

Enhancing Abilities

Volume 2, Number 4

December, 2012

**Don't Throw It Away!
Give It Away!
Donate It! Reutilize!**

Donate

Here is a list of acceptable electronic and non-electronic assistive technology equipment. The list will change from time to time as we research other AT equipment that can be reutilized. We appreciate your participation.

*Make a Difference
in your community
by helping individuals in
need by donating AT equipment.*

Electronic

- Electronic Wheelchairs/Scooters
- Desktops/Laptops
 - 512 or more MB of RAM
 - 1.5 or more GHz processor
- 15-17 inch monitors
- Speakers
- Headphones
- Printers
- CCTVs
- Keyboards/Large Print Keyboards
- Mouse
- Low Vision Clocks
- Talking Clocks
- Illuminated Magnifiers

Non-Electronic

- Wheelchairs
- Walkers/Walking Canes
- Magnifiers
- Timers
- Braille and Blindness Aids
- Large Print Books
- Handheld Shower Heads
- Anti-Glare Magnifier Screens
- Glass Filler



Mid-South ACT Reutilization Program

What is Reutilization?

The goal of Tennessee Technology Access Program's (TTAP) Reutilization is to promote the donation, repair, and reuse of technology and durable medical equipment for individuals with disabilities.

Why Donate?

Whether for home, work or school, the reutilization program provides equipment so people can be more independent and have a higher quality of life.

What is AT?

AT stands for Assistive Technology. According to the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988, Assistive Technology is "any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities." (P.L 100-407)

*Make a Difference
in your community*

by helping individuals in need by donating AT equipment. There is a list of some of acceptable electronic and non-electronic assistive technology equipment on page 6. The list will change from time to time as we research other AT equipment that can be reutilized. We appreciate your participation.

Mid-South ACT Loan Library

We at Mid-South ACT have a constantly changing loan library of items that are donated to us, so that we can reutilize them and then loan them out to another person with disabilities, who may not have access to these items on their own. We accept slightly used, old, durable medical equipment, or repairable Assistive Technology (AT).

Don't Throw It Away...



For more information, check our website at act.memphis.edu. There you may also sign up for any of our monthly mini-training sessions, to register for scheduled Reutilization Information and Networking Program Meetings, or you may also make suggestions for possible future sessions that may be of interest to you.

Give It Away!

For Reutilization

Donate



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Donations are the heart of Mid-South ACT. We accept slightly used, old, durable medical equipment, or repairable AT equipment.

Mid-South ACT Services

Evaluations

Mid-South ACT professionally evaluates clients to determine what assistive technology will improve the person's ability to function in home, school and work environments. The recommendations may include:

- Special computer access devices and methods
- Adaptive software and hardware
- Non-computer devices to improve function in daily activities
- Workplace, school or home modifications
- Environmental controls for lights, TV's, telephones, etc.
- Change of method, procedure or routine
- Augmentative communication strategies and equipment
- Low vision aid evaluation (e.g. CCTV)
- Seating and positioning

Installation and Configuration of Assistive Technology

- Set up and install equipment
- Provide technical assistance and troubleshooting
- Serve as liaison between adaptive equipment manufacturers and the customer

Client Training

Provide instruction related to assistive technology and methods. Areas of emphasis include:

- Instruction in the use of assistive technology
- Practice focused toward vocational skills
- Remedial training to enhance academic skills
- Augmentative communication
- Training to improve daily living skills

Information & Outreach

- Educate people with disabilities, advocates, organizations, and the general public in the use and availability of assistive technology, specifically:
- Provide customers and the general community with information necessary to make informed decisions
- Provide in-service training for educators, therapists, counselors, etc.
- Participate in and co-host conferences
- Promote community awareness of assistive technology

Research

Conduct research related to the planning, development, and implementation of assistive technology and assistive technology services.

Large print, braille, or audio tape copies of this newsletter are available upon request. Please call Mid-South ACT at 901.678.1489 for further information.



In 2009, Ms. Mary Hayes, an AmeriCorps summer VISTA volunteer for Mid-South ACT, implemented a project for everyone to stick to reutilization. Ms. Hayes designed stickers for consumers to attach onto their AT equipment. They are save and can be placed anywhere on the equipment. Before throwing away used, unused, old, or repairable AT equipment, this sticker is a small reminder to donate to the Mid-South ACT Reutilization Program. The sticker represents a shining sun asking for donations in its rays. Feel free to use them yourself, or pass them on to a friend or loved one who may want a bright reminder to not throw away but to donate their AT equipment for individuals with disabilities.

Stickers are available at the Mid-South ACT office, in Patterson Hall Room 119, and are also available at all Mid-South ACT events.



Submitted by Karen Stieg Wilson, AmeriCorpsVISTA with Mid-South Access Center for Technology (Mid-South ACT)

OCTOBER WAS NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH!



Ms. Lynn Jackson, Ms. Tara Tate, Mr. Christopher Spivey, Fallon the Service Dog & Mr. Lonnie Collins, guests of the evening.

As October was National Disability Awareness Month, Mid-South Access Center for Technology (Mid-South ACT) in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Tennessee Technology Access Project sponsored a Disability Awareness Support Groups Exhibition along with our Blind Awareness Togetherness Support Group (BATS). Most of the BATS Executive Board members were present, including President Ms. Tara Tate, Mr. Christopher Spivey, and Ms. Lynn Jackson. This exhibition was for all individuals with low vision, blind, deaf or physical impairments, as well as their families and friends. It was held on the evening of October 5, 2012, at the University of Memphis University Center. The event featured assistive technology demonstrations and spotlighted talented individuals who have achieved success in spite of their disabilities, including a singer, a musician, a deaf dance troupe and a comedian. We enjoyed putting the emphasis on individual's **CAPabilities**, as opposed to their **DISabilities**. A Reutilization Station was also on site.

Special thanks to all who volunteered their time, talents, and door prizes to make this a successful event. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the entertainment, as well as the demonstrations, light refreshments, and the door prizes. The event was both fun and informative!

Be sure to check our website at act.memphis.edu for information about our upcoming event, A Reutilization Exhibition of Assistive Technology (AT) for Living, Learning, Working, & Playing on Friday, December 7, 2012, from 3:00 – 7:00 pm in the University Center River Room.



Mid-South ACT held Assistive Technology Demonstrations & a Showcase of Talents from Individuals with Disabilities, including Singers, Dancers, Musicians, & even a Comedian!



Mr. Spivey speaking, with Fallon the Service Dog & some guests.



Mr. Jarmaine Butler, part of the Memphis Phinest Deaf Dance Troupe, performs by feeling the beat and singing using sign language.

***Don't Throw It Away!
Give It Away!
Donate It for
Reutilization!***



***If you would like to donate an item, or
are in need of one, please complete the
form below. Follow the directions at the
bottom to return it to:***

**MID-SOUTH ACCESS CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY (Mid-South ACT)
Reutilization Program**



Ms. Kathy Lamb, an individual with low vision, loads paper into a Braille that was donated to Mid-South ACT and will be reutilized. This particular one is a Smith & Corona Braille that was made in 1926, and still works beautifully!

Company/Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Website: _____

Items to Donate: _____

Please Return by **Mail to: 530 Patterson Street • 119 Patterson Hall • Memphis, Tennessee 38152**

Fax to: 901-678-3215, or Email contact name and telephone number to: act@memphis.edu.