

LEKOTEK

OF GEORGIA, INC.

Making a Difference for Children with Disabilities

2007-2008 Annual Report



On a hot summer day almost 22 months ago, we welcomed our beautiful son David into the world. We knew his presence would be life changing for us; we just didn't know how much. After all, my husband and I had been together since college. It was just the two of us—nine and half years to be exact before Dave came into our lives. A few hours after David's delivery the on call pediatrician came into our room and delivered the news that shook our world. He suspected David had Trisomy 21, better...



Hope...

What Lekotek Means to Our Family

by Kelly Ogden

known as Down syndrome. We were shocked and saddened. What would have ordinarily been a joyous day turned to a somber one, full of worries and questions. Some of the doctors frightened us with a long litany of all the challenges David might face. Thankfully, a select few at the hospital provided some rays of hope. “He’s healthy and beautiful, get him home, treat him like any other baby, he will do great, just you see.” And so that is what we did.

Day by day the dark clouds of fear and worry dissipated, and we began to see David for the wonderful and bright baby boy he was, not the diagnosis. He really was like any other infant only with hypotonia, or low muscle tone. At the tender age of 2 months, David started physical therapy to strengthen his muscles and coordination. At eight months we added occupational therapy to strengthen his fine motor skills, and at a year we rounded out our team of professionals with a speech therapist. We also became involved with the Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta and met many other wonderful families traveling along the same journey.

When David was 14 months old, our occupational therapist, Erin, suggested we look into something she described as a play and toy lending library called Lekotek. She had been a Lekotek “leader” in years past, and thought David would enjoy the play sessions and toys, so we signed up and arranged a time to visit. Frankly, I wondered if Lekotek would be another form of therapy for David. However, I quickly realized it wasn’t. On our first visit, we were greeted at the door with a warm smile from our Lekotek Leader, Ms. Helene. We followed her into a cheerful playroom where she had a basketful of thoughtfully chosen toys and two computers with appropriate software. He had a blast exploring everything, and to my surprise took to the computer touch screen and mouse like a fish does to water. The session was fun, creative and intuitive for both David and me.

Flash forward to today. We look forward to our play sessions every month. We go on a Friday, and it is a wonderful way to start our weekend. I have as much fun as David. We both leave in a great mood and always with a large bag of toys to explore and enjoy until our next visit. What I love most is that Lekotek appreciates David for the marvelous individual he is—celebrating and fostering his strengths and curiosities in a very loving and natural way. David knows his letters and colors, can sight read a handful of words and loves to play on the computer. These are all things Ms. Helene and Lekotek have encouraged and facilitated through play.

We do have our challenges from time to time, but we are so proud of David, and we know Lekotek is as well. Too often parents encounter specialists who make assumptions about what children with special needs are capable of doing. Lekotek truly embraces and encourages the child for the child. There are no limitations when we walk through that door.



for a better tomorrow.

Presented at the 2006 National Lekotek annual meeting, Peggy McWilliams, Director of Technology, received the highest of all Lekotek honors as the recipient of the Lekotek Founder's Award. Peggy was chosen for her outstanding commitment of time, expertise and resources to Lekotek, children with disabilities and their families. For over sixteen years, she has played a significant role in the lives of Lekotek families and has contributed greatly not only to Lekotek of Georgia but to the entire affiliate network. Peggy is visionary in her outlook...



Belief...

Lekotek Staff Member and Volunteer Receive Highest Awards

and continuously strives to bring innovative ideas to the magic of play. Peggy's remarks (below) upon accepting this award, exemplify her passion and standards of excellence in all that she does.

How can I accept this award without reflecting on what Lekotek has given me? Implementing our mission of inclusion brings personal satisfaction and pride every day as we celebrate what children can do. One little girl I have been privileged to work with exemplifies Lekotek's ability to facilitate success and make a difference. Charlotte first came to Lekotek as a beautiful two year old with blonde pig tails and big blue eyes. She had athetoid cerebral palsy and uncontrollable movements that were frequently exacerbated when attempting purposeful movement. Although she was nonverbal it didn't take long to learn that she had definite likes and dislikes. She expressed her feelings by smiling, laughing and fussing. After years of trial and error, I was able to determine that her most purposeful movement was her head. I attached a switch (a round button) to the left side of her chair near her head. She would press the switch to activate a toy or computer software program. But I knew Charlotte could do more. After an IEP meeting (individual educational plan) with her mom, therapists and teachers, the school agreed to try placing a switch on each side of her head. One to say "yes" and the other to say "no". This would give Charlotte the opportunity to express herself and respond to questions appropriately. Not knowing if Charlotte could hit a switch purposefully on the right side of her head after using one on the left side was a question no one could answer but Charlotte. After positioning both switches, I leaned down and whispered to Charlotte, "I really need you to try to hit the switch on the right side so we can show your teachers you can do it." She immediately began to wiggle her little head over to the right and hit the switch. I'm not a superhero. I just had faith in Charlotte. I saw a little girl inside a body that would not cooperate and used technology as a tool to help her. It's what we do at Lekotek day in and day out. Eight months ago I was asked by Charlotte's mom to be the only speaker at her funeral. I had to wonder, why me? Perhaps it is because I helped this family celebrate, enjoy, and believe in their child.

Teen volunteer, Sara Waitsman, heightened awareness about Lekotek in the business and foundation community by receiving the second place Teen Volunteer Award at National Philanthropy Day sponsored by The Greater Atlanta Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. With one thousand attendees, this annual event recognizes volunteers and business leaders who make a difference for nonprofit organizations in the Atlanta community.

As a young child with speech delays, Sara was a "Lekotek kid." When her family moved from Atlanta to Shreveport, she donated her toys to Lekotek to help other children. A few years later upon returning to Atlanta, she informed her parents that she would like to volunteer at Lekotek. At computer club and camp, Sara's patience and warmth encourages every child. Having graduated with honors from Lakeside High School, Sara is now a freshman at Guilford College and plans to pursue a career in physical therapy. Lekotek congratulates both Peggy and Sara on these well deserved prestigious awards.



that nothing is impossible.

The annual Pumpkin Patch event is one that families look forward to every year. Noey and Lekotek leader, Helene, have just taken a hay ride to the pumpkin field where Noey has picked her pumpkin. Noey's pumpkin will be carved with a "silly" face once it's home.



Vision...

Message from the Founder and Executive Director

In July of 1983, I visited the National Lekotek in Evanston, IL, returned to Atlanta and filed for tax exempt 501(c) (3) status. Thereafter, I diligently searched for donated space since the organization did not have a penny to its name. In February of 1984, Easter Seals offered their basement (which was very cold in the winter) and subsequently Liz Claiborne, Eastern Air Lines, and Citicorp were Lekotek's first three sponsors. With \$15,000 in the bank, an initial inventory of adapted toys and educational materials was ordered and play sessions began October 1984. At that time, the one and only program service was the monthly play session. Today, services include neonatal and hospital play sessions, computer loans, Compuplay, computer evaluations, computer summer camp, music classes, play days, family programs, computer club, Leko-Pals, support groups and collaborative programs with FOCUS and Happy Tails. Perhaps our greatest accomplishment is satellite development with four sites in Alpharetta, Duluth, Kennesaw and Fayetteville in addition to the main office in Atlanta. Two are housed with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and one at the Joseph Sams' School.

As the organization has grown so too has the staff and board of directors. The combined talents and dedication of the board and staff have resulted not only in growth but in standards of excellence.

Now that Lekotek is 24 years old, many of our first kids are teenagers and young adults. They enjoy bowling, computer activities and pizza on Sunday afternoons at alumni computer club and Leko-Pals. Both these programs include typical high school students who are peer mentors and help Lekotek attain its mission of inclusion.

Interested in learning if Lekotek could have done anything differently to help families when their children were infants and toddlers, Lekotek hosted a Night of Reflection and asked looking for constructive criticism. Nine families attended whose children are currently in diverse settings ranging from college to sheltered work environments to a residential setting. The overwhelming response was that Lekotek was a place that always provided unconditional support, resources and hope. The following comments were made by moms and dads who attended:

- *It was the only place where I was not my child's therapist. I could be mom and play.*
- *Matthew had a number of "firsts" at Lekotek because it was fun.*
- *Lekotek was a breath of fresh air.*
- *Lekotek helped Lindsey communicate by giving her choices even though she could only respond with an eye gaze.*
- *Camping trips encouraged our family to participate in everyday activities.*
- *It was an oasis that lightened our load. It was a place that always gave us hope.*

Lekotek looks forward to making a difference for additional children and families in the future.

~Helene Prokesch

to see what the future can hold.



Two year old, Betzvida, is all smiles balancing and developing gross motor skills while having fun on the rocking horse. Mom, Marybelle, appreciates the opportunity to borrow a computer with staff written software along with developmentally appropriate toys selected by Lekotek leader, Kristen Popham. Big sister, Ilana, enjoys Lekotek as well and at times interprets for mom.



Play...

What is Lekotek?

Our Mission

Lekotek of Georgia's mission is to facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities into family, school and community settings. To achieve this mission, Lekotek provides the following:

- Accessible play environments with specialized toys and computer equipment,
- Resources to parents on community resources and special programs,
- Opportunities for family support through parent meetings, a dad's group, a mom's share group, sibling programs and family, social and outdoor activities,
- Technical assistance to parents, professionals and interested individuals on play and technology for children with disabilities,
- Research and development of innovative software, technology and educational solutions.

Since 1984, Lekotek of Georgia has provided program services to more than 4,200 families traveling from thirty-one Georgia counties and three states. 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 primarily serving children from birth to eight years of age, computer services are available to adolescents and young adults. While minimal fees are charged, no family is denied services due to the inability to pay. Full and partial scholarships are always available.

Lekotek—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 disability information, parent education, internet access, and referrals to additional resources. Following hourly play sessions, families borrow adapted toys, computers, peripherals and software designed to meet the needs of children with physical, cognitive, speech and/or sensory delays.

Drawing on diverse backgrounds in education, music therapy, child life, recreational therapy, and vision staff members select toys designed to overcome weaknesses and strengthen abilities. Lekotek leaders include the entire family, encouraging parents, siblings and grandparents to participate in play sessions whenever possible.

Affiliated with The National Lekotek Center in Evanston, Illinois, Lekotek of Georgia is one of 40 Lekoteks nationwide. Since the concept was brought to the United States in 1980 by Sally DeVincentis, an Evanston, Illinois teacher, Lekoteks in the U.S. have made a difference for more than 9,000 families.



is essential to life.

David and Audrey are friends who live in the same neighborhood. Both look forward to play time at Lekotek and their Lekotek leader, Helene, looks forward to their visits with their moms and dads. Frequently their play sessions are scheduled back to back creating a mini play group. Helene facilitates play interactions between the two children as their parents enjoy the opportunity to exchange ideas.



Creativity...

The Components of Lekotek

Toy Lending Library

Lekotek's toy inventory is comprised of over 3,200 select toys, many of which are adapted for fine motor, language and cognitive development. From rattles and drums to sophisticated keyboards, seeing, hearing and touching toys make it possible for children to master skills. During monthly one-hour play sessions, Lekotek leaders share techniques on how to use toys to include children with disabilities into family activities. Children eagerly exchange toys as they pack their canvas "Lekotek bags" with new toys. Families are encouraged to make Lekotek playtime a special time creating a playful and educational home environment.



Neonatal and Hospital Play Sessions

During the past decade, there has been a significant increase in premature births resulting in developmental delays and lengthy hospital stays. 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, Adeliz Vicens commented, "With each bag of toys, Lekotek brought hope and joy." In addition to neonatal play sessions, Lekotek leaders work with children of all ages who are hospitalized. With a laptop and a Lekotek bag filled with developmentally appropriate toys, Lekotek leaders conduct hospital play sessions. Lekotek leader, Peggy McWilliams created a basketball software game to help Michael, a nine year old with a brain tumor. Lekotek plans to expand its relationship with Atlanta area hospitals and neonatal units.



Computer Loans

Computers and software, possibly the most powerful toys today in the technologically advanced 21st century, are essential to the Lekotek program. As the community has become aware of Lekotek's need for equipment, individuals and corporations continue to donate Macintosh and PC compatible systems. These systems are very appropriate for young children and are loaned to families. Lekotek leaders match software and adapted input devices to meet each child's individual needs. Parents participate in training conducted by Lekotek staff members prior to receiving the computer. Loaning these systems to families is an excellent way for children with disabilities to experience technology and its benefits.



to promote success and self-confidence.



Compuplay

The Compuplay program is designed to meet the needs of individuals between the ages of 2 and 22. Youngsters and parents attend six one-hour, weekly family sessions to enjoy and learn from computer play. Compuplay focuses on the use of adaptive peripherals (alternative input devices to the standard mouse), customized equipment and software to enhance speech, writing, reading, cognitive and fine-motor skills. State of the art computers and software benefit children in many ways. With an array of color, graphics, music and sound prompts, they provide opportunities for successful learning. Input options include 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 alternative input devices to access the computer. With the touch of a touch sensitive tablet, a head mouse and head movements, voice activation or the blink of an eye, computer assisted learning is making it possible for children to participate with their peers. During Compuplay, children enjoy reading and writing stories, playing music, learning math concepts, word processing, and problem solving.



Summer Computer Camp

Lekotek offers an annual four-week summer computer camp for children between the ages of 4 and 22. 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 in educational and community settings.



Music Classes and Play Days

Music classes are conducted three times a year on Saturday mornings. Using instruments and computer sounds and graphics, children learn to follow directions and interact with family members. Play days are conducted throughout the year and include arts and crafts, music and computer activities. Often held outdoors, ponies and pets from Happy Tails are frequent guests.

Computer Club

The Computer Club initially evolved 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 teens participate in clubs, The Computer Club provides opportunities for youngsters to socialize and participate in a club activity. Unfortunately, few opportunities like these exist for children with disabilities. Atlanta area high school and college students volunteer as peer tutors at Computer Club. Following Sunday afternoon computer activities, everyone enjoys dinner and birthdays are frequently celebrated together.

Lekopals

A unique social program for teens with disabilities ages 15 and above. Lekotek staff and peer volunteers facilitate fun activities that include bowling and age appropriate outings.

Inclusion Project

Most teachers see great benefits for all students in having a child with disabilities in their class. But ongoing support is vital if the child and teacher are to be successful. Lekotek's inclusion project works with public and private schools to successfully include children with special needs in typical preschool and elementary school classes. Lekotek of Georgia's staff provides training to regular classroom teachers on disability awareness and appropriate expectations. Suggestions are made on how to modify both the physical classroom set-up and work requirements for the student. When parents and teachers are asked to complete evaluation forms regarding this project, all are extremely positive. Teachers are grateful for the support provided by the Lekotek staff member who worked with all students. One parent wrote, "Lekotek's great support this year made us feel like we won the lottery." Inclusion makes all of us winners.

Finally, to promote inclusion and disability awareness, Lekotek staff frequently present at schools demonstrating adapted toys and computer equipment. During Disability Week in Georgia, Lekotek leaders visit elementary schools in several counties. Students use adapted toys and computers with switch adapted trackballs to understand how learning and play are made accessible to children with special needs.

Grandparent's Support Group

One of only a handful in the country, Lekotek's grandparent support group offers a forum for asking questions, expressing concerns and socializing with other grandparents who face similar circumstances. Led by Lekotek's executive director with input from grandparents, speakers are invited to address topics of interest. These topics include financial planning, medical issues, working with the educational system, dealing with difficult behavior, sibling relationships, and any other issue of concern. Grandparents often find the world of disabilities less formidable when shared with others.





Dad's Support Group and Mom's Share Group

Research indicates that the reactions of fathers are significant in helping families cope with parenting a child with disabilities. Fathers often feel isolated if career demands prevent them from fully participating in the care of their child with disabilities. Lekotek's dad's support group, affiliated with the National Father's Network, provides a chance for men to share their feelings and concerns in a supportive environment. Organized by Lekotek fathers, each dad volunteers to plan one month's activity. Dads plan and enjoy dinners out, hiking, fishing and family activities. Only a handful of father's groups exist throughout the country, and Lekotek is proud to have one among its many services.

Lekotek also offers a share group for mothers. Relaxing with coffee, doughnuts and conversation, moms meet to support one another and to exchange resources. Facilitated by a Lekotek staff member, discussions range from school issues to the latest medical treatments.

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 unique challenges.

Publications and Internet

To maintain contact with families and professionals throughout the country, Lekotek publishes a quarterly newsletter that includes Lekotek news, information on specialized toys and innovative technology, a guest editorial, profiles of Lekotek families and acknowledgement of sponsors. Lekotek's mailing list now exceeds 2,000.

Parents and professionals can also learn about our services and products by accessing our web page. The web page is linked to related resources, and Lekotek leaders are always available to help parents with internet searches.

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. With features that include large targets and music, Lekotek's talented staff has created more than thirty software programs designed to meet the needs of children with physical, sensory and/or cognitive delays.



An Approved Lekotek Training Program

Lekotek of Georgia is a nationally approved internship site, providing training to develop additional Lekoteks and 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.

Collaboration with Other Organizations

Happy Tails, a nonprofit animal-assisted therapy organization visits Lekotek regularly. Happy Tails volunteers have pets that have completed obedience training and meet specific requirements established by the agency. Frequent guests include dogs, rabbits, turtles, cats, and guinea pigs.



Lekotek also works closely with FOCUS (Families Of Children Under Stress), Parent to Parent, The Marcus Institute, The Emory Autism Center, The Center for the Visually Impaired, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, The Down Syndrome Association, public and private schools and statewide early intervention programs. Referral sources continue to expand, and partnering with the above mentioned organizations has helped Lekotek reach metropolitan, suburban and rural areas.

Lekotek is reaching out to the Spanish speaking community. In 2006, Maria Canaba who is fluent in Spanish joined the staff as a Lekotek leader. Workshops have been conducted in Spanish to Spanish speaking families participating in Babies Can't Wait and the Down Syndrome Association. Written materials and information at the Lekotek website have been translated and play sessions are conducted in Spanish when necessary. Interagency collaboration strengthens and diversifies Lekotek's program services.



Five year old, Hadassah, hits her switch to activate and enjoy the musical software program, Everybody Has Feet – Except Fish. Although, only Lekotek leader, Kristen, and Hadassah are pictured, Lekotek is truly a family affair for the Raggs family. Mom, Victoria, sisters, Ariel and Miriam, grandmom, Rehana and great grandmom always attend every play session. Both grandparents participate in Lekotek's grandparent group.



Commitment...

Lekotek Sites and Leaders

Now in its 24th year, Lekotek has made a difference for more than 4,200 children and families. On an annual basis, approximately 350 children participate in play sessions, camp, club, and computer evaluations. Lekotek's strength lies in the professional skills that its leaders bring to each site. With backgrounds in teaching, child life, vision, music therapy, speech therapy and recreational therapy, a talented and dedicated staff adeptly meets the needs of every child.

While Lekotek of Georgia funds all satellite operations, **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta** has generously donated space for both the Alpharetta and Duluth sites. Similarly, The Joseph Sams' School has donated space for Lekotek's southside satellite. These partnerships benefit hundreds of children. The increase in satellite growth makes it possible for families to receive services closer to their homes. Long range plans call for continued collaborations with universities, schools, recreational centers and hospitals to reach additional children throughout the state. Unfortunately, waiting lists for Lekotek services exist. Children with special needs do not have time to wait and the board is committed to fundraising efforts to keep the wait to a minimum.

Main Center

Atlanta, Georgia—In 1983, Lekotek of Georgia began in the basement of Easter Seals, located in a house on Maple Drive. Today, the main site occupies nearly 3,000 square feet, with the capability to conduct five play sessions simultaneously. In addition workshops, Lekotek leader training, computer evaluations, compuplay, play groups, music classes, summer computer camp, and Sunday afternoon computer Club are offered at the Cliff Valley location off of I-85 and North Druid Hills Road in Dekalb county.

Satellite Centers

Duluth, Georgia—Lekotek of Georgia's first satellite was established in 1991 with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Located at Children's rehabilitation center on Satellite Boulevard in Duluth, 45 families participate in monthly play sessions. During the past 14 years, over 500 families traveling from six counties have benefited from services at this location.

Alpharetta, Georgia—Families in North Fulton county requested Lekotek services closer to their homes and once again Children's Healthcare of Atlanta generously donated space to make a program possible. Initial funding and continued support from the Children's Trust Fund has made it possible for 200 families from several counties to benefit since 2000. Families at this site have participated in play sessions, compuplay and computer evaluations. This center is located at Children's rehabilitation center on Highway 9 off of GA 400.

Kennesaw, Georgia—With generous support from the John Harland Foundation and the Children's Trust Fund, Lekotek of Georgia opened the Cobb satellite in 2002. Located at 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, more than 100 families have participated in play groups, club, compuplay, computer evaluations, and play sessions.

Fayetteville, Georgia—In June 2006, Lekotek opened a southside satellite in Fayetteville, Georgia and 45 families benefited within its first year of operation. The Joseph Sams' School has generously donated space for this site. 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.

How Does Lekotek Make a Difference?

The Erikson Institute, a program for graduate education studies, affiliated with Loyola University in Chicago, conducted an evaluation to determine if the Lekotek concept makes a significant difference to families whose children have disabilities. The answer was strongly affirmative. Findings were as follows:

- (1) Because the Lekotek concept is unique and powerful, the program is of exceptional value and importance regardless of the family's involvement in other therapeutic and/or educational programs.
- (2) What makes Lekotek unique is its positive and supportive attitude focusing on the child's strengths and capacities.
- (3) As the family focuses on the child's strengths and capacity to learn, the child's own sense of competence and self-esteem is enhanced.
- (4) As the family comes to accept the child, the child is integrated into the family.
- (5) Once this task is accomplished, the family can facilitate the inclusion of the child into the community.

and dedication to children.

At a LekoPals bowling outing, Matthew celebrates his 21st birthday with friends and family—his dad, Alex, mom, Susan, and big sister, Leigh. One of Lekotek's first participants, Matthew still enjoys computer club and LekoPals. Susan and Alex are parents who continue to "give back" to Lekotek, supporting special events and volunteering. "As a little boy, Matthew did many things for the first time at Lekotek; Lekotek has always been there for us with hope and encouragement."



Stability...

Lekotek Finances

Lekotek of Georgia has been successful in raising funds from foundations, corporations, civic groups, individuals, and special events. Three special events include an annual run, silent auction, and golf tournament. Lekotek's financial position is stable for present and future needs. Lekotek has built a reserve enabling it to provide unique and innovative services and plan for growth. At year end June 30, 2007, Lekotek reserves could meet approximately 75 percent of the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget. These funds are necessary for new services, satellite development and organizational growth. They are also essential as a contingency reserve. In addition to cash reserves, Lekotek has built a sizable inventory of toys, computer equipment, software, peripherals, office furniture, and equipment to meet existing operational needs.

An endowment fund was established in 2000. Please consider a donation to Lekotek in your will and/or estate planning. As Lekotek continues to expand and strives to meet the increased needs of families in Georgia, your support remains crucial. Additional funding is needed to diminish waiting lists and to increase the inventory of communication devices, computers, adapted input devices and software. Expanding summer camp, parent training, compuplay, and family programs are priorities as well. Lekotek's long-range vision calls for increased satellite growth. With the addition of new facilities, families now traveling for hours to one location will be able to receive services in their neighborhoods. With continued community support, we look forward to making this vision a reality and thank you for all we have accomplished.

Lekotek's Board of Directors is extremely proud that over ninety percent of all donations support direct services to children and families. In addition to donating their time and expertise in diverse fields, one hundred percent of the board makes a financial commitment to Lekotek.

Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget

Direct Service Personnel	
Director/Lekotek Leaders	
Contracted Services	
Consultants	
Total	\$189,500
Operational Expenses	
Operations	80,150
Staff Development	4,500
Professional Dues Subscriptions	3,500
Total Operational Expenses	\$88,150
Capital Expenditures	
Specialized Toy and Educational Inventory	18,000
Innovative Adapted Technology Equipment	20,000
Total Capital Expenditures	\$38,000
Special Programs	
Technology Program	20,000
Scholarship Fund	20,000
Neonatal and Hospital Play Sessions	20,000
Summer Computer Camp	8,000
Satellite Outreach	35,000
Inclusion Project	10,000
Computer Alumni Club	6,350
Total Special Program Expenses	\$119,350
Total Budget	\$435,000



for standards of excellence and growth.

Lauren is a “player” whether on the baseball diamond or in the play room and exemplifies Lekotek’s mission of inclusion and participation. “Being a young child, without vision, Lauren was afraid to explore her world, remaining inside herself. Lekotek opened the world in a fun and non threatening way,” according to Lauren’s mom. Bonnie Patrick has been a board member since 2003 donating her time and expertise to help Lekotek make a difference for additional children and families.

Appreciation...

Lekotek Special Contributors

Sky Scrapers (Donations in the amount of \$10,000 and above)

AnnCox Foundation
Billi Marcus Foundation
Boxer Foundation
Children's Trust Fund
Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
Country Club of the South Charity Guild
John and Mary Franklin Foundation
John Harland Foundation
Marcus Foundation
Rothkopf - Greenberg Family Foundation
Dr. Michael and Alaine Rothkopf
Variety Club of Georgia
The Waterfall Foundation

Castle Stackers (Donations in the amount of \$5,000 to \$9,999)

Anonymous
Atlanta Foundation
Children's Healthcare
Community Associations Institute
Friedman Supporting Foundation
Imlay Foundation
Lockheed Martin Aero Club
Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation
McKesson Foundation
McMaster-Carr Supply Co.
Montag & Caldwell
New York Life Foundation
Nordson Corporation
Piedmont Construction Group
Raymond M. Cash Foundation
Richard C. Munroe Foundation
R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation
Stahl Family Foundation
Victor and Lenore Maslia Foundation
Waffle House Foundation
Weber Family Foundation

Tower Builders (Donations in the amount of \$2,500 to \$4,999)

ABC Accounting
Atlanta Thrashers
Chazen Foundation
Citigroup Foundation
Community Foundation for NE Georgia
Community Health Charities
Florence H. Maxwell Foundation
Frances Wood Wilson Foundation
Fuqua Industries
Ida A. Ryan Charitable Trust
J & E Real Estate
John Wieland Homes
Joe E. Johnston Foundation
Kroger Foundation
Lenore Maslia
Primerica Financial Services
Publix Super Markets Charities
Rich Foundation
Smith Barney
Snapping Shoals Electric Trust
The Epstein School

Building Blocks (Donations in the amount of \$1,000 to \$2,499)

Abbott Labs
Accounting Business Concepts
Alex Roush Architects
Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors
Atlanta Time Corporation
Barnes Broyles & Associates
Bell South Telecommunications
Bracco Construction Company
Career Sports & Entertainment
CGI
Cliff Valley Office Partners
Cora T. Lewis Memorial Fund
Covenant Group
Cushing, Morris, Armbruster & Montgomery, LLP
DeKalb School Employees
Deloitte
Ed Voyles Acura
Equifax
Ford Motor Co.
Frances Wood Wilson Foundation
Fulton County School Employees
Gannett Foundation
Grant Thornton
Greene-Sawtell Foundation
Gwinnett Gladiators
James M. Cox Foundation
Joe E. Johnston Foundation
John and Mary Franklin Foundation
Junior League of Gwinnett and North Fulton
Barbara and Sheldon Kay
Kurt Salmon Associates
Manhattan Associates
Marvin F. Poer & Company
May P. & Francis L. Abreu Charitable Trust
McKenna, Long & Aldridge LLP
Post H.O.P.E.
Pratt Holdings (USA)
Primerica Financial Services
Repro Products
Roche Labs
Roswell East Rotary Foundation
Security Bank
Shepherd Harvey & Associates
Suwanee Realty
Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan LLP
VC South
Wells Fargo Foothill
West Foundation

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

The Joshua Shartar Scholarship Fund
The Katie Frongillo Memorial Fund

The Rachel Mann Memorial Fund
The Corey Etkind Memorial Fund

The Kathryn Gillespie Memorial Fund
The Charlotte Zink Technology Fund
The Lauren Martin Scholarship Fund

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 remembered as "Mr. C.", his legacy remains.

The Beulah Beyer Memorial Fund
The Pasquale Buchieri Memorial Fund

The Ulrich V. Solmssen Memorial Fund
The Joan Tebbel Memorial Fund

The John Kalinski Memorial Fund

These funds are named in memory of Lekotek grandparents whose grandchildren benefited from Lekotek services.

The Trevor Meek Memorial Fund

Trevor Meek was the nephew of Sharon Meek and the grandson of Robert and Frances Meek. Sharon was a staff member at Lekotek from 1984-1992. She helped establish Lekotek and its innovative technology program. For the past 20 years, Robert Meek, a retired engineer, has created unique products for children with disabilities and their families.

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 Kathy Couch Memorial Fund

Kathy Couch was a Lekotek mom who drove long distances to the Cliff Valley site. Despite a difficult illness, Kathy made great efforts to participate in play sessions and Compuplay with Laura. Upon arriving both always had smiles. We hope their visits meant as much to them as they meant to us.

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 guests to visit Lekotek in the basement of Easter Seals. Diane helped secure corporate and individual donations. She donated her time at special events and never missed a Lekotek run.

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 to provide scholarships to families in need.



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