

# Utah Assistive Technology Program 2011 Annual Report

Oct. 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011

## Goal of UATP

The goal of the non-profit Utah Assistive Technology Program (UATP) is to ensure that Utahans with disabilities obtain the assistive technology devices and services they need to be more independent in employment, educational and community settings.

## Summary of Activities:

- **Training:** 2,303 participants were trained on AT in one-on-one, online, classroom and conference settings.
- **Information:** 104,057 consumers, families and professionals received assistance with AT devices, services and funding.
- **Technical Assistance:** 457 hours provided to organizations.
- **Public Awareness:** 90,468 individuals were reached through a variety of media to increase awareness of UATP and assistive technology.
- **AT Lab:** 876 individuals received device demonstrations.
- **CReATE & AT Lab:** 165 devices were repaired, refurbished and recycled, saving consumers \$224,879.
- **UATF:** Loans for AT devices were given to 122 individuals, worth \$962,985 were financed at a 1.63% interest rate.

## Program Breakdowns:

### Utah Assistive Technology Lab:

The [Assistive Technology Lab](#) at Utah State University houses a state-of-the-art fabrication shop and a computer lab. Expert assistance is available with designing, fabricating, modifying and repairing assistive technology equipment. Other services include assistive technology demonstrations, research, prototype development, wheelchair and communication device evaluations, AT maintenance and repair, AT equipment lending and trainings on construction of low-cost devices, communication devices, adapter computer technologies and more.

### Student Engineers Assistive Technology Projects:

[USU student engineers](#) are working with the AT Lab to build devices that will assist the aging population. These devices are unique to the individual they are built for, but have wide implications for many people. The device on the left was built for Albert La Bounty who lost the use of his legs, but wanted a mechanical creeper that allows him to continue to work on cars.

### Innovative AT device built by AT Lab

The AT Lab built an innovative AT device—a [Wii Fit stand](#)—for a child who struggles to use his lower trunk. The device gives Dillon Lundahl the stability and balance he needs to be able to play the Wii Fit games. Lundahl can now use the Wii Fit during physical therapy, but best of all, he can now play the game with his brothers. The device was built for under \$100. Also, it folds up for easy storage and transport.



### Utah Assistive Technology Foundation

The [Utah Assistive Technology Foundation](#) is a non-profit established in 1991 to provide affordable low-interest loans and small grants for individuals with disabilities to purchase assistive technology, such as accessible vans and home modifications. UATF also provides small business loans to Utahns with disabilities to start or expand an existing business. In 2011, there were 122 individuals who received loans from UATF at a 1.63% interest rate. Since UATF began, Utahns with disabilities have obtained AT devices worth more than \$7 million, increasing their quality of life.

### UATF helps Ogden man start trucking company after amputation



[Gerald Larsen](#), a UATF small-business loan recipient, said, “The experience of starting my own business was scary, but the UATF helped me understand what to expect when owning a small business. I can’t jump off a diving board or walk on the beach, things I used to do. But to continue to work helps me compensate for that.”

### Citizens Reutilizing Assistive Technology Equipment (CReATE)

[CReATE](#) provides device reutilization by refurbishing donated mobility equipment. These mobility devices are provided to the community at an affordable price—the cost of batteries, cleaning and labor. Wheelchairs and scooters that aren’t able to be used are recycled. Trained technicians help fit individuals to appropriate devices.

### Regaining mobility

Arthur Lifferth decided he would figure out a way to keep doing something in his workshop even after a stroke caused blood clots to form in his legs. He found the answer after reading about CReATE in the newspaper.

Lifferth said, “I love working in my shop. As long as I don’t cut an arm off while I’m working that’s all that matters. Now I can move around my shop.”

Regaining mobility has allowed the craftsman to build wooden toy cars in his shop to give to charity.



### **UATP Training and Technical Assistance:**

Training is critically important to stay current on evolving assistive technology devices and policies. To help meet this need, UATP offers free trainings in a variety of formats to effectively reach individuals and agencies statewide. From interactive, online webinars to one-on-one assistance, UATP gives families, caregivers, educators and professionals the opportunity to learn from area-experts. Topics range from iPad basics to wheelchair maintenance. Archived online trainings can be found at [utahatprogram.blogspot.com](http://utahatprogram.blogspot.com) or subscribe to our YouTube channel, [utahATprogram](https://www.youtube.com/channel/utahATprogram).

### **Contact UATP or find us online**

For more information on UATP, please call 800.524.5152 or 435.797.3824. Also, find UATP online at [www.uatpat.org](http://www.uatpat.org). Learn about current UATP happenings like trainings at [utahatprogram.blogspot.com](http://utahatprogram.blogspot.com).

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