

LEKOTEK ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



“
WE CAME TO
LEKOTEK FOR TOYS,
BUT STAYED FOR SO
MUCH MORE.
”



Lekotek of Georgia
Making a Difference for Children with Disabilities

38 YEARS OF SUCCESS

6

NUMBER OF
LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT
METRO **ATLANTA**

23,500

NUMBER OF MOMS, DADS,
SIBLINGS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS
AND UNCLES WHO HAVE
BENEFITED FROM LEKOTEK

7,015

NUMBER OF **CHILDREN** WITH
PHYSICAL AND COGNITIVE
DISABILITIES **SERVED**

201

**FAMILY EVENTS IMPLEMENTED THAT
INCLUDE AN EASTER EGG HUNT, ZOO DAY,
HALLOWEEN PARTY, HOLIDAY PARTY,
RAFTING, FISHING AND OTHERS**

75,000

PLAY/LEARNING SESSIONS

1,450

**NUMBER OF NEONATAL
AND HOME BASED
PLAY SESSIONS**



WELCOME TO LEKOTEK

When families encounter road-blocks, Lekotek provides solutions and encouragement. Family members often experience a sense of isolation, and each faces his or her own unique challenges. With parent support groups and “sibshop” programs, just for siblings, Lekotek creates a welcoming environment. We are a tight-knit community.

Throughout the pandemic we remained in close contact with our families despite the challenges. Lekotek pivoted from in-person sessions to zooming. We increased parent support group meetings, sibshops, music, computer club and pals. We transformed our annual Halloween and Holiday parties into parades. Staff were able to socially distance, and families enjoyed activities from their cars.

Perhaps our biggest news this year is our move to magnificent space, renovated by a Lekotek dad who put his heart and soul into every detail. The new space has increased our capacity to work with more families and offer additional programs. It includes a designated sensory room from a company in Spain. Lekotek is the only organization in the U.S. to have innovative BJ Live materials.

“LEKOTEK HAS DONE FAR MORE FOR ME, THAN I HAVE FOR IT”
— HELENE PROKESCH

But as Karen, a young lady with Down syndrome who was one of our first Lekotek kids relates, it’s the staff who matter far more than the physical space. Karen, who now works at an elementary school, was in our new center last month to help with a mailing. I asked her, “What do you like best about the new Lekotek? Is it the sensory room, colorful rooms, larger space, the beautiful windows?”

She replied, “No, just Lekotek.”

“What do you mean?” I asked.

She replied, “Everyone who works here.”

I’m reminded of a story told by Ken Moses, a psychologist in Chicago. His son, who had significant disabilities, had frequent medical appointments at a major hospital in Chicago. At the time, the hospital employed elevator operators. Needing to take the elevator to a certain floor, he and his son would always wait for a particular elevator operator, who always greeted them with a welcoming smile and encouraging words. It may have made them late for their appointment, but that didn’t matter. Riding with their favorite operator was more important than being on time.

I frequently refer to the “magic of Lekotek” – the chemistry among our staff and children- that allow us to create success stories like Karen’s every day. I sincerely thank each of you reading this report for helping to create our magic.

Helene Prokesch
Founder and Executive Director

THE POWER OF PLAY

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 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 success helps develop confidence and self-esteem. As our Lekotek "graduates" go on to college and work places, the success they find at Lekotek creates the self-assurance they need in their young adult lives.

THE POWER OF LEKOTEK

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, innovative technology, information and resources. Since 1983, Lekotek has made a difference for more than 7,000 children and families. Children receiving services have a wide range of disabilities. These include autism, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, Down syndrome, hearing and vision impairments, spina bifida, cognitive delays, speech delays and rare genetic disorders. Participants include families of all races and religions with varied economic and social backgrounds. While annual dues are minimal at \$250 per year, no family is denied services due to the inability to pay. Currently participating are families from 42 Georgia counties and three states.

LEKO-WHO, LEKO-WHAT?

"Lekotek" is a made-up Swedish word meaning play library. Originating in 1963, in Stockholm, Sweden, Lekotek was the concept of two moms whose children were born with disabilities. They were advised to place their children in residential settings. Instead, they were determined to make inclusion a goal for their children. They created Lekotek, believing that toy adaptations and accessible play would facilitate inclusion among siblings and family members.

At Lekotek, parents are welcomed with encouragement and a listening ear. When families visit, they are provided with leading edge technology, information and referrals to valuable 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 special education, child life, recreation and speech therapy. During a play session, they select toys, software and iPad applications designed to improve weaknesses while strengthening abilities. Unlike typical therapies, parents, siblings, cousins, grandparents and even aunts and uncles participate in play sessions.





IN HER OWN WORDS

MEET ALLISON MODER

When I was young, it was very clear to me that I was different. I was the only little girl using a wheelchair in my school and neighborhood. Growing up with a form of Muscular Dystrophy, life was riddled with therapies and medical appointments (none of which were fun for a kid). But then we were introduced to Lekotek and life was gladly never the same, as it provided a fun outlet for me with my friends and family.

WHAT LEKOTEK MEANS TO ME

By Allison Moder – 8th Grade
Winner of a State Wide Poetry Contest

It provides some fun,
Some rest and relief;
It brings kids joy
Instead of more grief.

It is a place of comfort
Filled with understanding...
Where you can always find
A caring friend who's never demanding.

They welcome you in.
You cannot hide your glee.
The only trouble you find
Is not wanting to leave.

There are many tools
That make many smiles...
From computer games to toys
Bringing happiness all the while.

But it is those who help,
Who give and invest their time,
Who are the heroes
Making joy in lives....like mine.

“One of my favorite memories growing up was driving a white, motorized mini Porsche car my parents found. When we realized my legs weren't strong enough to power the pedals, my father worked with Lekotek to adapt it with hand controls. Still using a manual wheelchair at the time, that car became my first unofficial power chair. I had never known such freedom.”

It became a fun way to interact with the other kids in the neighborhood and was only possible with the help of our friends at Lekotek.

Eventually I grew out of the car and we gave it to Lekotek so more kids could have the same fun. That car is a small symbol of the huge difference this organization makes in children's lives. They opened so many possibilities that we wouldn't have considered without the positive outlook of the staff. Now, as a member of the Board, I am thrilled to help families like mine experience those same opportunities.

“LEKOTEK IS LIFE CHANGING”



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

92%

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

95%

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

100%

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

100%

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/technology inventory is comprised of more than 4,500 select toys, software programs, websites, adapted keyboards, joysticks, trackballs, computers and iPads with educational applications. From rattles and drums to touch windows and adapted keyboards, seeing, hearing, and touching make it possible for children to master skills. During play sessions, Lekotek leaders model the creative use of select 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 six 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 model, more than one hundred families have had the opportunity to borrow iPads with applications designed to meet their child's individual needs. Both loan programs provide excellent opportunities for children with disabilities to experience technology and its benefits.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

Through Lekotek's 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 materials. In addition, Lekotek's website provides parent resources, information and staff recommended apps and educational websites.

COMPUPLAY

The Compuplay program is designed to meet the needs of children between the ages of 2 to 18. Youngsters and parents enjoy one-hour technology sessions using appropriate computer input devices, websites and iPad apps. Staff-written software with large icons make it possible for children with visual impairments and fine motor delays to use the programs. Staff members model the use of visual and auditory scanning games for children who are visually or hearing impaired. With an array of color, graphics, music, and sound prompts, these programs make it possible for every child to experience success.

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 as they interact 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 for Lekotek to provide, these visits are essential 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 professional baseball, basketball and soccer games. With support from Lekotek, families who might be hesitant to participate in community events now enjoy all that Atlanta has to offer, just like 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" who at age 9 graduate from play sessions with their parents to club with friends. 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 belong to a club. 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. Few programs like Lekotek Club and Pals exist for children with disabilities in this age range. Both were initiated in response to parents expressing a need for these services.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP AND LEKOTEK SIBSHOPS

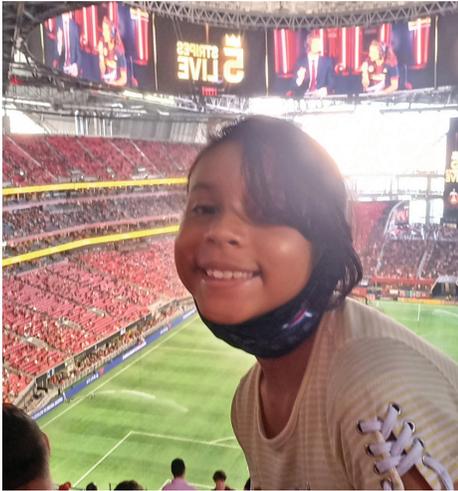
A clinical psychologist and Lekotek leader lead our parent support group. Guest speakers share information to help parents navigate the world of disabilities. Frequently, parents are at different stages of their journey and can share valuable information with each other.

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's Sibshop program is certified through the Sibling Support Project at the University of Washington.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Lekotek is well respected in Georgia and throughout the country for its expertise in disabilities, inclusion, and toy and technology adaptations. Agencies, professionals, and parents benefit from staff conducted workshops on these topics.





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 specified training. Frequent guests include dogs, cats and rabbits. 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. These referral agencies make it possible for Lekotek to reach families in metropolitan, suburban and rural areas.

To promote disability awareness, Lekotek staff conduct workshops on toy adaptation and assistive technology to therapists, teachers, and students of all ages. During Disability Week in Georgia, Lekotek leaders visit elementary schools. Students without disabilities experience adapted toys and computer equipment as Lekotek leaders demonstrate how Lekotek makes play and learning accessible for all children.

Lekotek partners with professors at Georgia Tech who create solutions for people with disabilities. Dr. Stephen Sprigle and his students in the Rehabilitation Engineering Lab 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. On an ongoing basis, staff members identify individual needs and Georgia Tech students create solutions.

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 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 about upcoming programs and special events through our LinkedIn and Facebook pages.

“WE NEVER WOULD HAVE TRIED RAFTING. OUR CHILD LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT.”

LEKOTEK LOCATIONS

Now in its 38th year, Lekotek of Georgia has made a difference for more than 7,000 children and families. This year, 905 children participated in play sessions, compuplay, camp, club, music, community outings, and computer/iPad evaluations. Satellite growth has made it possible for families to receive services closer to their homes. Unfortunately, waiting lists still exist at several locations. Our board is committed to raising funds necessary to keep the wait to a minimum. Research shows the benefits of early intervention and children with special needs do not have time to wait.

MAIN CENTER

Atlanta, Georgia—In 1983, Lekotek of Georgia initiated play sessions in the basement of Easter Seals – the only service offered. Today, the main site is located at the Northlake Business Park at Lavista Road and I-285. This site occupies 4,000 square feet and has the space to conduct five play sessions simultaneously. The main center has a designated sensory room, purchased from BJ Live, a company in Spain. We are the only organization in the U. S. to have this “state of the art” sensory equipment. Lekotek leader training, computer/iPad evaluations, compuplay, play groups, music classes, summer computer camp, computer club and pals are offered at this 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 benefited 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. When Children’s closed its rehab center, we relocated to an office park just a mile down the road. Current families continued and the new space increased our capacity to serve even more families. Having our own site also allows for weekend programming.

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. With a lengthy waiting list and an opportunity to expand, this site doubled its size in July of 2017. To date, more than 700 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.

Fayetteville, Georgia—In June 2006, Lekotek opened its southside satellite in Fayetteville, Georgia and more than 400 families have benefited. 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 at The Whitmire Homes office park. More than 200 families in North Georgia who previously were unable to participate due to lengthy travel distances to other sites, have now benefited 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



MEET OUR PRECIOUS DAUGHTER, KENNEDY

It was a shock to learn that our precious baby girl, Kennedy, born prematurely and weighing only 2 pounds, had microphthalmia. Microphthalmia is an eye abnormality where the eyes fail to grow causing small orbital structures. Facing the unknown, I began to think, "She'll never see my face. She'll never be able to play with her cousin. She'll miss out on everything."

Kennedy came home and we began a new adventure of doctor appointments and therapy. We were introduced to many services and Lekotek quickly became a favorite. Our Lekotek leader selects developmentally appropriate toys and activities to engage Kennedy and help her acquire skills. When we first started Lekotek, Kennedy was sitting up with assistance but not reaching for toys. Now, Kennedy is pushing toy lawn mowers, riding the Step 2 roller coaster, putting cookies in a cookie jar and beginning to learn braille. Kennedy is thriving. Lekotek helped Kennedy, and all of us, realize all she is capable of doing.

Lekotek provides an outlet for kids and families to just have fun. Kennedy's grandparents have always been included during her sessions. While focusing on Kennedy, Lekotek embraces our entire family. Lekotek events like Happy Tails pet therapy, Musical Saturdays, Halloween and Holiday parties include all family members. One of my earliest worries, that Kennedy would not be able to play with her cousin, was alleviated during a Leko-Music/Happy Tails Saturday event. Kennedy and her cousin, Avery, spent the day side-by-side playing with a parachute during music and nuzzling up to one dog after the next.

Kennedy has come a long way from not being able to hold her head up or roll over, to now walking with her cane and shouting with utmost confidence "Kennedy do it alone!" "Kennedy Can" is our way of life. We even have bracelets imprinted with the phrase in braille.

Being blind or having a visual impairment is not a sentence or a limitation. It's just a challenge that requires a little more creativity at times. Blindness does not define Kennedy. Kennedy defines herself and we thank Lekotek's incredible staff for helping her be the wonderful little girl she is. In the photos above during one of her first visits, Kennedy is enjoying her favorite activity - playing the piano in Lekotek's lobby.

AUSTIN HAS ENRICHED OUR LIVES

Austin is a happy, adorable 6 year old who has benefited from Lekotek since he was one. He was born full term and healthy, but at three weeks had a brain hemorrhage causing visual impairments and developmental delays. Our journey to help Austin began with physical, occupational, vision and speech therapy provided through Babies Can't Wait.

On a bike ride with Helene Prokesch, Lekotek's Executive Director, Austin's grandmother learned about Lekotek. Now, she and Austin look forward to play sessions with Angela who is always encouraging and happy to see them. Angela selects the perfect toys designed to help Austin reach developmental milestones. All are placed in a large Lekotek bag and come home with him. One of Austin's favorite activities is a computer software bowling game. Using a large round button connected to an adapted mouse, Austin presses the button to knock down the pins on the screen. Angela created a similar real setup, pictured below. In addition, Lekotek offers countless family activities like music, Happy Tails pet therapy, Zoo Day, Pumpkin Patch Outing, sibling workshops, parent support groups, fishing and rafting, Holiday and Halloween parties and Easter Egg Hunts. Our favorite is summer computer camp where Austin enjoys fun time not only with other children with special needs but also with his brother. Lekotek camp is unique, including siblings who enjoy camp as much as the child with special needs.

Lekotek is truly a special place where Austin is celebrated and included. He has made great strides in 6 years. We are so lucky to have him in our lives and thank everyone at Lekotek for making a difference for our family.



“BLINDNESS DOES NOT DEFINE KENNEDY. KENNEDY DEFINES HERSELF.”

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, 2021, reserves were approximately 100% of the annual 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, 2022

Personnel Director/Lekotek Leaders

Contracted Services
Educational Consultants

Personnel Total \$382,500

Operational Expenses

Facilities
Staff Development
Professional Dues Subscriptions

Total Operational Expenses \$235,500

Program Services

Scholarship Fund
Home Based Play Sessions
Summer Computer Camp
LekoPals/Computer Club Inclusion Project
Parent Support Group
Sibshop Support Group for Siblings
Satellite Expansion
Computer and iPad Evaluations

Total Program Services Expenses \$132,000

Capital Expenditures

Specialized Adapted Toy and Educational Inventory \$15,000
Innovative Adapted Computer and iPad Technology \$15,000
Sensory Room Equipment \$20,000

Total Capital Expenditures \$50,000

Total Budget **\$800,000**

PROJECTED REVENUE STREAMS

General Contributions/ Foundations and Corporations 460,000
Special Events 160,500
Direct Mail Fundraising Campaign 95,000
Board Pledge 35,000
Membership Dues/ Program Fees 26,000
Interest Dividends 21,000
Professional/Consulting Fees 2,500

Total Projected Income **\$800,000**

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



FRIENDS OF LEKOTEK

KNIGHTS IN SHINING ARMOR \$5,000 AND UP

Karen and Tommy Beman
Dr. Ann Early Bibb
Jason Calloway
Elaine and John Carlos
Joni and Mac Cushing
Cary and Dr. Michael Rothkopf
Scott Thompson

CHAMPIONS \$2,000 AND UP

Shawn and Jim Ballew
Andrea and Stuart Bern Family Foundation
Catherine and Lance Hagaman Golf Tournament
Theodore J. and Afton LaVallee
Ellen and Bruce Lindemann
Carolyn Meeks
Sandy and Mike Moore
Lydia and Michael Price
Irma Rodriguez and Fred Fernandez
Susan and Mitchell Rothkopf
Joanne and Win Smith
Steven Sprague
Sally and Charlie Thomason
Susan and Glenn Warren
Don Weber

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

Aimee and Chad Alexander
Carmen and John Arasi
Michelle and Dave Calhoun
Perri and Rick Courtheoux
Carrie and Dan Donovan
Nancy and Marshall Ford
Kelly and John Kinder
Carl Mansell
Matthew Merlino
Eb Munden
Leslie and Gary Null
Dr. Bonnie Prokesch
Helene and Dr. Richard Prokesch
Sheila and Marty Rotter
Elise Rubenstein
Lauren and John Seidl
Linda and Larry Smith
Mary Beth and Michael Sierra
Mimi and Mark Umstead
Dr. Barb and Dr. Joe Weissman
Cathy and John Wymer
Donna Younts and Wayne Akins

FANS \$500 TO \$999

Anonymous
Laurie and Sid Besmertnik
Katie and Jim Edwards
Kathy and David Giancola
Erina and Randy Lambeth
Christine and Dr. John Langone
Jo Beth and Bryan Nicoll
Susan and Brooks Patterson
Betsy Primm
Steven Prokesch
Beth and Jesse Pullias
Judy and Dr. Neil Ramquist
Susan and Alex Roush
Carol and Fredrick Salmons
Jody Krug and G.J. Schulte
Traci and Reggie Steward
Julie Tenney
Lynn and Tom Tolleson
Susan and Carl Valentino
Anne and Mark Valentino
Amelia and Zach Vietri

BUDDIES \$250 TO \$499

Caryn and Eric Bern
Hershene and Joel Borrin
James Caldwell
Marc Cohen
Joyce and Ronald Crowe
Martha and Mike DeMarco
Tammy Greenberg Duble
Jennifer Etkind
Bebe Fendel
Laura and David Flink
Linda, Bill, and Jeremy Foster
Deborah Fox
Matt Freeman
Gregory Fugate
Kristi Fuqua
Kathy and Randy Harber
Shawn and Pam Hardister
Maxine and Dr. Eric Honig
Matt and Anne Park Hopkins
Lorraine Kaas
Jay Kessler
Vanessa and Harlan Kickhoefer
Mark Light
Mary and Vince Lobisco
Sissy and Michael Luciani
Melissa and Dr. John Merlino
Lizz and Mack Norman
Susan and Stephen Owings
Karen and Matthew Pearl
Jenice and Peter Pearl
Carol and Mark Pollard

Lynne Raphael
Linda and Rick Raschke
Mary Ann Rowski
Dr. Leslie Rubin
Karen and Stan Ruszkowski
Vickie and Jay Sanders
Ed and Teresa Shartar
Mary Beth and Michael Sierra
Jane Ayres and Jim Smith
Linda Tatro
Kevin Valentino
Mindy and Rick Waitsman
Allison Wendth
Nikki Whitaker
Gay Winter
Mike and ChristinaWolf
Susan Wolkin
Lorie and John Wooten
Monica and Chris Wright

PLAYMATES \$100 TO \$249

Sarah Anderson
Amy and Jeff Asher
Harriette Bessette
Inez Beyer
Bonnie Birrell
Andrea Boswell
Marjorie Brady
Bobbie Breitbeil
Pamela Bucaro
Cindy A. Burch
Beth and John Burton
Carole Campbell
Jennifer and Dr. Howard Caplan
John Cimaglia
Rebecca Clegorne
Meredith and Carolyn Clubb
Liz and Charlie Cohn
Susan Crawford
Renede Vries and Carola Cuba
Margaret Deavours
Sally and Pierre DeVincentis
Jane Shaw and Brian Dewey
Bonnie and Dr. Lee Diamond
Betty and Larry Ditty
Beth Yager and Bob Eckstein
Heidi Evans
Anne and Eric Feldman
Debbie and Dr. Bruce Fisher
Beth and Michael Foy
Janet and Adam Frey
Barbara Glazer
Kim and John Gravely
Karl Gretzinger
David Guzman
Kathleen Hanna
Becky and David Harris
Laura and Stuart Hayman

“

**“I GIVE TO LEKOTEK
BECAUSE 93% OF EVERY
DOLLAR GOES TO DIRECT
SERVICES.”**

Melissa and Michael Hentges
Margaret Heyer
Lesley High
Meredith Hodges
Susan Hogan
Bridget and Steve Howard
Mirian Hubbard
Roberta Huebner
Kristine and Tony Intveld
Sandra and Dr. Don Jewell
Barb and Shelly Kay
Beckie and Henry Kilpatrick
Pamela King
Anna and Andy Kostopoulos
Carol Lipinsky
Ruth Litwon
Lynette Mathews
Lynette and Horton McCurdy
Debra and Mark McElhane
Paul and Pat McNaughton
Tanya Meriweather
Nancy Miller
Karen Mittleman
Vicki and Tex Morgan
Jim Morrissy
Amber Mull
Patricia Murphy
Lisa Brown and James Newbern
Janice and Joe Nodvin
Diane Norris
Pat and Dr. Richard Olney
Bonnie and Mark Patrick
Stefanie Paulos
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Dr. Michael Shiloh
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Susan and Bill Smith
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Shelly and Barb Kay
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Stephen Young
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“WE’RE PROUD TO
SUPPORT LEKOTEK’S
EXTRAORDINARY
WORK.”

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\$20,000 AND UP

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 John H. and Wilhelmina D. Harland Charitable Foundation
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\$10,000 TO \$19,999

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\$1,000 TO \$2,499

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 Carpedia International
 Cobb County Friendship Club
 Coulter & Sierra
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 Republic Land and Investments
 SECO Architectural Systems
 Thompson Hine
 Towne Lake Optimist Club
 Valentino Sales
 Vector Global Logistics



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McKenney Family Foundation
 Mitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC US
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 Next Step
 Olansky Dermatology Associates
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PUZZLE SOLVERS UNDER \$1,000

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 B'nai Torah
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 Dekalb School Employees Foundation
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 Contributions Program
 SunTrust
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 UPS
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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

The Kathryn Gillespie Memorial Fund

The Lindsay Kluglein Memorial Fund

The Kendall Smith Memorial Fund

The Rachel Mann Memorial Fund

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.

The Kathy Couch Memorial Fund — Kathy Couch and daughter Laura, drove long distances to the Atlanta 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. 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 Kevin Lewis Memorial Fund — Kevin’s mom, 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 for 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 Ricardo Price Memorial Fund

The John Kalinski Memorial Fund

The Ulrich V. Solmssen Memorial Fund

The Joan Tebbel Memorial Fund

The Talmadge L. Williams Memorial Fund

Susan Jensen Memorial Fund — Sue was a special educator whose family created a fund to purchase adapted toys. Sue valued Lekotek services and referred many families.

“Pat” Patrick Scholarship Endowment — Pat learned about Lekotek during site visits as a trustee of the John H. and Wilhelmina D. Harland Charitable Foundation. The Foundation has a tradition of making a donation in honor of a trustee who is retiring. In Pat’s honor, Lekotek was awarded a grant of \$50,000 to establish a Scholarship Endowment 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 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.

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 two people have had a greater impact on Lekotek in parenting, mentoring and supporting, Executive Director, Helene Prokesch. They understood that there was no greater gift than a child.

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.

Julius Simon Memorial Fund — Julius Simon was Ellen Lindemann’s father. He never missed an opportunity to visit Lekotek when in town. Ellen’s daughter, Carla, was one of our first Lekotek kids. Ellen was our first board chair and on staff as Assistant Director for twelve years.

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 never missed a Lekotek run.

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“

LEKOTEK HAS MADE SUCH
A DIFFERENCE FOR SO MANY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
AND SERVING ON THE
BOARD ALLOWS ME TO
CONTRIBUTE.”



THE POWER OF PLAY

THE POWER OF LEKOTEK



“
I’LL NEVER BE
TOO OLD TO PLAY
AT LEKOTEK.
”



Lekotek of Georgia

Making a Difference for Children with Disabilities

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