



Project CARAT

Coordinating and Assisting the Reuse
of Assistive Technology in the
Commonwealth

10/1/2019- 9/30/2020
ANNUAL REPORT

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OVERVIEW OF Project CARAT



Introduction

Many people in Kentucky have limited access to appropriate assistive technology (AT) and durable medical equipment (DME), such as wheelchairs, walkers, and bath seats. These individuals may lack health insurance or cannot access their health insurance benefits due to high deductibles.

To improve the health and quality of life for individuals with disabilities in Kentucky, Project CARAT has established an AT/DME reutilization program. The program takes in used donated medical equipment, refurbishes and sanitizes it, and redistributes it to individuals who need it at no cost to the individual.*

In order to make this happen, Project CARAT is partnering with agencies across the state.

Everyone has a part to play: What can YOU do to help?

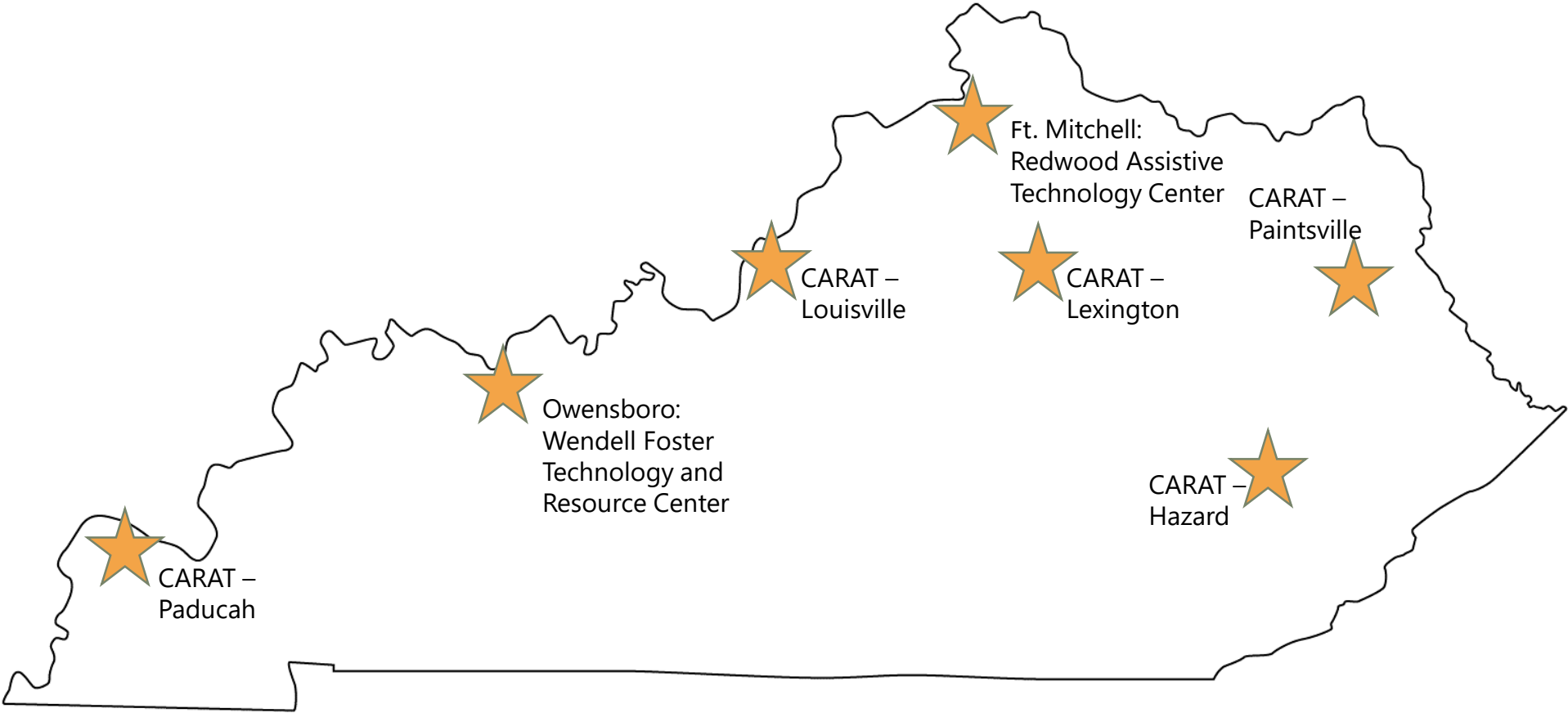
Donate: The medical equipment you or your family member no longer need could greatly improve the life, health, mobility, independence, and sense of dignity of someone who greatly needs it.

Volunteer: Project CARAT needs assistance transporting refurbished items to people in need.

Spread the Word: Tell people about Project CARAT. Share our information on social media; let everyone at your church, community centers, and social groups know! We are always happy to provide brochures or a speaker.

*A small service fee is requested for items provided at Project CARAT **Paducah** to help with operating expenses.

Project CARAT SITES



CARAT SITE INFORMATION

There are many reasons a community member might need to access DME through Project CARAT including an inability to afford due to insurance short comings, a lack of availability through other channels, and difficulty navigating complex insurance programs. In addition to the numbers below the KATS Network Coordinating Center distributed **187** reuse devices valued at **\$7,584**

CARAT – Lexington: UK Human Development Institute (HDI) – Center for Assistive Technology Services (CATS)

492 reutilized devices distributed

Could only afford via CARAT: 400

Was only available through CARAT: 5

Other programs too complex: 87

\$288,185.50 savings to consumers

CARAT – Paducah:

528 reutilized devices distributed

Could only afford via CARAT: 528

Was only available through CARAT: 0

Other programs too complex: 0

\$24,020.07 savings to consumers

CARAT – Louisville: enTECH at Spalding University

487 reutilized devices distributed

Could only afford via CARAT: 486

Was only available through CARAT: 0

Other programs too complex: 1

\$113,276.59 savings to consumers

CARAT – Hazard: Center for Excellence in Rural Health

37 reutilized devices distributed

Could only afford via CARAT: 31

Was only available through CARAT: 0

Other programs too complex: 2

\$1,519.00 savings to consumers

CARAT – Paintsville: Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center

164 reutilized devices distributed

Could only afford via CARAT: 164

Was only available through CARAT: 0

Other programs too complex: 0

\$26,642.00 savings to consumers

Redwood Assistive Technology Center:

84 reutilized devices distributed

Could only afford via CARAT: 31

Was only available through CARAT: 0

Other programs too complex: 53

\$54,875.75 savings to consumers

Wendell Foster Technology and Resource Center:

87 reutilized devices distributed

Could only afford via CARAT: 79

Was only available through CARAT: 5

Other programs too complex: 3

\$50,825.61 savings to consumers

DEVICE REASSIGNMENT • REFURBISHMENT • REPAIR ACTIVITIES

TYPE OF AT DEVICE	NUMBER OF DEVICES	EST. SAVINGS TO CONSUMER
Vision	142	\$2,472
Hearing	55	\$4,347
Speech Communication	38	\$48,928
Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	14	\$4,022
Mobility, Seating, and Positioning	384	\$314,419
Daily Living*	1357	\$192,224
Environmental Adaptations	45	\$9,142
Vehicle Modification and Transportation	3	\$2,928
Computers and Related	25	\$8,360
Recreation, Sports, and Leisure	12	\$1,016
Total	1940	\$587,858

*Devices that enhance the capacity of people with disabilities to live independently, such as dressing, personal hygiene, bathing, home maintenance, cooking, eating, shopping, and managing money.

CONSUMERS AND DONOR STORIES



Project CARAT Hazard

Mark Kincaid has right-sided deficits from a massive stroke. He was unable to get in the shower without a shower bench, until his wife contacted the Project CARAT site in Hazard. Our site was able to get him the perfect size shower bench for Mark. Despite his stroke and the deficits he still has, Mark is very active. He loves to go camping and had not been able to shower inside of his camper. The bench he received from Project CARAT was the perfect size to take on his camper and allowed him to get outdoors and again do what he loves. He and his wife, Tonya are very grateful for the program.

A man was recently discharged from Cardinal Hill following surgery. He was referred to our center by the occupational therapy staff. We were able to give him a quad cane, a walker, a rollator, and a pair of compression stockings, all from our CARAT project. This individual expressed how appreciative he was for our help as he is on a fixed income and would not have been able to purchase these items. He even called back to thank us again and tell us how much the rollator and walker have helped him to safely get up and about. **Submitted by CARAT- Lexington.**

A caregiver in Floyd County needed a power chair to assist in helping her client leave her home. The client had a manual wheelchair, but the ramps leaving her home were very steep and difficult to navigate. The power chair made it much easier for the individual to leave her home. **Submitted by CARAT – Paintsville.**

A teenage girl with a disability was only able to walk for short distances before tiring. Her father had back surgery and was no longer able to carry her when she got tired. The family had been very active and missed getting out in the community. A Catalyst 5 wheelchair was refurbished and given to the family for their teenage daughter to use. This wheelchair allowed the family to again engage in community outings. Her father said, "This wheelchair has made a huge difference for our family." **Submitted by Redwood Assistive Technology Center**

PARTNERSHIP

JustServe:

JustServe believes that nothing should get in the way of organizations and volunteers coming together to do good things for the community, so they help make that happen for free. JustServe has helped pick up and deliver DME for Project CARAT multiple times in the greater Louisville area and will be expanding the partnership throughout the Commonwealth **Learn more: justserve.org**

Serve KENTUCKY:

Serve Kentucky currently administers 20 AmeriCorps programs with more than \$7 million in federal grant funds, along with supporting other community service programs across the Commonwealth.

Since 1994, more than 13,000 Kentuckians have served approximately 21 million hours through AmeriCorps, earning AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$50.5 million.

Serve KY's network of volunteers enhances Project CARAT's ability to move donated durable medical equipment across the Commonwealth from donors, to our refurbish centers, and then on to the individuals who are most in need.

Learn more: serve.ky.gov

SOS:

SOS (SOS) is a Louisville, Kentucky-based nonprofit organization that meets critical health care needs in medically impoverished communities around the world by collecting and distributing surplus medical supplies and equipment. SOS has been a frequent partner and donor to Project CARAT's statewide efforts. **Learn more: soshealthandhope.org**



PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

"JustServe.org provides community organizations with a platform to recruit volunteers and build strong communities through volunteerism. CARAT has been one of our favorite JustServe.org partners.

All the staff members have been wonderful to work with to coordinate projects and their mission to help others at no cost is so important to the community.

We look forward to continuing to work with CARAT and helping share their vision."

Terry Fiet

JustServe.org Director- Jefferson County



Project CARAT CORE TEAM



Michael Karman – Statewide Project CARAT Program Coordinator

Provides oversight to Project CARAT and My Kentucky Smart Home / Christopher Reeve Foundation Grant.



Elizabeth Thompson – Administrative Assistant

Provides assistance to Project CARAT, KATS and other programs.



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