



LEKOTEK OF GEORGIA

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



37 YEARS OF SUCCESS

6 locations throughout metro Atlanta

6,500

children with physical and cognitive disabilities served to date

1,200

neonatal and home based play sessions conducted by staff

80

family events implemented this year that include an Easter Egg hunt, zoo day, Halloween party, Holiday party, rafting, fishing and others

21,200

moms, dads, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles have benefitted from Lekotek programs

4,200

play/learning sessions conducted this year



WELCOME TO LEKOTEK



In the months leading up to their child's birth, parents have high aspirations for their daughter or son, anticipating what she or he might accomplish. Upon learning that their child has a disability, they naturally react with disbelief, shock, and anguish. But sadness and grief quickly turn into a steadfast determination for their child to have a rich, meaningful life. When families encounter road blocks, Lekotek provides solutions and encouragement. Our families take comfort in knowing they are not alone.

Recently, Tijan, a little boy who has a rare genetic syndrome, attended camp. His mom confided that he had never had a friend; children were afraid of him because he looks different. But at Lekotek summer computer camp Tijan, a bright little boy with a cheerful personality, was the most popular camper. Lekotek helped Tijan see that he could make friends. Lekotek also helps moms and dads, siblings and grandparents feel less isolated, providing opportunities for them to interact, learn, and share with others. We are a community.

Children with disabilities have the same needs as every child—to learn, play, be included, have friends, and be loved. To realize their full potential, they need people to see all of them: their unique personalities, their talents, their sense of humor, their ambitions. And they need to learn how to believe in themselves so that they can achieve their dreams. Today many Lekotek graduates are attending colleges and working in their communities. Some are living independently and others in group homes. All are achieving their goals and realizing Lekotek's mission of inclusion.

There is a story about raising a child with a disability by Emily Perl Kingsley that is a favorite among those of us in the field of special education. "When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy," and when the plane lands, you find yourself in Holland. "But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around...and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills...and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts." Lekotek is proud to have helped thousands of families travel safely and appreciate the beauty of Holland.

Helene Prokesch
Founder & Executive Director

THE POWER OF PLAY THE POWER OF LEKOTEK

Lekotek of Georgia 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. At Lekotek, toy, computer and iPad adaptations equalize the playing field making it possible for every child to experience the joy of play while learning along the way. Facilitating opportunities for successful play helps children develop confidence and self-esteem. As our Lekotek kids graduate and go on to college and work places, the success they find at Lekotek creates the self-assurance they need in their young adult lives.

Lekotek 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 6,500 children and families. 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. Lekotek welcomes families from all Georgia counties and even other states.

LEKO-WHO, LEKO-WHAT?

"Lekotek" is a made-up Swedish word meaning 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 institutions. These moms were determined to make inclusion a goal for their children. And so they founded Lekotek, believing that play and toy adaptations would facilitate learning and inclusion.

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 HER OWN WORDS



MEET NOELLE FORD

When I think about the many years our family spent at Lekotek, what comes to mind is that Lekotek is a wonderful place where all people can play and learn. At Lekotek, no one is judged and everyone is accepted. By being accepted into a community like Lekotek, I was able to make friends and relate to others.

As a person with a disability, specifically cerebral palsy (CP), I struggle every day with walking and balance. In addition, there are other challenges. Perhaps the greatest is accepting that life is going to be harder than it is for others. Another difficulty of having CP was finding schools with the right program for me. In middle school, we realized that I needed to be at a school with a smaller student teacher ratio. Ms. Helene was a big help in finding the right school for me. Attending this school improved my academic performance. It also helped me become my own advocate, as it was the first time I attended a different school than my two, triplet sisters.

I have some great memories of play sessions with my two sisters and brother and later attending computer camp with my siblings. My siblings and I graduated from being campers to counselors. We made sure the computer games worked correctly and helped campers access the computers with modifications designed to meet their specific needs. There have been many benefits from volunteering at Lekotek. The first benefit is that I have made great friends. The friends I have made at Lekotek helped me realize that I have to keep trying and never give up. The second benefit is that I helped the campers experience success by encouraging them to keep trying. As I transition to the Academy program at Kennesaw State University, I will miss volunteering at Lekotek. However, I will take a part of Lekotek with me to Kennesaw State because 2 volunteers I met at Lekotek, Emily Nevitt and Mia Vahle, will be my helpers while I live on campus.

In addition to volunteering at Lekotek camp, going to the Lekotek race and the pumpkin patch are also fond memories. At the Lekotek race, I would walk the 1 mile race and then help Ms. Helene give out the race awards. The annual pumpkin patch was held every fall. My family and I would go to the pumpkin patch and pick out a big pumpkin and little pumpkins for each of us. We would put the little pumpkins on the window sills and enjoy all fall.

I would like to thank Ms. Helene for starting Lekotek because I would not be as smart with technology as I am today. I would also like to thank the entire Lekotek staff for supporting me. Lekotek has made a huge difference in my life because it has helped me realize my talents and abilities. Lekotek is a special place. It's been a home where our family has been able to have fun, learn together and meet new friends.



93%

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

100%

Percent of families who do not feel judged at Lekotek.

LEKOTEK FAMILY SURVEY OUTCOMES

93%

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

96%

Percent of families who receive helpful information and resources.

97%

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

95%

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

92%

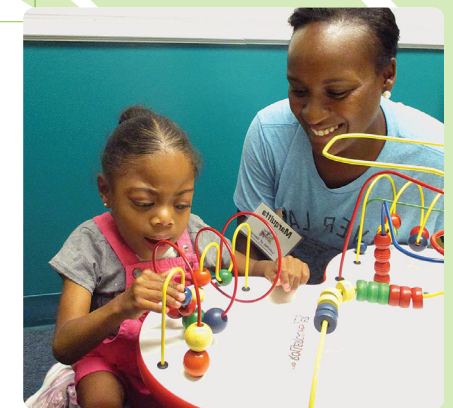
Percent of families who feel more comfortable participating in community activities with their child.

93%

Percent of families that feel less isolated.

95%

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 4,300 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 iPads and computers. These are used at our centers and also loaned to families. Before the family borrows the computer or iPad, the Lekotek leader customizes it to meet the child's individual needs and the parent receives training on how to use adapted input devices, software and apps. More than two hundred computers have been loaned. Replicating this successful model, Lekotek began loaning iPads several years ago. To date, more than ninety 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. 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. When these infants are discharged, many are medically fragile and require home visits. 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. 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 hesitant to participate in community events now enjoy all that Atlanta has to offer 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. State-of-the-art technology equalizes the playing field making it possible for everyone to 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 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 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.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Staff members conduct workshops on inclusion, assistive technology and toy adapting. Agencies, professionals, and parents benefit from a variety of consulting and support services. Lekotek is well respected in Georgia and throughout the country for its expertise in disabilities, inclusion, and toy and technology adaptations.





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 picnics, fishing and rafting trips.

Lekotek also works closely with statewide Babies Can't Wait, Georgia P.I.N.E.S. (a state-wide 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 conduct workshops on toy adaptation and assistive technology to companies, schools and colleges. 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.

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 37th year, Lekotek of Georgia has made a difference for more than 6,500 children and families. This year, 828 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 raising funds necessary to employ additional staff 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

Alpharetta, Georgia—Families in Forsyth and North Fulton counties requested that Lekotek offer services closer to their homes. Originally housed at Children's Healthcare in Alpharetta, this site opened in 2000. Due to the demand for increased space to meet the needs of additional families, this site relocated to an office park in downtown Alpharetta. Approximately 400 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 currently conducts play/learning sessions to 45 families. During the past 28 years, more than 800 families have benefitted from its services.

Kennesaw, Georgia—With a grant 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 110 families. To date, 650 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.

Fayetteville, Georgia—In June 2006, Lekotek opened a southside satellite in Fayetteville, Georgia and more than 350 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. This site quickly outgrew the space provided by Walker and now occupies 1200 square feet in an office building. More than 175 families in North Georgia who previously were unable to participate due to lengthy travel distances to sites, have now benefitted from Lekotek. The Gainesville Lekotek offers play sessions, music, Happy Tails, family activities and computer/iPad evaluations.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE CHILD AT A TIME



OUR INSPIRATION – CONRAD

Conrad is our inspirational, pure, kind, thoughtful, sweet, and witty little five year old who takes on life with incredible perseverance. Conrad was a healthy, full term baby and we were instantly smitten. Four weeks later at his one month check-up, our doctor noticed he was keeping his head turned in one direction. He recommended a physical therapy evaluation and we began treatment for torticollis. What we thought was just torticollis turned into hypotonia (low muscle tone) as he grew. At 16-20 months, almost like a light switch, all the words he knew and used on a daily basis disappeared. We pushed it aside, thinking he was working on walking and it was hard to do two things at the same time.

With his older sister in kindergarten and a new baby at home, we enrolled Conrad in a preschool. Conrad's teacher was concerned that he wasn't playing with others. I made up every excuse to explain why, "Maybe it's just his personality, or "Perhaps there is too much activity in the class". But I knew it wasn't and following her suggestion, we pursued services from Babies Can't Wait. They provided structured play and suggested he be evaluated for autism. "No way, really?", "Not my kid, he can't have autism". Their concerns were confirmed at his three year check-up, a day that is forever etched in my memory.

As a special education teacher myself, (go figure) I knew that surrounding him with typical peers and continuing private therapies would help close the gap and keep him moving forward. We learned about Lekotek - a program whose mission is to help children with special needs all while playing and increasing social skills - sign us up! All three of my children love Ms. Valerie. She is patient, kind and chooses toys and games not just for Conrad, but also for Savannah and Farrah. Lekotek is truly unique in including siblings and making them feel important too. Our three children love Happy Tails, Leko-Music, the Halloween Party, Zoo Day and all Lekotek events. But their absolute favorite is summer computer camp. I love that it gives the child with special needs an opportunity to have a great time with other children with special needs. Equally important, it gives "typical" siblings the opportunity to come together. Like a big melting pot, they all learn from each other.

OUR BEAUTIFUL BELLE

"Every day may not be good but there is something good in every day." This has been our inspiration since embarking on a very unique journey with our special little girl. Belle was a full-term, "healthy" 5 month old baby until one day in March of 2016. Belle began having seizures, which led to a hospital stay and MRI. What we anticipated to be a normal MRI was far from it. The photos of Belle's brain showed a rare brain malformation called Pachygyria- meaning parts of Belle's brain are smooth rather than wrinkly. It's most pronounced in the back portion of Belle's brain, in areas that control motor skills and visual processing.

Due to this malformation Belle has limited use of her arms, impaired visual processing and significant delays with sitting and weight bearing. We are involved in many therapy sessions which aren't always fun. But that is where Lekotek comes in. Upon our first visit with our Lekotek leader, Valerie, we knew we had a reprieve from rigorous therapy sessions. Belle instantly connected with Valerie and spends every session smiling from ear to ear and cackling as she plays with fun toys and technology, selected and adapted to meet her needs. Belle's fine motor skills and use of her arms are improving because of Lekotek. And best of all, we get to take everything home to continue to play, practice and learn. The joy we receive seeing Belle motivated and successful is priceless.

Lekotek is an inspirational organization for parents and families like us. It gives us hope that Belle will progress and achieve all that she is capable of accomplishing. No parents expect to face these kinds of challenges. But life with Belle suddenly puts everything into perspective. We celebrate every win, no matter how big or small. We are proud of Belle and from the bottom of our hearts we thank our Lekotek family for their love and support.

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, golf tournament, Brewfest and silent auction. As a result, its financial condition is stable. At year-end, June 30, 2019, reserves were approximately 100 percent of the 2019 - 2020 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. 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 critical 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, 2019

Personnel	
Director/Lekotek Leaders	
Contracted Services	
Educational Consultants	
Personnel Total	\$354,800
Operational Expenses	
Facilities	
Staff Development	
Professional Dues Subscriptions	
Total Operational Expenses	\$234,200
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	\$121,000
Capital Expenditures	
Specialized Toy and Educational Inventory	
Technology Equipment - Adapted input devices & software	
Total Capital Expenditures	\$40,000
Total Budget	\$750,000

PROJECTED REVENUE STREAMS

General Contributions	\$437,000
Special Events	\$165,500
Direct Mail Fundraising Campaign	\$65,000
Membership Dues/ Computer Fees	\$25,500
Professional/Consulting Fees	\$1,000
Family Program Fees	\$2,000
Board Pledge	\$25,000
Interest Dividends	\$29,000

Total Projected Income **\$750,000**
(This is the total organizational budget to operate six sites.)



FRIENDS OF LEKOTEK

CHAMPIONS \$2,000 AND UP

Anonymous
Donna Younts and Wayne Akins
Karen and Tommy Beman
Elaine and John Carlos
Joni and Mac Cushing
Carrie and Dan Donovan
Catherine and Lance Hagaman
Adam Johnson
Afton and Theodore LaVallee
Sandy and Mike Moore
Dr. Michael and Cary Rothkopf
Linda and Larry Smith
Joanne and Win Smith
Sally and Charlie Thomason
Scott Thompson
Rosemary and Don Weber
Vickey and Ed Wile

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

Aimee Alexander
Shawn and Jim Ballew
Dr. Bonnie Prokesch and Bryan Boucher
Michele and Dave Calhoun
Perri and Rick Courtheoux
Katie and Jim Edwards
Laura and Ed Eschleman
Irma Rodriguez and Fred Fernandez
Nancy and Marshall Ford
Laura and Shawn Fowler
Kate Hale
Eb and Lucy Munden
Leslie and Gary Null
Lydia and Michael Price
Dr. Richard and Helene Prokesch
Elise Rubenstein
Pat and Ben Satterfield
Lauren and John Seidl
Mary Beth and Michael Sierra
Mimi and Corky Umstead
Diane and Bill Weatherford

FANS \$500 TO \$999

Anonymous
Laurie and Sid Besmertnik
Dr. Ann Early Bibb
Marc Cohen
Anthony Daniel
Laura and David Flink
Debbie Fox
Margaret Grice
Dr. Anna Kalynych
Dr. John and Christine Langone

Ellen and Bruce Lindemann
Carl Mansell
Carolyn Meeks
Dr. John and Melissa Merlino
Matthew Pearl
Betsy Primm
Steven Prokesch
Judy and Neil Ramquist
Linda and Rick Raschke
Mary Ann Romski
Karen Smith
Traci and Reggie Steward
Lynn and Tom Tolleson
Drs. Barb and Joe Weissman
Cathy and John Wymer

BUDDIES \$250 TO \$499

Carola Cuba and Rene de Vries
Gary Alembik
Danielle Ayers
Andrea and Stuart Bern
Don Beskin
Emily Chester
Joyce and Ronald Crowe
Martha and Mike deMarco
Donna and Furman Drake
Kathy and David Giancola
Janet Gross and Jonathan Glass
Ilene and Adrian Grant
Dr. Eric and Maxine Honig
Lorraine Kaas
Barb and Shelly Kay
Vanessa and Harlan Kickhoefer
Kelly and John Kinder
Anne McComiskey
Marsha and Tom McNeer
Meg Flynn Monteith
Susan and Stephen Owings
Susan and Brooks Patterson
Jenice and Peter Pearl
Carol and Mark Pollard
Jackie Marcucci and David Price
Scott Rothkopf and Jonathan Burnham
Susan and Mitchell Rothkopf
Sheila and Marty Rotter
Susan and Alex Roush
Carol and Fred Salmons
Johanna and David Skid
Jane Ayers and Jim Smith
Julie Tenney
Judge Rick and Mindy Waitsman
Molly and Jeff Willis
Gay Winter
Christina and Mike Wolf
Lorie and John Wooten
Monica and Chris Wright
Debbie and Charles Zink

PLAYMATES \$100 TO \$249

Sarah Anderson
Duane Bargiel
Inez Beyer
Hershene and Joel Borrin
Diane and Gerry Boucher
Dr. Rob and Jennifer Breiman
Judge Gerrilyn and Walter Brill
Joe Buie
Beth and John Burton
Christina Callesis
James Caldwell III
Dr. Howard and Jennifer Caplan
Bridgette Carter
William Cartwright
Debi Chalker
Franke and John Cimaglia
Meredith Clubb
Gladys Coffino
Sharon Cohen
Sharon Cole
Leigh and Michael Cook
Amanda Cunningham
Nicole Deaton
Dr. Ivan and Jill Diamond
Dr. Lee and Bonnie Diamond
Stephen Doherty
Fiona and Moses Dominguez
Suzanne and Daniel Dooley
Shon Dorsey
Lynette and David Evans
Brandi Fairchild
Anne and Eric Feldman
Bebe Fendel
Dr. Bruce and Debbie Fisher
Linda and Bill Foster
Eleanor Frongillo
Marcia and Josh Ganz
Kim and John Gravely
Dr. Gary and Jackie Greenwood



Karl Gretzinger
Sara Hall
Kathy and Randy Harber
Yvonne and Mike Harreld
Genevieve and Darrell Harris
Susan and Richard Haskell
Christopher Hayes
Laura and Stuart Hayman
Melissa and Michael Hentges
Lesley High
Susan Hogan
Dr. Andre Holmes
Jennifer and Eric Hooper
Kristine and Tony Intveld
Drs. Sandra and Don Jewell
Michelle Johnson
Ellen and Joel Katzowitz
Amy Berne and Rick Klupchak
Dr. Stephen Kolesar
Anna and Andy Kostopoulos
Erina and Randy Lambeth
Brianna LeGate
Cheryl and Michael Lipton
Ruth Litwin
Sissy and Michael Luciani
Lynette Mathews
Lynette and Horton McCurdy
David McFarland
Anne and Marshall McLaughlin
Pat and Paul McNaughton
Simona and George Miller
Nancy Miller
Kris Miller
Vicki and Tex Morgan
James Mulholland
Timothy Neja
Janice and Joe Nodvin
Margaret O'Neal
Julie Parmer
Bonnie and Mark Patrick
Richard Pease
Kristy Pierce
Whitney and Ben Portman
Nicole and Chris Rijo
Jennifer and Leo Rose
Karen and Stan Ruszkowski
Vickie and Jay Sanders
Robert Sauro
Dr. Sarah Schillie
Ronald Schnaar
Jody Krug Schulte and G.J. Schulte
Rose Sevcik
Abigail Shefer
Helen and Bill Sherman
Renee and James Sibley
Jeff Smith
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Wendy Sommer
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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 Moe, "The Hulk" Dominguez Memorial Fund](#)
- [The Corey Etkind Memorial Fund](#)
- [The Katie Frongillo Memorial Fund](#)
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- [The Lauren Martin Scholarship Fund](#)
- [The Joshua Shartar Scholarship Fund](#)
- [The Preston Wolters Memorial Fund](#)
- [The Charlotte Zink Technology Fund](#)

The Tom Catanese Memorial Fund – Tom 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 Compu-play 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. 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](#)
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- [The Ulrich V. Solmsen 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.

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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