

THE POWER OF PLAY



Lekotek

Making a Difference for
Children with Disabilities

**2017-2018
ANNUAL REPORT**



THE POWER OF LEKOTEK



1983

Lekotek of Georgia incorporates and receives its 501c3 tax exemption.

1984

Lekotek receives space in the basement of Easter Seals and seed money from The Liz Claiborne Foundation and The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta.

2002

Lekotek receives a Bobby Dodd Award for Services of Excellence..



2003

Lekotek celebrates its 20th anniversary with three satellites in addition to the main Atlanta center.

THIRTY FIVE YEARS OF ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS



2010

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

2011

Lekotek receives an Inclusion Champion Award from The Mitsubishi Foundation.



1986

Apple donates 3 computers and computer loans and technology become an integral part of the Lekotek program.

1991

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

1997

Lekotek opens a second satellite in Cobb county.



2012

Lekotek initiates its fifth satellite in Gainesville.

2013

Lekotek celebrates its 30th anniversary and now has six centers in Georgia.



2000

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



2014

Lekotek initiates iPad loans with apps to meet each child's individual needs.

2017

Lekotek receives a Chick-Fil-A True Inspiration Award and a Martin Luther King Community Service Award from the Rollins School of Public Health and The Goizueta Business School.





WHY PLAY?

Lekotek is unique in helping all children learn through play. While children with disabilities spend countless hours at therapy and doctors' appointments, it's important that they have time to play just like any other child. Like Andy from Toy Story we all have fond childhood memories of play with our favorite toys. At Lekotek, toy, computer and iPad adaptations make it possible for every child to play. Lekotek equalizes the playing field so everyone gets in the game.

Play is powerful and essential because children learn through play. They learn cognitive skills like phonics, reading, math and problem solving. They develop fine motor skills while building and balancing. Pretend play facilitates imagination, creativity and social awareness. Creating opportunities for a child to play develops confidence and self-esteem. As our Lekotek kids graduate and go onto college and/or work places, the success they experience at Lekotek results in self-assurance needed in their young adult lives.

With a graduate degree in special education, Lekotek seemed like the perfect place to pursue my career. And so I began Lekotek of Georgia in the basement of Easter Seals where 52 families participated in play sessions, year one. Today, we have six sites and last year 720 families benefited from play sessions as well as 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. With generous support from many of you reading this report, Lekotek has changed significantly. Each year we have helped more children and families, adding diverse program services. But we have remained steadfast to the power of play and our mission of including children with disabilities into family and community life. Thirty five years after initiating Lekotek of Georgia, I am more convinced than ever that Lekotek remains unique with its focus on play and family inclusion.

I came to Lekotek to teach children with special needs. My job requires that I wear many hats, but none is more rewarding than helping a child learn through play. 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. I have learned so much from our 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

"Children learn as they play. More importantly, in play children learn how to learn."

- O. Fred Donaldson

WHAT IS LEKOTEK?

Lekotek of Georgia envisions a world where children with disabilities are included and empowered through play. 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. Since 1983, Lekotek has made a difference for more than 6,000 children and families who have traveled from 36 Georgia counties and three states. Lekotek occupies a unique niche in the lives of children with special needs. It's a welcome break from therapy. Through play, Lekotek facilitates inclusion and learning along the way.

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 families had children with disabilities and were advised to place their children in residential settings. These moms were determined to make inclusion a goal for their children. And so they founded Lekotek, using play and toy adaptations to help their children become contributing members of 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, iPads, 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 while strengthening abilities. Unlike typical therapies, parents, siblings, grandparents and even aunts and uncles participate in play sessions.





IN HIS OWN WORDS

MEET NICK KOSTOPOULOS

Reflecting on the mission of Lekotek, I was struck by the phrase “a world where children with disabilities are included and empowered through play.” Having a disability or otherwise, all people have dreams. We all seek to be valued members of our families, classrooms, peer groups and wider communities. In some respects, these human needs: to have both our dreams and our lives accepted, are goals toward which people with disabilities are still making strides.

As a person with cerebral palsy, I am all too aware of this reality. Whether out of fear or ignorance, many able-bodied people are still unsure of ways to include people with special needs in education, and even later, in the workforce. Thankfully, when I was younger, my parents were staunch advocates for inclusivity, especially when it came to my education. As advocates, I also know that they were met with resistance and uncertainty from those who wondered if my disability would be a distraction for the rest of the class, or if I would be able to keep up with my able-bodied peers.

Lekotek then, was a breath of fresh air. Some of my most vivid memories pertaining to Lekotek are of attending sessions, not just by myself, but also with my typical brother and cousins joining in the play. In that sense, it wasn't simply about the educational aspects of engaging with the technology; Lekotek provided opportunities for me to grow closer relationships with my family, while also giving them a chance to see just what services like Lekotek offer to children with special needs.

While I confess that these are the moments that stick out clearest in my mind, it's this aspect of finding ways to bring people together for which Lekotek should be commended as an organization. In a time when people are becoming increasingly more focused on the things that divide us, Lekotek's mission to make sure that children with special needs are included in their families, their schools and the outside world is vital and necessary.

Many years after my direct involvement with Lekotek had ended, I was afforded the amazing opportunity to attend the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, having been accepted into that program's Screenwriting Division. One of the first people my mother told was Helene Prokesch. Helene had been an invaluable source of support, not only through Lekotek, but she had also stepped in to advocate on my behalf at a particularly contentious IEP (individualized educational planning meeting for students with special needs). I also have no doubt that Lekotek's twin impulses—to empower and include—only helped to further my dream to move to Los Angeles and attend USC.

I would like to offer my thanks to Helene and the staff of Lekotek. I hope that this direct testimonial from a former “Lekotek kid” reinforces the importance of a vital place; a place that seeks to construct bridges, as well as a place that teaches kids to hold on to their dreams.



LEKOTEK FAMILY SURVEY OUTCOMES

93%

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

98%

Percent of families who do not feel judged at Lekotek.

90%

Percent of parents who believe their child has learned cause and effect, computer literacy and/or cognitive abilities due to Lekotek.

90%

Percent of families who receive helpful information and resources.

90%

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

93%

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

88%

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

90%

Percent of families that feel less isolated.

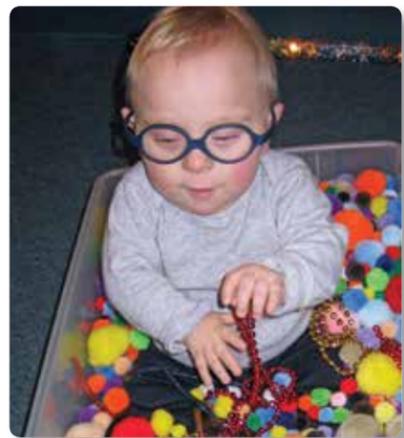
90%

Percent of families who play together more often.





UNIQUE & DIVERSE PROGRAM SERVICES



TOY/COMPUTER/iPAD LENDING LIBRARY

Lekotek's toy/computer inventory is comprised of more than 4,000 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, computers and iPads 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 computers. These systems are used at our centers and/or loaned to families. Before the family borrows the computer, the Lekotek leader customizes it to meet the child's individual needs and the parent receives training on how to use adapted input devices and software. More than two hundred computers have been loaned. Replicating this successful model, Lekotek began loaning iPads a few years ago. To date, more than 75 families have had the opportunity to have an iPad at home for a two month period. Both loan programs provide excellent opportunities for children with disabilities to experience technology and its benefits.

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 children 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. 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 an eye gaze system, adapted joysticks, touch screens, adapted trackballs, and switches (large buttons interfaced with the computer). An eye gaze system allows the child to use a computer simply by looking. A camera affixed to the computer, tracks the child's pupils and just by looking the child is able to direct the cursor. With innovative technology, children are reading, writing stories, playing music, learning math concepts, word processing and problem solving. Computer and iPad assisted learning is making it possible for children with disabilities to participate with siblings at home and peers in school.

NEONATAL & HOME BASED PLAY SESSIONS

During the past decade, there has been a significant increase in premature births resulting in developmental delays and lengthy hospital stays in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit). Conducting play sessions at the hospital helps to normalize the hospital environment as infants, parents, grandparents and siblings interact with one another and learn through play. One mom commented, "With each bag of toys, Lekotek brought hope and joy." With a laptop and a Lekotek bag filled with developmentally appropriate toys, Lekotek leaders bring the outside world of play to the child. When these infants are discharged, many are medically fragile and require home visits. While more costly, these visits may be even more important for children unable to travel.

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, Easter Egg Hunts and family activities in the community. Family events include annual visits to state parks, children's museums, the pumpkin patch, zoo, and attending major league baseball and basketball games. With support from Lekotek, families who might be 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 play and learn 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 adolescents and teens 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 computer activities, everyone enjoys dinner and birthdays are frequently celebrated at Computer Club.

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 Washington University in Seattle.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

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





PARTNERSHIPS & RESOURCES

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, Lekotek conducts 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, the staff demonstrates the use of adapted toys and computer equipment at companies and 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 whom the Avatar robot prototype will be made available by year's end.

Dr. Stephen Sprigle is in the Rehabilitation Engineering 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. Staff members 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) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lekotekga). These sites are also linked to additional resources. Families and friends of Lekotek can learn of upcoming programs and special events through our LinkedIn and Facebook pages.



LEKOTEK LOCATIONS

Now in its 35th year, Lekotek of Georgia has made a difference for more than 6,000 children and families. This year, 720 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 360 families have benefitted from play sessions, play dates, music, compuplay and computer/iPad evaluations at this site.

Duluth, Georgia—Lekotek of Georgia's first satellite was established in 1991 with donated space from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Located in donated space at Children's Rehabilitation Center on Satellite Boulevard in Duluth, this site conducts monthly play sessions to 45 families. During the past 26 years, more than 800 families from six counties have benefitted from its services.

Kennesaw, Georgia—With a grant from the John Harland Foundation for satellite development, 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, 505 families have participated in play groups, club, compuplay, computer/iPad evaluations, music, Happy Tails, rafting and fishing, Easter Egg Hunts, community outings and play sessions. With a lengthy waiting list and an opportunity to expand, this site doubled its size in July of 2017. With increased space, the Cobb site will increase its capacity to serve additional children and offer more programs.

Fayetteville, Georgia—In June 2006, Lekotek opened a southside satellite in Fayetteville, Georgia and more than 300 families have benefitted. 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. Programs at this satellite include 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. The Gainesville Lekotek offers play sessions, music, Happy Tails, family activities and computer/iPad evaluations.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE CHILD AT A TIME



MEET ANDREW

Neither of our pregnancies was easy, but our time with Andrew was particularly hard due to pre-term labor complications that began with strict bed rest and ultimately resulted in permanent admittance to the hospital at only 29 weeks. Andrew was born a few weeks later following an emergency C-section, and while the gravity of the situation was not lost on either of us, we had no reason to suspect that anything had gone terribly wrong. Over the ensuing months, Andrew had several follow-up doctor visits to which any premature child is typically subjected. While nothing about Andrew's first few months felt significantly different, his neurologist was becoming increasingly concerned about his developmental delays. Following an MRI that was performed at the early age of just five months, we were told that Andrew suffered brain trauma in the hours prior to delivery. He was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and cortical visual impairment.

Most five year olds spend their time on jungle gyms, watching Sesame Street, or reading Curious George. Our son spends his hours at doctor offices being prodded, poked, stretched, evaluated, or some combination thereof. Andrew is consistently subjected to a rigorous schedule of therapies to teach basic life functions that most parents take for granted. However, we have learned that the will and determination of a child is powerful enough to overcome any challenge when surrounded by caring, nurturing individuals. The Lekotek program has been one such outlet through which Andrew will be forever changed, particularly because it provides a reprieve from his routine and an opportunity to "just have fun". It is early yet in Andrew's journey, but his life has been touched in so many special ways by his play sessions with Peggy and the hard work of the entire Lekotek family.

MEET SYDNEY

We're the Johnsons, a family of three, living in Acworth. Jeremy works at Kennesaw State University, and I, Haley, am both a full-time mom and part-time student at Kennesaw State. Sydney is our precocious almost five year old. Like many girls her age, Sydney enjoys playing dress-up and wearing sparkly things, pretending to cook and helping in the kitchen. She enjoys books, spending time at the pool or park, playing pranks, and art projects—the messier the better. She also has cerebral palsy. Syd does not walk or crawl, and she uses a Nova-Chat — a speech generating device — to communicate instead of talking.

A serious car accident changed the trajectory of a typical pregnancy and Jeremy and I sat through a series of discussions with our medical team. Syd's prognosis was unknown, and due to intrauterine growth restriction and evidence of a brain bleed after the accident, our doctors thought it best to induce and deliver her early. None of us knew what to expect then or down the road—would she go to the NICU? Have serious health complications? Arrive without consequence? Have future health complications? Syd arrived three weeks early, weighing less than 5 pounds. She was a determined little trooper from the start, unleashing a determined cry. Over the course of that first year, Syd graced us with her smiles and already apparent moxie.

After relocating to Georgia from Virginia, her new pediatrician immediately referred us to Babies Can't Wait and a neurologist. Syd began physical, speech feeding, and occupational therapies. She has flourished under the care of her team of therapists, teachers, and cheerleaders. We discovered Lekotek this year after looking online for new, fun activities for her. We've been attending sessions at the Cobb satellite with Betsy for almost six months. Syd loves playing with toys that she can operate, drawing on the Smart Board, and playing computer games using Lekotek's newest technology, the eye gaze system. It's so wonderful having an outlet that's enriching and educational but more importantly, just plain fun!

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, 2017, reserves were approximately 100 percent of the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget. These reserves are crucial for safeguarding the organization against contingencies, initiating new services, increasing capacity, and maintaining an inventory of "state of the art" technology.

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 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 community support, these goals will 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, 2017

Personnel	
Director/Lekotek Leaders	
Contracted Services	
Educational Consultants	
Personnel Total	\$330,000

Operational Expenses	
Facilities	
Staff Development	
Professional Dues Subscriptions	
Total Operational Expenses	\$160,000

Special Programs	
Technology Program	
Scholarship Fund	
Neonatal and Home-Based Play Sessions	
Summer Computer Camp	
Satellite Expansion	
LekoPals/Computer Club Inclusion Project	
Computer and iPad Evaluations	
Total Program Expenses	\$175,000

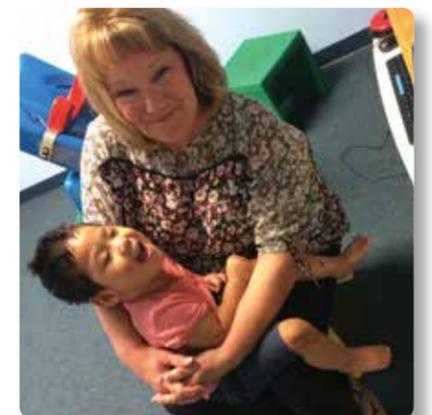
Capital Expenditures	
Specialized Toy and Educational Inventory	
Technology Equipment - Adapted input devices & software	
Total Capital Expenditures	\$40,000

Total Budget \$705,000

PROJECTED REVENUE STREAMS

General Contributions	\$430,000
Special Events	\$155,500
Direct Mail Fundraising Campaign	\$45,000
Membership Dues/ Computer Fees	\$25,000
Professional/Consulting Fees	\$1,000
Family Program Fees	\$2,000
Board Pledge	\$25,000
Interest Dividends	\$21,500

Total Projected Income \$705,000
(This is the total organizational budget to operate six sites.)



FRIENDS OF LEKOTEK

CHAMPIONS \$2,000 AND UP

Donna Younts and Wayne Akins
Karen and Tommy Beman
Elaine and John Carlos
Nancy and Marshall Ford
Laura and Shawn Fowler
Kathy and David Giancola
Theodore and Afton LaVallee
Lenore Maslia
Lakshmi and Shashi Reddy
Dr. Michael and Cary Rothkopf
Linda and Larry Smith
Sally and Charlie Thomason
Trish and Scott Thompson
Diane and Bill Weatherford
Rosemary and Dan Weber
Vickey and Ed Wile

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

Carole Campbell
Perri and Rick Courtheoux
Katie and Jim Edwards
Laura and Ed Eschleman
Irma Rodriguez and Fred Fernandez
Dr. John and Melissa Merlino
Sandy and Mike Moore
JoBeth and Bryan Nicoll
Leslie and Gary Null
Dr. Richard and Helene Prokesch
Scott Rice
Lauren and John Seidl
Mary Beth and Michael Sierra
Linda and Dudley Wass

FANS \$500 TO \$999

Anonymous
Shawn and Jim Ballew
Dr. Bonnie Prokesch and Bryan Boucher
Gerrilyn and Walter Brill
Brittany and John Charron
Erin DiChiara and Michael Coddington
Christina and Clint Fishback
Catherine and Lance Hagaman
Dr. Anna Kalynych
Christine and John Langone
Ellen and Bruce Lindemann
Carl Mansell
Carolyn Meeks
Matt Pearl
Steven Prokesch
Dr. Neil and Judy Ramquist
Phyllis and Sidney Rodbell
Dr. Mary Ann Romski
Susan and Mitchell Rothkopf

Vickie and Jay Sanders
Sue and Phillip Smallwood
Karen Smith
Lynn and Tom Tolleson
Mimi and Mark Umstead
Nick Valentino
Judge Rick and Mindy Waitsman
Drs. Barb and Joseph Weissman
Cathy and John Wymer

BUDDIES \$250 TO \$499

Sarah Anderson
Danielle Ayers
Don Beskin
Laurie and Sid Besmertnik
Hershene and Joel Borrin
Ruthanna and William Bost
Jeanne Bowden
Dr. Rob and Jennifer Breiman
Franke and John Cimaglia
Michael Cook
Martha and Mike deMarco
Adam Dewey
Alaine Dockery
Laura and David Flink
Debbie Fox
Pam and Shawn Hardister
Dr. Eric and Maxine Honig
Joyce and Craig Jackson
Barbara and Shelly Kay
Kelly and John Kinder
Dr. Markus Klass
Lynette Mathews
Anne McComiskey
Lynette and Horton McCurdy
Marsha and Tom McNeer
Susan and Brooks Patterson
Jenice and Peter Pearl
Richard Pease
Beth Pullias
Linda and Rick Raschke
Karen and Stan Ruszkowski
Jennifer and Daniel Shim
Mike Simonetto
Jane Ayers and Jim Smith
Diane and Jim Tebbel
Julie Tenney
Tara Trimble
Dr. H. E. and Carol Tucker
Richard Valentino
Mindy Waitsman
Christina and Michael Wolf
Debbie and Charles Zink

PLAYMATES \$100 TO \$249

Judy Allison

Dr. Herbert and Ann Alperin
Barbara Arensman
Amy and Jeff Asher
Ann Bailey
Lisa Bankoff
Donna Barwick
Stuart Bern
Paula Bevington
Dr. Ann Early Bibb
Sandy Blalock
Diane and Gerald Boucher
Sara Jean Burke
Dr. Howard and Jennifer Caplan
Debi Chalker
Susan Coddon
Gladys Coffino
Marc Cohen
William Coolidge
Joyce and Ronald Crowe
Rene de Vries and Carola Cuba
Joan and Thomas Cunningham
Lucy Cusick
Sally and Pierre deVincentis
Dr. Ivan and Jill Diamond
Stephen Doherty
Suzanne and Dan Dooley
Margaret Eskew
Anne and Eric Feldman
Katie and John Field
Vera Fishback
Teresa Fleming
Meg Flynn
Steven and Catherine Fox
Beth and Michael Foy
Janet and Adam Frey
Nancy Gallant
Janet Gross and Jonathan Glass
Dr. Howard and Ann Grant
Kim and John Gravely
JoAnn and Bill Graves
Dr. Gary and Jackie Greenwood
Karl Gretzinger
David Guzman
Judith Hays
Evelyn Helmers
Pamela Helms
Melissa and Michael Hentges
Carolyn Hewes
Meg Heyer
Lesley High
Susan and Hugo Hofer
May Hollis
Jennifer Hooper
Robert Huebner
Sandra and Donald Jewell
Dr. Julie Kagan
Ellen and Joel Katzowitz
Ann Klamon
Amy Berne and Rick Klupchak
Erina Nichols and Randy Lambert
Tom and Becky Lass
Brianna LeGate

Elaine Levin
Elizabeth Levine
Barbara Levy
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These companies have matched employee gifts to Lekotek. When making a donation to Lekotek, please ask if your company has a matching program.

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These employers promote charitable donations to Lekotek through payroll deductions.

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LEKOTEK 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](#)
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- [The Kendall Smith Memorial Fund](#)
- [The Rachel Mann Memorial Fund](#)
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- [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 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 kids. 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-five 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 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 Ulrich V. Solmssen Memorial Fund](#)
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- [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.

The Alan Rothkopf and Marjorie Rothkopf Memorial Fund – Alan and Marjorie were first cousins to executive director, Helene Prokesch. Their parents established memorial funds for Lekotek in their memory.

The Dorothy and Bernard Estate Bequest - Bernard and Dorothy Rothkopf were an aunt and uncle to Executive Director, Helene Prokesch. They always supported Lekotek and children’s organizations that help children with special needs.

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.

Lillian Rothkopf Memorial Fund – Perhaps no person has had a greater impact on Lekotek in her mentoring and parenting, Executive Director, Helene Prokesch. This fund was established to fund moms’ night out and special family events.

The Elmer Edward Salmons Memorial Fund - Fred Salmons serves on Lekotek’s funding advisory. He and his siblings created a memorial fund in memory of his dad, Elmer Edward Salmons. This fund will support Lekotek’s innovative technology program.

The Brenda W. Smith Cobb Scholarship Memorial Fund – Brenda was a friend to Lekotek. As executive assistant to Alex Roush at Alex Roush Architects she coordinated sponsorships and foursomes for the annual Lekotek Golf Classic.

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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