



Changing Lives with Assistive Technology for over 25 Years!

Biennium Report: July 2016 - June 2018



There is NO Impossible!



About ND Assistive

We are ND Assistive, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, that connects people of all ages and abilities to assistive technology devices and services to help them learn in school, work, access the community, and live safely and more independently in the home of their choice. Since 1993, ND Assistive (formerly IPAT) has been one of the 56 Assistive Technology Act Programs in the United States, providing a range of services to increase awareness of and access to assistive technology for people in North Dakota. In addition, ND Assistive administers several other state and federal contracts and delivers assistive technology services on a fee-for-service basis.

ND Assistive staff assess needs and recommend assistive technology solutions for children in schools, transition-aged youths, people who want to work or continue working, and anyone who wants to be independent. We offer short-term equipment loans so people can try assistive technology before they buy it. We identify funding options to help get assistive technology devices into the hands of the people who need them. We also have two Home First Demonstration Centers – simulated home environments equipped with assistive technology in every room. Here, anyone can interact with and learn about devices to help them live more safely in their homes.

ND Assistive services are supported by a variety of funding sources including the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living; the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Aging Services and Vocational Rehabilitation Divisions; State of Minnesota STAR Program; and private donations.



MD Didn't Stop Me from Being the Queen of My Castle

D'Ette does not let anything stop her, including muscular dystrophy (MD). Before meeting ND Assistive, tasks most of us don't even think about such as turning on a light and making a phone call, were next to impossible for her. She could not even let anyone in her front door without leaving it unlocked. She was at extreme risk for having to move to a nursing home.

D'Ette is now able to independently access her iPhone with switch control and smart home products to make calls, unlock her door, turn on lights, control her thermostat, access the computer, and more. She recently stated, "ND Assistive can help people be at home, doing things they otherwise could not do. It's so amazing. People just don't know what's out there - it just blows your mind!"

D'Ette has been admitted to the nursing home a few times during this past decade; however, she has always been able to come home due to her assistive technology, her accessible home, and her care providers.

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ND Assistive's Potential Return on Investment in 1 Year

For every year that we are able to keep a person in their home, \$97,000 is saved.*

Medication Dispensers provided to 50 Seniors



Emergency Response Units (No Monthly Fee) provided to 218 Seniors



Safety Devices Distributed in one year to 727 Seniors



* Based on the average annual cost of a nursing home stay in North Dakota for 2018.

ND Assistive Stats (All statistics are for the period of July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2018)



6,294

People served directly through all of our programs combined which is a 14% increase over two years



\$40,700

Dollars were raised to provide grants of assistive technology for 56 people



943

Equipment demonstrations for 1,328 people



15,668

People learned about ND Assistive through presentations, trainings, and exhibits



319

AT equipment loans



Over

287,800

visits to our blog which features new assistive technology products, stories of success, and funding resources



259

AT devices were reutilized for a total of \$44,720 saved

"It is amazing how these devices work. These devices are really handy!"

Overcoming Hearing Loss to Stay in Touch with Loved Ones

Kemo, a Veteran and member of the Lakota Nation, lost a portion of her hearing due to the war and health issues. She struggled to hear and comprehend in most situations. Thanks to generous donations to our Possibilities Fund, ND Assistive was able to provide her a personal amplified listening device called the Pocketalker.



Kemo stated that with the Pocketalker she can now understand her doctor during medical appointments, enjoy meeting with friends now that she can grasp what they are saying, and more. She said, "It is amazing how these devices work. These devices are really handy! They make my life so much easier. I can hear a lot more than I did before!"



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The Amazing POWER of AT for Traumatic Brain Injury - Over 10 Years Later!

The POWER of assistive technology to change a life and provide lifelong benefits was never more evident than in the story of Hannah. In 2007 at age 15, she was involved in a car accident and acquired a severe traumatic brain injury. She could no longer walk, talk, or even hold up her head.

After months of hard work and therapy, she got back on her feet again. Due to her ongoing memory loss issues and reading and writing needs, she was referred to ND Assistive through ND Vocational Rehabilitation.

In 2018, ND Assistive reconnected with Hannah and learned that she not only graduated from college but that she was currently employed as a paraprofessional near her hometown! She stated that she owed a lot of her success to her assistive technology. She said, "Without assistive technology, especially the pen, I wouldn't have been able to do college. It enabled me to go to each class and be as independent as I possibly could be. Assistive technology has changed my life for the better...I can't even put it into words."

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