of many of you reading this report has made all this possible.

Yes, Lekotek has changed significantly, but we have remained the same in one fundamental way. We have remained steadfast to our original mission: the inclusion of children with disabilities into family and community life. Using adapted toys and technology, Lekotek equalizes the playing field so everyone gets in the game.

Today, I am as passionate about Lekotek as I was 32 years ago. A recent partnership with Service Forward and The Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University provided data on the number of children with disabilities in Georgia. We are only seeing a fraction of this number. There is more work to be done and many more families need our help.

I came to Lekotek to teach children with special needs, but I have learned so much from them and their families. I am grateful for their lessons in courage, patience, and determination. I remain grateful for the difference that Lekotek has made in their lives and mine.

  
Helene Prokesch  
Founder & Executive Director

*"A parent once told me, I came to Lekotek for toys but stayed for so much more. With a background in special education, I was naturally drawn to Lekotek but I too have stayed for so much more."*

## WHAT IS LEKOTEK?

Lekotek of Georgia envisions a world where children with disabilities are included and empowered through play. Since 1983, Lekotek has made a difference for more than 5,500 children and families in 36 Georgia counties and three states. Lekotek occupies a unique niche in the lives of children with special needs. Through play, Lekotek facilitates inclusion and learning along the way. Our mission is to facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities into family, school and community life by providing accessible play, adapted toys and technology, information and resources. Lekotek is a welcome break from therapy. We use play as a means to teach and have fun. Our professionally-guided play sessions, free from expectations to perform, facilitate abilities and increased confidence.

Children receiving services have a wide range of disabilities including, but not limited to, attention deficit disorders, speech delays, cognitive delays, autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, hearing and/or vision loss, neuromuscular disorders, and spina bifida. Participants include families of all races and religions with varied economic and social backgrounds. While Lekotek charges minimal fees, no family is denied services due to an inability to pay.

## LEKO-WHO, LEKO-WHAT?

"Lekotek" is a made-up Swedish word for play library. Originating in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1963, Lekotek was the concept of two parents. These moms understood the role of families in helping children with disabilities reach their potential and become full participants in their communities. At Lekotek, parents are welcomed with encouragement and a listening ear. When families visit, they are provided with leading edge technology, disability information and referrals to additional resources. Following hour-long play/learning sessions, families borrow adapted toys, computers, input devices and software designed to meet the individual needs of their child.

Lekotek leaders have backgrounds in education, child life, music, recreation, and speech therapy. During a play session, they select toys, software and iPad applications designed to improve the child's specific weaknesses and strengthen his or her abilities. Unlike typical therapies, parents, siblings and grandparents always participate in play sessions.

Affiliated with The National Lekotek Center in Evanston, IL, Lekotek of Georgia has six sites in Georgia and is one of 15 affiliates nationwide. Since the concept was brought to the United States in 1980 by Sally DeVincentis, an Evanston teacher, Lekoteks in the U.S. have made a difference for more than 13,000 families.





## OUR SUCCESS STORY

### MEET KAREN VALENTINO

When Karen was born with Down syndrome our family was surprised, concerned and a bit nervous as we knew nothing about Down syndrome. A doctor gave us a book to read while informing us that she would likely never achieve more than a fourth grade education. We never read the book deciding instead to treat her no differently than her two “normal” siblings. And, so began our journey....

After a month in the hospital, Karen’s serious heart problem was cured with newborn growth. Now she was home. Being fortunate to have friends in both the educational and medical professions, we received sound advice. The best was the necessity for early intervention. So, at 5 months, Karen was enrolled in an early intervention program at Coralwood School. By age 1, she was also attending Lekotek where she experienced new and different challenges all taking shape in Lekotek’s “fun” learning environment. By age 2, she had learned a form of sign language called Makaton. Most children with disabilities have language delays and signing significantly lessens their frustration, helping to avoid behavior problems. At age 2 ½ Karen could sign over 100 words.....who would’ve known! Around age 3 ½, Karen started attending a regular pre-school. Between school, Lekotek, physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and a busy home life, she’s had plenty of early intervention and it’s made a huge difference.

Karen was the first child with special needs to be mainstreamed in our local elementary school’s kindergarten. Except for a few resource classes, Karen participated in the regular classrooms with no para-professional help. Following graduation from elementary school, Karen followed her classmates through 4 years of high school working in a combination of regular and resource classes. To this day, Karen maintains friendships with many of the students that she met during her journey from kindergarten to high school.

Today, at age 26, Karen volunteers/works at both her original elementary school (assisting several of her former teachers) as well as in the local parochial school library. She regularly works at Lekotek helping to track and maintain the organization’s considerable inventory of toys and software. This summer, she received several awards for her work at Lekotek as a camp counselor. She enjoys Yoga, Pilates, movies, music, and reading. In short, she leads a happy, busy and productive life. Absent the help and encouragement of professionals like those we encountered at Lekotek, Karen’s amazing journey would not have been possible.

Having been Lekotek parents for all these years, we have nothing but praise for this wonderful organization. We’ve seen the leaders at work and remain in awe of how patient, caring and understanding they are. We’re consistently amazed at the organization’s relentless pursuit of its mission evidenced by the long hours and hard work put in by Lekotek’s leader, Helene Prokesch, and her amazing staff.

Kudos to Lekotek for a job very well done!

## LEKOTEK FAMILY SURVEY OUTCOMES

**100%**

Percent of parents who have acquired new skills to help their child learn through play.

**96%**

Percent of families who do not feel judged at Lekotek.



**93%**

Percent of families who receive helpful information and resources.

**98%**

Percent of families who have increased working knowledge of adapted toys, software and technology.

**100%**

Percent of families who now provide their child with developmentally appropriate toys.

**95%**

Percent of families who feel more comfortable participating in community activities with their child.

**96%**

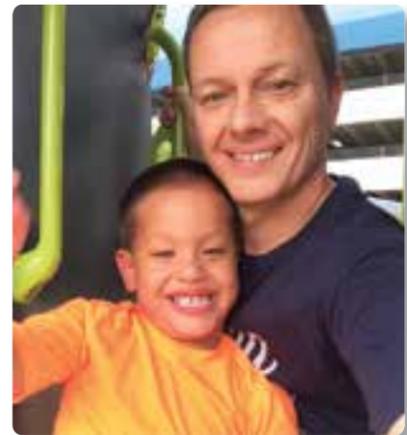
Percent of families that feel less isolated.

**98%**

Percent of families who play together more often.



## THE COMPONENTS OF LEKOTEK



### TOY/COMPUTER/iPAD LENDING LIBRARY

Lekotek's toy/computer inventory is comprised of more than 4,200 select toys, software programs, adapted keyboards, joysticks, trackballs, computers and iPads with educational applications. From rattles and drums to touch windows and adapted keyboards, seeing, hearing, and touching toys make it possible for children to master skills. During one-hour play sessions, Lekotek leaders model the creative use of the toys and computer equipment for each child. Families are encouraged to use the toys to create a playful and educational environment at home.

Computers and software, iPads and applications are possibly the most powerful toys in Lekotek's inventory. As the community has become aware of Lekotek's need for equipment, individuals and corporations have donated Macintosh and PC compatible systems. These systems are also loaned to families. Before a system is borrowed, Lekotek leaders customize it and train parents to use it. This unique lending program provides an excellent opportunity for children with disabilities to experience technology and its benefits. Replicating this model, our iPad loan program has made it possible for 55 families to have an iPad at home for a two month period.

### RESOURCE LIBRARY

Through the resource library, parents have an opportunity to borrow books, magazines, periodicals, and videos on a wide variety of disability-related topics. Siblings and grandparents can also check out books that address their concerns.

### COMPUPLAY

The Compuplay program is designed to meet the needs of individuals between the ages of 2 to 18. Youngsters and parents attend five one-hour, weekly family sessions to enjoy and learn from computer and iPad play. Compuplay focuses on the use of alternative input devices to the standard mouse, software and iPad applications to enhance speech, writing, reading, cognitive, and fine-motor skills. State-of-the-art technology equalizes the playing field making it possible for everyone to participate together. Staff-written software with large icons makes it possible for children with visual impairments and fine motor delays to use the programs. Adapted software that includes auditory and visual scanning for children who are blind or hearing impaired is available. With an array of color, graphics, music, and sound prompts, these programs provide opportunities for successful learning.

Hardware options include eye gaze systems, adapted joysticks, head mice, touch screens, switch adapted trackballs, keyboards with keyguards and switches for scanning. Children who cannot use a keyboard, see the screen, or read a printed page, can use these devices. We are especially excited about an eye gaze system we just purchased that allows the child to use the computer simply by looking. The eye gaze system has a camera that tracks the user's pupils. The child is able to control the cursor and make selections with his eyes.

During Compuplay, children enjoy reading and writing stories, playing music, learning math concepts, word processing and problem solving using both the computer and iPad. Computer and iPad assisted learning is making it possible for children with disabilities to participate with their siblings and peers.

### HOME BASED PLAY SESSIONS

During the past decade, there has been a significant increase in premature births. Upon being discharged from the hospital, these premature babies are often medically fragile and unable to travel. Children unable to leave their homes can benefit from Lekotek and perhaps even more so than those able to come to one of our six centers. With a laptop, iPad and Lekotek bag filled with developmentally appropriate toys, Lekotek leaders create a playful learning environment at the child's home. One mom commented, "with each bag of toys, Lekotek brings joy and hope."

### MUSIC CLASSES, PLAY DAYS AND FAMILY EVENTS

Music classes are conducted quarterly. Using instruments and movement, children learn to follow directions and interact with family members. Play dates are conducted throughout the year and include music, Happy Tails and Careing Paws animal assisted therapy, arts and crafts and family activities in the community. Family events include annual visits to children's museums, the pumpkin patch, zoo, rafting trips, and attending major league baseball and basketball games. With support from Lekotek, families who might hesitate to participate in community events now enjoy these activities as would any family.

### SUMMER COMPUTER CAMP

Lekotek offers an annual four-week summer computer camp for children between the ages of 4 and 12. Children with disabilities are asked to invite a sibling or friend to participate with them. Technology is an equalizer as children with and without disabilities participate together.

### COMPUTER CLUB

Computer Club was initiated for Lekotek "graduates," but youngsters above the age of nine who previously have not participated in Lekotek play sessions are also welcome. Just as typical nine to fifteen year olds participate in clubs, Computer Club provides opportunities for our youngsters to socialize and participate in a club activity. Few programs like these exist for children with disabilities. Following Sunday afternoon computer activities, everyone enjoys dinner and birthdays are frequently celebrated.

### LEKOPALS

LekoPals is a unique social program for teens with disabilities ages 15 and above. Lekotek staff and peer volunteers facilitate fun activities that include computer games, bowling, and age-appropriate outings. Atlanta-area high school and college students volunteer as peer mentors at both LekoPals and Club.

### PRODUCT DESIGN

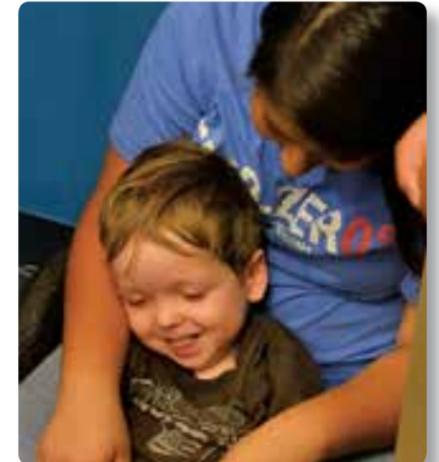
Since Lekotek's inception, staff members have designed toys, computer devices and software to meet the needs of children with disabilities. Lekotek has a catalogue of products and all proceeds from the sale of products support direct services.

### LEKOTEK SIBSHOPS

Sibshops create opportunities for brothers and sisters of children with special needs to meet other siblings and gain support in a fun atmosphere. Brothers and sisters, who have the longest relationship with the person with special needs, have much to offer each other. The Sibshop model intersperses information and discussion with ice-breakers, fun games, and computer activities. Sibshops are not therapy, although their effect may be therapeutic. Lekotek is extremely proud to be a registered Sibshop certified by Don Meyer and the Sibling Support Project at The University of Washington in Seattle.

### AN APPROVED LEKOTEK TRAINING PROGRAM

Lekotek of Georgia is a nationally approved internship site that provides training to develop additional Lekotek leaders throughout the country. Staff members also conduct workshops on inclusion, assistive technology and adaptive toy use. Agencies, professionals, and parents benefit from a variety of consulting and support services.





## THE COMPONENTS OF LEKOTEK (CONT.)

### COLLABORATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS

Happy Tails and Careing Paws nonprofit animal-assisted therapy organizations, visit Lekotek regularly. Their volunteers have pets that have completed obedience and other specified training. Frequent guests include dogs, rabbits, turtles, cats and guinea pigs. Partnering with The National Park Service and Chattahoochee Nature Center, we conduct fishing and rafting trips.

Lekotek also works closely with statewide Babies Can't Wait, Georgia P.I.N.E.S. (a statewide program for children with sensory disabilities), FOCUS (Families Of Children Under Stress), Parent to Parent, The Marcus Autism Center, The Center for the Visually Impaired, Make-A-Wish Foundation, The Down Syndrome Association, therapists, physicians, public and private schools, statewide early intervention programs, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and other Atlanta area hospitals. Referral sources continue to expand and partnering with the organizations mentioned above has helped Lekotek reach metropolitan, suburban, and rural areas.

To promote disability awareness, Lekotek staff frequently demonstrate the use of adapted toys and computer equipment at schools. During Disability Week in Georgia, Lekotek leaders visit elementary schools in several counties. Students without disabilities use adapted toys and computer equipment to understand how learning and play are made accessible to children with special needs.

Lekotek partners with professors at Georgia Tech who create solutions for people with disabilities. Dr. Ayanna Howard and her Human-Automation Systems lab are developing new robots with accompanying iPad games to assist in play therapy. Their newest robot, Avatar, is used to encourage communication and socialization while helping children with special needs enjoy tablet devices. Lekotek will be the first center to receive the Avatar robot prototype when available by year's end.

Dr. Stephen Sprigle heads the Rehabilitation Engineering and Applied Research Lab. His students have built light boxes for Lekotek to help children with visual impairments. They have also successfully created a customized arm support for a little girl who could not hold her arm up to operate the computer or iPad. Lekotek staff continue to identify needed solutions that Georgia Tech students can design and create for our children.

### PUBLICATIONS, WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

To maintain contact with families and professionals throughout the country, Lekotek publishes a newsletter that includes Lekotek news, information on specialized toys and innovative technology, a guest editorial, profiles of Lekotek families and an acknowledgment of sponsors. Lekotek's mailing list now exceeds 2,200.

Parents and professionals can learn about our services and products by visiting our website ([www.lekotekga.org](http://www.lekotekga.org)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/lekotekga](http://www.facebook.com/lekotekga)). These sites are also linked to additional resources.



## LEKOTEK LOCATIONS

Now in its 32nd year, Lekotek has made a difference for more than 5,500 children and families. This year, 660 children participated in play sessions, camp, club, music, community outings, and computer/iPad evaluations at six locations. Satellite growth has made it possible for families to receive services closer to their homes. Unfortunately, waiting lists to receive services still exist. Children with special needs do not have time to wait and the board is committed to increased fundraising efforts to keep the wait to a minimum.

### MAIN CENTER

Atlanta, Georgia—In 1983, Lekotek of Georgia began operations in the basement of Easter Seals on Maple Drive. Today, the main site is located on Cliff Valley Way near I-85 and North Druid Hills in Atlanta. This site occupies 3,000 square feet and has the space and resources to conduct five play sessions simultaneously. In addition, workshops, Lekotek leader training, computer/iPad evaluations, compuplay, play groups, music classes, summer computer camp and Sunday afternoon computer club are offered at the Cliff Valley location.

### SATELLITE CENTERS

**Cumming, Georgia**—Families in Forsyth and North Fulton counties requested that Lekotek offer services closer to their homes and Building Bridges Therapy generously donated space. Originally housed at Children's Healthcare in Alpharetta, this site opened in 2000. Approximately 340 families have benefitted from play sessions, play dates, music, compuplay and computer/iPad evaluations.

**Duluth, Georgia**—Lekotek of Georgia's first satellite was established in 1991 with donated space from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Located at Children's Rehabilitation Center on Satellite Boulevard in Duluth, this site conducts monthly play sessions to 45 families. During the past 24 years, nearly 800 families from six counties have benefitted from its services. The generous support of both Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Building Bridges Therapy allows additional funding to be allocated for direct services.

**Kennesaw, Georgia**—With generous support from the John Harland Foundation, Lekotek of Georgia opened the Cobb satellite in 2002. Located near the intersection of I-75 and I-575, this site reaches families in Cobb, Cherokee, Bartow, and surrounding counties. During its first year, the Cobb site exceeded all expectations in providing play sessions to 55 families. To date nearly 500 families have participated in play sessions, play groups, club, compuplay, computer/iPad evaluations, music classes, Happy Tails, Easter Egg Hunts, and community outings that include rafting and fishing trips.

**Fayetteville, Georgia**—In June 2006, Lekotek opened a southside satellite in Fayetteville, Georgia. Seed money from the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta was used to purchase the initial inventory of toys, educational materials and computer equipment. This same Foundation provided seed money to initiate Lekotek of Georgia in 1983. To date, 320 families have benefitted from play sessions, music, compuplay and computer/iPad evaluations, Easter Egg Hunts, community outings and Careing Paws pet therapy visits.

**Gainesville, Georgia**—In March of 2011, Lekotek of Georgia initiated a fifth satellite in donated space provided by Walker Therapy. Seventy families in North Georgia who previously were unable to benefit from Lekotek due to lengthy travel distances have already participated. This site quickly outgrew the space provided by Walker and now occupies 1200 square feet in an office building. This Lekotek offers play sessions, music, Happy Tails, family activities and computer/iPad evaluations.



## MEET BILLY

Billy's story begins when he was born at 33 weeks due to my high blood pressure. After 17 days in the neonatal intensive care unit, he was released with no apparent disability. However, by the time he was six months old, Billy was not reaching for objects with his right hand or rolling over on his right side. After several months of occupational therapy, we realized that Billy's delays were not due to prematurity, but something else. Close to his first birthday, he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. In hindsight, there were signs to suggest cerebral palsy, but admitting that something is "wrong" with your child is not easy for any parent. Once we learned his prognosis, we also learned there really was nothing wrong with Billy. He was just going to need a little extra help.

Given this knowledge, I began asking questions and researching all possible therapies and resources. While playing with a toy during occupational therapy, I mentioned how nice it would be to have something like it at home. Our occupational therapist, Miss Mary, told us about Lekotek. She had worked at Lekotek years ago and suggested I contact their director, Helene Prokesch. Helene told me the Gainesville location was expanding and our family could begin play sessions right away. We have been attending Lekotek in Gainesville, ever since. Billy loves to play with his Lekotek leader, Miss Catherine. On his scheduled Lekotek days, Billy will run through the house yelling "new toys"! Billy's favorite activities at Lekotek are playing on the iPad and at the sensory rice table. I love that I can email Catherine to let her know what we are working on. She will select toys to meet his goals. With Lekotek's help Billy is reaching milestones and making great progress.

We enjoy participating in Lekotek field trips and special events as they provide great experiences and opportunities for Billy. We have attended Saturday morning Leko-Music and Happy Tails (pet assisted therapy). These are events that Billy is able to participate in, in a non-threatening environment. Billy has also experienced many "firsts" because of Lekotek - his first Gwinnett Braves baseball game, his first inflatables at Hippo Hop and his first puppet show with Rooster Socks. We have also attended trips to the INK Children's Museum and Little House of Art. With each play session and special event, we see how important Lekotek is in our lives and that it is an invaluable part of Billy's growth and progress.

Both Helene and Catherine are always willing to help or just listen. I suggest Lekotek to all the parents I meet at Billy's various appointments. I even post Lekotek brochures in their lobbies!

## HOW LEKOTEK MAKES A DIFFERENCE



## MEET BRAYDEN

On February 17, 2013 at 12:58am, Eric and I welcomed Brayden into our lives with love and excitement. Born with an irregular heart rhythm, Brayden was taken to the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) for observation and testing. We learned he was okay despite jaundice and fluctuations in body temperature. We thought a few days under a warm light and a Bili bed to bring home, would be the greatest challenge we'd face. Little did we know there was more in store for us.

At 2 months, Brayden wasn't gaining head control or weight. Our pediatrician was concerned and suggested we see a neurologist and geneticist. After months of genetic testing, we learned Brayden's underlying condition - a rare genetic disorder called Congenital Disorder of Glycosylation. Brayden has hypotonia, optic nerve hypoplasia, developmental delays and receives nutrition through a feeding tube. There are only 10 cases reported in the medical literature. We grasped at any information we could find but quickly learned that due to the rarity of his diagnosis, there is no prognosis. We have no comparisons and take it one day at a time, as he continues to show us what he can do.

Brayden has physical, occupational, and speech therapy weekly. Despite constant therapies, Brayden is an incredibly happy child with a sweet disposition - always smiling and laughing. Brayden has benefited from Georgia's Babies Can't Wait early intervention program and the Center for the Visually Impaired. We look forward to our play sessions with our Lekotek leader, Catherine, who has been amazing in providing toys and computer/iPad technology that are appropriate and accessible. Brayden is able to enjoy adapted toys and computer games by hitting a large button to activate a toy or computer/iPad program. He also enjoys the light box, musical instruments, and sensory experiences. We are so thankful for Lekotek for providing our son with new ways to play and learn.

## FISCAL SNAPSHOT

Lekotek of Georgia has been successful in raising funds from foundations, corporations, civic groups, individuals and special events (that include an annual run, a silent auction, Brewfest and a golf tournament). As a result, its financial condition is stable. At year-end, June 30, 2015, Lekotek reserves were approximately 100 percent of its Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget. These reserves are crucial for safeguarding the organization against contingencies, supporting new services, satellite development and organizational growth.

Lekotek's board of directors is extremely proud that 90 percent of donations support direct services to children and families. In addition to providing their time and expertise in diverse fields, all of the directors contribute financially to Lekotek.

Please consider a donation to Lekotek in your will and/or estate planning. Additional funding will help Lekotek meet the demand for increased services to children with disabilities and their families throughout Georgia. Near-term priorities include purchasing new leading edge technology and expanding home visits, computer camp, staff training, compuplay sessions, iPad loans and family programs. There is a need for additional staff to eliminate waiting lists. With continued community support, these goals can be achieved.

We thank everyone who has contributed to Lekotek's accomplishments. We appreciate your confidence and look forward to your continued involvement in the years ahead.



### BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

Personnel	
Director/Lekotek Leaders	
Contracted Services	
Educational Consultants	
<b>Personnel Total</b>	<b>\$310,000</b>
Operational Expenses	
Facilities	
Staff Development	
Professional Dues/ Subscriptions	
<b>Total Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>
Special Programs	
Technology Program	
Scholarship Fund	
Neonatal Hospital Play Sessions	
Summer Computer Camp	
Satellite Expansion	
LekoPals/Computer Club Inclusion Project	
Outreach to Diverse Populations	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
Capital Expenditures	
Specialized Toy and Educational Inventory	
Technology Equipment - Adapted input devices & software	
<b>Total Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$660,000</b>

### PROJECTED REVENUE STREAMS

General Contributions	\$410,000
Special Events	\$135,500
Direct Mail Fundraising Campaign	\$36,000
Membership Dues/ Computer Fees	\$20,500
Professional/Consulting Fees	\$1,000
Family Program Fees	\$2,000
Board Pledge	\$25,000
Interest Dividends	\$30,000
<b>Total Projected Income</b>	<b>\$660,000</b>

(This is the total organizational budget to operate six sites.)

# FRIENDS OF LEKOTEK

## CHAMPIONS \$2,000 AND UP

Joni and Mac Cushing  
Adam Dewey  
Kathy and David Giancola  
Lenore Maslia  
Sandy and Mike Moore  
Dr. Michael and Cary Rothkopf  
Susan and Alex Roush  
Trish and Scott Thompson  
Vickey and Ed Wile



## PARTNERS \$1,000 TO \$1,999

Donna Younts and Wayne Akins  
Gerrilyn and Walter Brill  
Perri and Rick Courtheoux  
Nancy and Marshall Ford  
Kate Hale  
Leslie and Gary Null  
Lydia and Michael Price  
Dr. Richard and Helene Prokesch  
Dr. Joseph N. Saba  
John and Lauren Seidl  
Mary Beth and Michael Sierra  
Alexa and Alejandro Vicens

## FANS \$500 TO \$999

Anonymous  
Alaine Dockery  
Angie and Gavin Hall  
Dr. Eric and Maxine Honig  
Barbara and Shelly Kay  
Christine and John Langone  
Ellen and Bruce Lindemann  
Marla and David Mann  
Carolyn Meeks  
Janna and Jack Morgan, Jr.  
Matt Pearl  
Mary Ann Romski  
Dorothy and Bernard Rothkopf  
Carol and Fred Salmons  
Katie Sands  
Sally and Charlie Thomason

Lynn and Tom Tolleson  
Dudley and Linda Wass  
Cathy and John Wymer

## BUDDIES \$250 TO \$499

Laurie and Sid Besmertnik  
Alex Cohen  
Michael Cook  
Vyneta and Hugh Davis  
Dr. Howard and Ann Grant  
Pam and Shawn Hardister  
Susan and Hugo Hofer  
Maxwell Knight  
Carolyn and John Layman  
Marsha and Tom McNeer  
Nancy Miller  
Jenice and Peter Pearl  
Barbara and Larry Perlis  
Steven Prokesch  
Susan and Mitchell Rothkopf  
Gerry Serotte  
Daniel and Jennifer Shim  
John Steinbreder  
Carlton Stephens  
Diane and Jim Tebbel  
Julie Tenney  
Tara Trimble  
Mindy and Rick Waitsman  
Rosemary and Don Weber  
Drs. Barbara and Joe Weissman  
Debbie and Charles Zink

## PLAYMATES \$100 TO \$249

Sarah Anderson  
Marilyn and Jonathan Arkin  
Shawn and Jim Ballew  
Sanjay Bhagat  
Hershene and Joel Borrin  
Diane and Gerald Boucher  
Dr. Bonnie Prokesch and Bryan Boucher  
Dr. Rob and Jennifer Breiman  
Dr. Judson and Tammy Briggs  
Lisa Newbern and James Brown  
Cindy Burch  
Dr. Howard and Jennifer Caplan  
Debi Chalker  
Franke and John Cimaglia  
Joyce and Ronald Crowe  
Joan and Thomas Cunningham  
Carola Cuba and Rene de Vries  
Martha and Mike deMarco  
Sally and Pierre DeVincentis  
Dr. Ivan and Jill Diamond  
Dr. Lee and Bonnie Diamond  
Suzanne and Daniel Dooley  
Beth and Bob Eckstein  
Anne and Eric Feldman  
Beth and Michael Foy  
Jo Ann and Bill Graves  
Dr. Eric Greenhood  
Karl Gretzinger  
David Guzman  
Kathy Harber  
Roberta Huebner  
Nan and Bruce Hunter  
Kristin and Tony Intveld



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Ellen and Joel Katzowitz  
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Scott Hudgens Family Foundation  
The Marcus Foundation  
The Marjorie Neuhoff Foundation  
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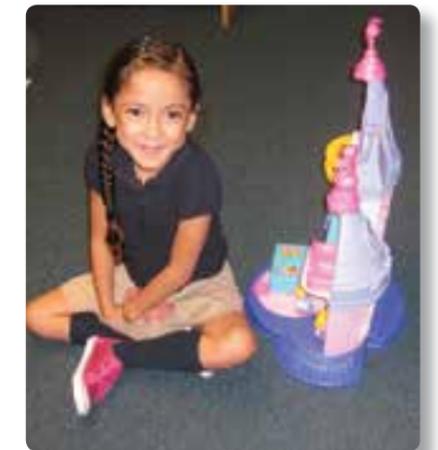
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## EMPLOYEE MATCHING COMPANIES

These companies have matched employee gifts to Lekotek. When making a donation to Lekotek, please ask if your company has a matching program.

AT&T  
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## EMPLOYEE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

These employers promote charitable donations to Lekotek through payroll deductions.

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# SCHOLARSHIP & SPECIAL GIFT FUNDS

These funds were created by parents and named in memory of children who benefited from Lekotek services. These funds continue to make a difference for Lekotek families.

- The Corey Etkind Memorial Fund
- The Katie Frongillo Memorial Fund
- The Kathryn Gillespie Memorial Fund
- The Lindsay Kluglein Memorial Fund
- The Rachel Mann Memorial Fund
- The Lauren Martin Scholarship Fund
- The Joshua Shartar Scholarship Fund
- The Charlotte Zink Technology Fund

**The Tom Catanese Memorial Fund** – Tom was a personal friend to Helene and managed the Cliff Valley Office Park. He willingly gave of his time and resources to help Lekotek establish satellites. His children established this fund to promote satellite growth.

**The Kathy Couch Memorial Fund** — Kathy Couch and her daughter, Laura, drove long distances to the Cliff Valley site. Despite a difficult illness, Kathy made great efforts for Laura to participate in weekly Compuplay sessions. Upon arriving both always had smiles. We hope their time at Lekotek meant as much to them as it did to us.

**The Alex Cunningham Scholarship Fund** — Alex Cunningham was a member of the Atlanta Optimist Club. During his lifetime and under his direction, the club designed and adapted toys for Lekotek. Mr. Cunningham’s toys continue to circulate, making a difference for children with disabilities. Affectionately nicknamed “Mr. C.”, his legacy lives on.

**The Dorothy Kay Memorial Fund** — Shelly Kay, past board member and chair, along with his sisters established a memorial fund to honor their mom. The purpose of this fund is to increase services to families on the waiting list.

**The Kevin Lewis Memorial Fund** – Kevin was the son of Barry and Kelly Lewis. Kelly was a staff member from 1992 – 2000 and Kevin was up early during his summer vacations to volunteer at summer computer camp. He had an abundance of patience and always an encouraging word for our campers.

**The Ernie McWilliams Memorial Fund** – Ernie was married to Peggy McWilliams who has been on staff for twenty years. Peggy initiated neonatal hospital play sessions and Ernie made many toys designed to meet the needs of these infants.

**The Trevor Meek Memorial Fund** — Trevor Meek was the nephew of Sharon Meek and grandson of Robert Meek. Sharon was a staff member from 1984 to 1992 and established Lekotek’s innovative technology program. Trevor’s grandfather, Robert Meek, created unique toy and technology solutions essential to the Lekotek inventory.

These funds are named in memory of Lekotek siblings, grandparents and great-grandparents whose grandchildren and great grandchildren have benefited from Lekotek services.

- The Beulah Beyer Memorial Fund
- The Pasquale Buchieri Memorial Fund
- The John Kalinski Memorial Fund
- The David Daniel McBrayer Memorial Fund
- The Ulrich V. Solmssen Memorial Fund
- The Joan Tebbel Memorial Fund
- The Talmadge L. Williams Memorial Fund

**The Clemens E. Prokesch Memorial Fund** — Dr. Clemens E. Prokesch was Helene Prokesch’s father-in-law. Dr. Prokesch was fond of Helene and her work on behalf of children with disabilities. The Prokesch children—Richard, Steven and Linda—created this fund in memory of their dad.

**The Al Rothkopf Memorial Fund** — Al Rothkopf was a cousin of Executive Director, Helene Prokesch. He and his wife, Sekie, have been long time advocates for children. Lekotek was honored by the family’s request that donations be made to Lekotek in Al’s memory.

**The Alan Rothkopf Memorial Fund** – Alan was a first cousin of Executive Director, Helene Prokesch. His parents, Dorothy and Bernie Rothkopf have always supported Lekotek and causes to help children with disabilities. They established this fund in memory of Alan.

**The Marjorie Rothkopf Memorial Fund** – Marjorie was a first cousin of Executive Director, Helene Prokesch. Her parents, Dorothy and Bernie Rothkopf established this fund in her memory.

**Chester A. Roush, Jr. Estate Bequest** — Mr. Roush’s grandson, Matthew was one of Lekotek’s first participants. This gift was designated by the Roush family in memory of Chester A. Roush, Jr. and in honor of Matthew. Matthew continues to enjoy LekoPals.

**The Brenda W. Smith Cobb Scholarship Memorial Fund** – Brenda was a friend to Lekotek. As executive assistant to Alex Roush Architects she coordinated sponsorships and foursomes for the annual Lekotek Golf Classic. Knowing how special Lekotek kids were to Brenda, her husband Ron established this fund to provide scholarships for our Cobb county families.

**The Diane Wolpert Memorial Fund** — Diane Wolpert was not only a friend to executive director, Helene Prokesch, but a friend to everyone. She was one of the first to visit Lekotek in the basement of Easter Seals and help secure funds. She volunteered and never missed a Lekotek run.

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**Lekotek of Georgia**  
Making a Difference for Children with Disabilities



Cover photos by  
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