

# Utah Assistive Technology Program 2014 Annual Report

Oct. 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014

## 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:** 516 participants were trained on AT in one-on-one, online, classroom and conference settings.
- **Information & Assistance:** 1,357 consumers, families and professionals received assistance with AT devices, services and funding.
- **Public Awareness:** 110,267 individuals were reached through a variety of media to increase awareness of UATP and assistive technology.
- **Demonstration:** 167 device demonstrations were done for 427 individuals.
- **Reutilization:** 365 devices were repaired, refurbished and recycled, saving consumers \$1,367,747.
- **UATF:** 94 loans at a 1.63% interest rate were given to individuals, worth \$552,078, to purchase AT devices. 75 small grants were awarded.

## Program Breakdowns:

### Utah Assistive Technology Lab:

The [Assistive Technology Lab](#) at Utah State University serves students, people with disabilities, and professionals in many ways. 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.

### Device Demonstrations by the Number

Vision 53

Hearing 2

Speech communication 13

Learning and developmental 20

Mobility, seating and positioning 7

Daily Living 50

Environmental adaptations 2

Vehicle modification 3

Computers and related 16

Recreation and leisure 1

### Student Engineers Assistive Technology Project



Image 1: Amberly testing out the saddle lift at USU.

The AT Lab's collaboration with USU's College of Engineering results in unique AT devices, like this saddle lift built for rodeo champ and student, Amberly Snyder.

The lift attached to the back of her horse trailer, and after transferring from her wheelchair, automatically lifts her up to her horse and saddle. This allows Amberly to go to rodeo event independently.

### Reuse and Recycle: Alex's Wheelchair

Image 2: Alex tries out his refurbished wheelchair at the AT Lab.



After finding an appropriate-sized chair in storage, the AT Lab crew was able to take parts off of other wheelchairs to complete a new one for 8-year-old Alex.

Martha, Alex's grandma, said, "This wheelchair means independence for me. It was very hard to go places in the old chair. I'd have to ask a stranger to help me get him back in the wheelchair once in the van, and while no one has ever told me no, there isn't always someone available."

## Utah Assistive Technology Foundation

The [Utah Assistive Technology Foundation](http://www.uatf.org) 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 hearing aids, home modifications, mobility equipment and accessible vans. 75 small grants were awarded last year, and 94 loans were given out thanks to UATF's partnership with Zion's Bank. Learn more at [www.uatf.org](http://www.uatf.org).

### Loan Customer Satisfaction

Of those surveyed, 78.57 percent were highly satisfied, while 21.43 percent were satisfied with the service and process,

### Hearing Restored

Pat Markowski said she has been married for a lot of years, but began having communication problems with her husband as she lost her hearing.

"You bet hearing is something we take for granted," Markowski said.

But now she is enjoying life again and communicating with her husband because of her new hearing aids she purchased with a loan from UATF.

"I'm very thankful for the loan. The cost was my first concern - I wouldn't have been able to get the hearing aids without it."

### Power Mobility

**Image 3: Emma driving her pink car.**



Mobility is important for all ages—that's why four-year-old Emma needed a power wheel car.

With a small grant from UATF, she was able to get a car and have it modified to fit her needs. With a push of button, Emma can now move on her own.

### Citizens Reutilizing Assistive Technology Equipment (CReATE)

[CReATE](http://www.createutah.org) provides device reutilization by refurbishing donated mobility equipment. These wheelchairs and scooters are provided to the community at an affordable price—the cost of batteries, cleaning and labor. Devices that aren't able to be used are recycled. Trained technicians help fit individuals to appropriate devices. See CReATE's inventory at [www.createutah.org](http://www.createutah.org) and keep up with us on [www.facebook.com/createutah](https://www.facebook.com/createutah).

## Regaining mobility



Image 4: Peggy Naud in her CReATE wheelchair.

After learning about CReATE from the United Way, Peggy Naud was able to ditch her crutches for a wheelchair.

Naud said, “When I saw all those chairs it made feel like I wasn't such a sore thumb sticking out in the crowd.”

Her refurbished device consisted of parts from other chairs with a Jazzy 1170 base that was donated by another client.

Now Naud can explore her downtown neighborhood, frequenting many of its events. Recently she bought season tickets to the Utah Opera.

“It was marvelous! The chair makes me taller than everyone else around me, so I had the best seat in the house,” Naud said laughing. “Nothing keeps me from getting downtown.”

## UATP Training and Technical Assistance:

Training and technical assistance helps professionals and caregivers stay up to date on new assistive technology devices and services. UATP strives to meet this need by offering 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 technology for the blind to power mobility. Archived trainings can be found on our YouTube channel, [utahATprogram](#).

## Contact UATP or find us online

For more information on UATP, please call 800.524.5152 or 435.797.3824. UATP is part of the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University.

Find UATP online at [www.uatpat.org](http://www.uatpat.org). Learn about current UATP happenings and trainings at [utahatprogram.blogspot.com](http://utahatprogram.blogspot.com).

## Find UATP on these social networks:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Pinterest](#)

The contents of this report were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.