

## PRESS RELEASE



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***ARC Broward Awarded \$145,000 to provide Technology Supports to Children with Developmental Disabilities***

Sunrise, FL — The Health Foundation of South Florida is pleased to announce its support of ARC Broward's *Assistive Technology Project for Children with Developmental Disabilities* with an award of \$145,095.00.

“This award will make the Assistive Technology Program a reality,” said Shawn Preston, Director of Children’s Services. “We can now provide children in our preschool and outpatient rehabilitation programs with phenomenal new tools that open doors for them to access information, knowledge and skills that they previously could not. Advances in technology will help our children achieve so many things that several years ago we could not have dreamed possible.”

ARC Broward’s team of licensed Speech, Physical and Occupational Therapists and certified teachers will utilize Assistive Technology supports to help children access their education, making it easier for them to move, communicate and interact in their world. The goals of the Assistive Technology Project are to assist children with disabilities to accomplish tasks that would have been difficult or impossible to complete.

Adaptive computer hardware and software will allow the children to use the computers independently for academic learning and for fun! The computer skills that they acquire will prove essential to their success as they journey through educational and vocational endeavors.

ARC Broward will receive consultation from The Debbie School at the University of Miami, which was also supported by funding from the Health Foundation of South Florida to implement a similar AT program during the two-year period 2003-2005 that resulted in great functional gains by their students.

The program at ARC Broward will be implemented over two years and findings of the project will be disseminated locally, regionally and nationally.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

ARC Broward is a private, not-for-profit organization providing supports and assistance primarily to children and adults with mental retardation, autism, Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other developmental disabilities. Incorporated in 1956 and celebrating 50 years serving the community, ARC Broward provides a continuum of supports to more than 1,200 children and adults with disabilities and employs a caring team of more than 450 health-care, educational, and other professionals.

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