

# Real-Life Stories: Smart Home Technology for Independence



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**Brought to you by  
Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation**

# Alexa Brill

Social Media Manager, The Arc of Pennsylvania

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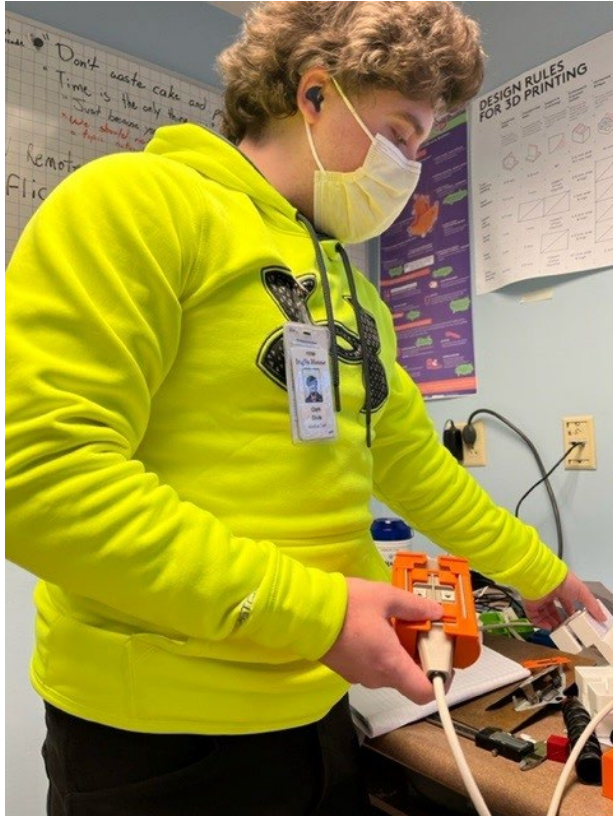


- Graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Edinboro University.
- President of the Self Advocates United as 1 (SAU1).
- Serves on the PATF's Smart Home Advisory Committee.
- Participant in Temple University's Assistive Technology Champions Program.

# Wendy Davis

Director of Marketing and Outreach, Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation

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# Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF)

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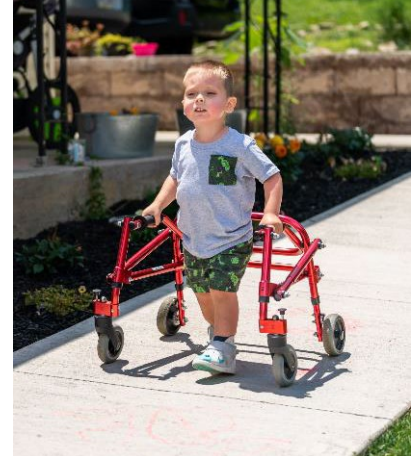
- Statewide, non-profit organization, based in King of Prussia, PA
- Majority of the Board and staff are individuals with disabilities and/or immediate family members
- PA's Alternative Financing Program (federal Assistive Technology Act)
- Texas's Alternative Financing Program (AFP) is Texas Technology Access Program at the Texas Center for Disability Studies
- Contact Angela Standridge, Director of the AFP program for more information
  - Email: [astandridge@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:astandridge@austin.utexas.edu)
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# What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

Any device or service that can help a person with a disability or older adult do the things they want to do. AT makes it possible for people to live independently, go to work and school, communicate, play, and be active in their communities. There is no definitive list of what is AT.

Examples: generator, air conditioner, bathroom modification, adapted sports equipment...



# A Fence is Assistive Technology

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“With the loan we got from PATF we were able to enclose our back yard with a fence that is too tall for Sam to climb. We can now invite friends and family over for cookouts and backyard fun, such as water balloon and squirt gun fights, soccer and kickball, and just running around the yard. Our son can play outside and get exercise without putting himself in danger. **As parents we are able to relax and enjoy our yard now knowing our son is safe.**”

- Sam’s Mom. Sam has autism and frequently darts and wanders away.

# Using Smart Home Technology for Independence

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# Tour Alexa's Smart Home

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# “Braiding” Funding

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Alexa braided three funding sources together to modify her new home. OVR paid for a ceiling-mounted lift and the installation of an electric door opener on the front door.

Her waiver paid for modifications to her floors, walls, and three other doors.

A grant from the Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority was used to install the Universal Remote Control home automation system (a type of “smart home” technology).



# Live Demonstrations

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# Smart Homes Made Simple: Your Guide to Smart Home Technology

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Explore how generic smart home technology can help with daily activities

Includes a self-assessment tool to guide you in identifying how smart home technology can help

Available in print and accessible PDF download

Also available in Spanish

Companion website:

[SmartHomesMadeSimple.org](http://SmartHomesMadeSimple.org)



# *Funding Your Assistive Technology: A Guide to Funding Resources in Pennsylvania*

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Comparison of PA ABLE and Special Needs Trusts

Learn about public and private funding for AT

Discover more than 65 funding resources



Available in print and accessible PDF

Also available in Spanish

Any Questions?

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# Texas Technology Access Program

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- Financial Loan Program provides Texans with disabilities affordable loans to help purchase assistive technology to improve their quality of life and independence.
- Loans available from \$500 to \$25,000
- Fixed interest rate of 7%
- Loans terms up to 5 years



# Contact Us

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