

How ATEC Changed Jorge's Life.

Jorge sat isolated in his high school classroom, unable to participate much. He has severe cerebral palsy, which has not affected his intelligence, but he is unable to speak. Although a bright student, he wasn't able to communicate with his teachers or other teenagers. Fortunately, a dedicated educator referred Jorge to Goodwill's ATEC (Assistive Technology Exchange Center) program.

ATEC's speech and language pathologist equipped Jorge with a device activated by a simple switch that he taps using his head. The taps move the cursor to his desired word. A series of taps can create the sentence, "I completed last night's homework." Jorge was able to graduate from high school with the help of this device. He continued on to college where he is preparing for his future – a future of independence.




Serving All With Your Help.

Goodwill is supported by generous individuals, foundations and government agencies that ensure the operations of Goodwill's programs such as ATEC. This committed support allows us to serve each individual regardless of their financial circumstances. We have agreements with the State Department of Rehabilitation, public and private schools, Regional Centers and insurers – which help fund ATEC services. Many families do not have the support of a second-party payer, or lack the insurance to pay for needed services. The revenue we generate from our fee for service contracts does not cover the entire cost to operate the program. Goodwill supports the remaining deficit through revenue generated by our retail operations and fund development efforts.

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GOODWILL OF ORANGE COUNTY

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IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE CENTER



GOODWILL OF ORANGE COUNTY

Using Technology to Maximize Potential.

At ATEC, we assist children and adults with disabilities to reach their maximum potential using comprehensive assistive technology, also called AT. AT is any item of equipment, specialized materials or strategy that is used by people with disabilities to improve functional capabilities. In human terms, it's the voice for a little girl who's never been able to speak, or the hands for a young man who has lost his ability to write. It's hope. It's empowerment. It is central to our mission of helping individuals lead more fulfilling lives.

Innovative Solutions.

ATEC provides service and solutions to individuals, their families and employers. We develop a strategy to enable each person to participate more fully in everyday activities at home, school and work. We provide evaluations that result in technology recommendations, equipment set-up and training, technical assistance and consulting services. We offer equipment loan and reuse and support people who are learning how to use assistive technology.

Our key services address ergonomics, Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), Electronic Aids to Daily Living (EADL), Assistive Listening Devices (ALD), reading and writing aids and computer access.



How We Help.

At ATEC, we work with people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities or impairments which may include spinal cord injuries, autism, learning disabilities, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, brain injuries, visual or hearing impairments and muscular dystrophy. People who have multiple or severe disabilities may require an integrated approach to meet more than one functional need.

We provide assistance in various areas including:

- Communication
- Studying, reading, writing, accessing the computer
- Composing written materials and performing math calculations (e.g. budgeting)
- Access to communication
- Aids for daily living, such as eating, dressing, recreation and leisure and home-living skills

ATEC provides an array of services as well as an extensive inventory of assistive technology equipment. Our highly trained and certified staff includes assistive technology specialists, speech pathologists and rehabilitation engineers.

We can travel to the person's home, work or school to provide the evaluation in the environment where the assistive technology will primarily be used. With our comprehensive support services, we strive to ensure that the equipment will be used successfully, rather than discarded in frustration when a person is having difficulty.

Our Process.

We use a four-part process to match the appropriate strategy with the needs of the individual.

1. We identify the appropriate technology and conclude with a formal report.
2. Possibly equipment may be recommended and loaned.
3. We provide training to help individuals become proficient on the technology according to the plan.
4. Technical support is provided to ensure the individual's success.

A Trusted Resource.

Located in a state-of-the-art facility at the Goodwill Fitness & Technology Center, ATEC is among the finest of its kind in Orange County, and one of only a few programs available in California. With the support of the community, ATEC has become a trusted resource throughout Southern California. Founded more than 10 years ago, it is one of Goodwill of Orange County's most innovative programs.

To Learn More.

Anyone can initiate a referral to ATEC. When you call to begin the referral process, we will request detailed information to best assess your needs and expectations, because our services are as individual as the people we serve. We typically request a current medical summary, written reports from speech, occupational and physical therapy and Individualized Education Plan for school-aged clients. To initiate a referral or for questions, please call (714) 361-6200, or email atec@ocgoodwill.org. To learn more about the program visit www.atec-oc.org.