

Disability Commission

August 13, 2007

Assistive Technology (AT)
Recycling in Virginia

Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)

- Designated by Governor to direct AT efforts for the State
- Funded by RSA
- Administered by DRS
- Ensures that Virginian's with disabilities & seniors with limited resources can acquire needed AT
- Has lead responsibility to establish recycling programs statewide

Demand for AT Increasing

- Increase in number of people with disabilities and seniors
- Rise in number of uninsured - 1 Million in Virginia
- Limitations of public and private insurance providers
- Advances in technology

Examples of AT Devices

- Manual or power wheelchairs
- Power scooters
- Bath tub benches
- Bedside commodes
- Hospital beds
- Communications devices
- Walkers

Options for Acquiring AT

- Disability Services Agencies purchase AT, if eligible
- ATLFA makes loans for persons who are credit worthy
- Consumer Services Funds provide grants, if eligible
- Recycling programs gift devices for persons with limited resources

Recycling of AT Devices & Equipment Involves

- Collection
- Sanitization
- Storage
- Refurbishment
- Matching
- Redistribution

Sources of AT Devices and Equipment

- Individuals who no longer need the AT
- Churches
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes

Early Recycling Initiatives

- Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment (FREE)
- Goodwill of Central Virginia (GCV)

AT Summit

- Held in November 2005
- Convened by SHHR
- Hosted by DRS/VATS, FREE & GCV.
- Attended by John Hager, Assistant Secretary of OSERS
- Attracted community leaders from across State
- Designed to support regional groups of stakeholders to plan for & implement local recycling programs

Outcomes of Summit

- Three (3) local recycling teams identified to facilitate implementation.
- Secretary Hager developed a National AT Reutilization Program
- RSA initiated a RFP
- Virginia received an AT recycling grant
- The Virginia AT Device Reutilization Network (VATNet) was established

VATNet Mission

- Mission: increase reuse of AT devices among individuals with disabilities & seniors with limited resources by developing a statewide recycling network

VATNet Vision

All Virginian's with disabilities and seniors will have the AT they need to improve community living, continue their education and seek employment options.

A network of public/private partners statewide working together to provide AT devices at no cost.

Status of VATNet Recycling Programs

Three (3) partner programs

1. FREE
2. Goodwill
3. Equipment Connection in Fredericksburg

Status of VATNet Recycling Programs

Three (3) emerging full service programs

1. Martinsville
2. Lynchburg
3. Petersburg

Status of VATNet Recycling Programs

Five (5) recycling programs under development

1. Hampton Rhoads
2. Virginia Beach
3. Fairfax
4. Giles County
5. Culpepper

At the Local Community Level

Neighbors helping neighbors

1. People in need
2. Families/caregivers
3. Health Care providers
4. Business leaders
5. Community service agencies

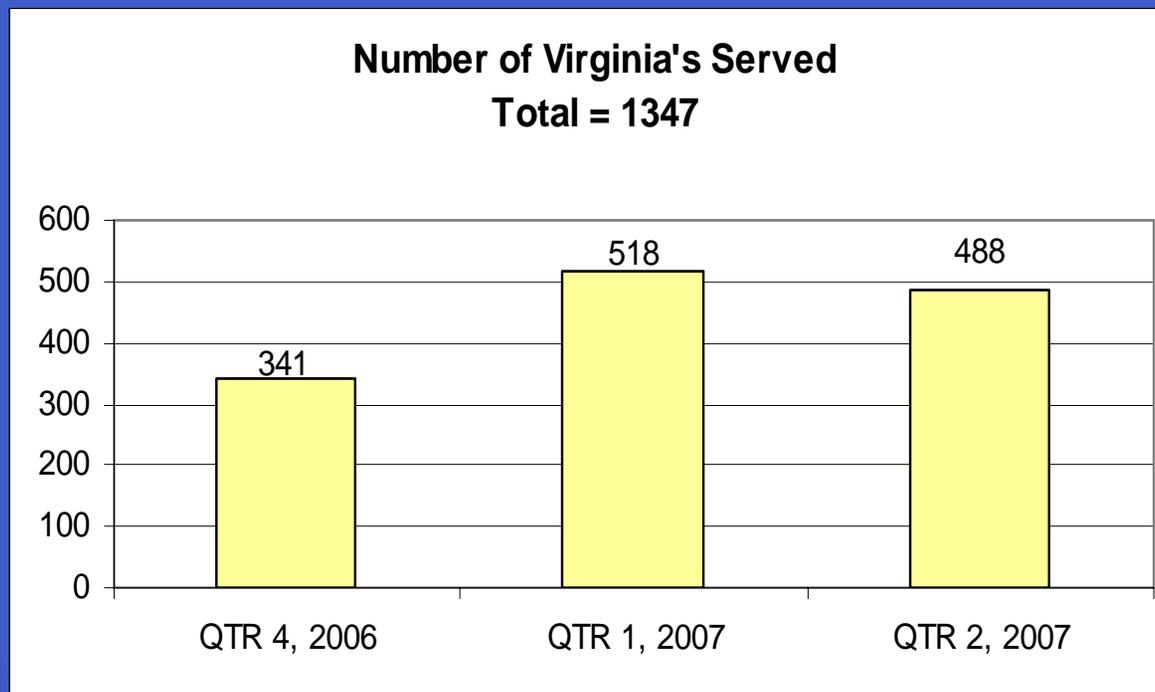
Community Resources

1. Community donations of devices & equipment
2. Community Volunteers
3. Start up support (businesses & foundations)
4. Community referrals

Quality Recycling Values

1. Service compliment not duplication
2. Resource pooling and sharing
3. Device matching to fit the need of the individuals
4. Best practice development
5. Environmental waste reduction

Impact & Outcomes



Impact & Outcomes

These 1337 Virginians were served by VATNet in only 5 local communities.

- They received 1718 devices
- A total value of \$565,600

Impact & Outcomes

- Improving Independence
- Decreasing Falls
- Decreasing ER/Hospitalizations
- Decreasing premature admission to nursing facilities
- Increasing ability to live safely at home
- Community cost savings

Personal Story

- Meet Gary & George



Next Steps

Expanding the Network of recycling programs
across the state

1. Need for additional community leaders
2. Need for funding to maintain current programs and develop new programs

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