

The Eric Fund

Celebrating 21 Years of Helping Children
and Adults with Disabilities Lead More
Independent Lives

FLYER

Dear Friends of The Eric Fund:

Twenty years of giving is not enough for The Eric Fund. We've entered our third decade with the same commitment and energy that propelled us to fulfill the mission we dedicated ourselves to 21 years ago. And with your support, we will continue to grow and contribute to greater independence for people with disabilities in the Washington, DC metro area.

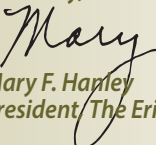
This year's awards will benefit the lives and independence of nine individuals from the Washington area to the tune of more than \$21,000, bringing our total donations to more than \$230,000 over The Eric Fund's 21 years of dedication to helping people with disabilities in our community. Thanks to your contributions, this year we have purchased iPads with special applications, an electric wheelchair and scooter, an adaptive tricycle, adaptive computer and video game equipment and a smart device that converts a manual wheelchair to electric, and more.

Our mission is to level the playing field for people with disabilities by providing assistive technology that will enable greater independence in their daily lives. The Eric Fund steps in to help when applicants have exhausted every other avenue of support, whether through insurance, the workplace, school or family resources. And we see the impact of these awards reach beyond our applicants to their families, fellow students, friends, teachers and colleagues.

This year's awards means The Eric Fund has reached 101 exceptional individuals with equipment that brings greater independence to their lives. We remain the same small band of volunteers committed to our mission and hope you will continue to support us as we enter our third decade of giving.

From all of us at The Eric Fund, we hope you will enjoy the holiday season knowing you have helped some very deserving people in our community. Please continue to share The Eric Fund story with your friends and families.

Sincerely,


Mary F. Hanley
President, The Eric Fund



2019 Eric Fund Awardees

The Eric Fund Enters Third Decade of Giving with \$21,000 in Assistive Device Donations to 9 People in the Washington-Area Disability Community

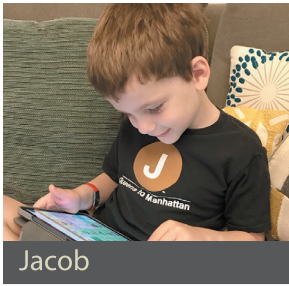
A young boy with a progressive neuromuscular disease will receive an adaptive tricycle that will develop his strength, mobility and independence. A woman with polio since birth will improve her mobility with a scooter. A DC woman with visual disabilities will receive a magnifying device that will aid and improve her efficiency at work and home. A 14-year-old boy who developed quadriplegia will be able to use electronic devices and once again play video games with his friends. These are just some of the people The Eric Fund was able to assist this year.

The Eric Fund is a Washington-based nonprofit organization that purchases needed but often expensive assistive technology that helps children and adults with disabilities live on their own terms in their communities. "We are both amazed and excited to be entering our third decade of providing equipment and devices to so many wonderful people in our Washington area. Knowing that we – with your help – can make what may be life-changing contributions to such deserving peoples' lives merely strengthens our resolve to carry on. This year's more than \$21,000 worth of awards surpasses the past 20 years' awards. We are so grateful for your generosity that allows people in the Washington, DC, area to live more independent lives," said Mary Hanley, president of The Eric Fund.

Founded in 1998, The Eric Fund's mission is inspired by the memory of Eric Savader, who died from cancer in 1997 and who worked on behalf of several disability causes.

Please read on and be amazed by the compelling stories of the 2019 Eric Fund award recipients as well as some of our past awardees you have supported.

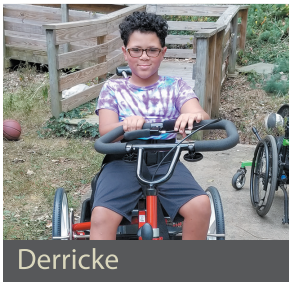
2019 Awardees



Jacob is a 5-year-old boy from Rockville, MD, who has a genetic condition that causes benign tumors to grow throughout his major organs and for Jacob, most notably in the brain. The benign brain tumors have caused epilepsy and developmental delays including speech delays as his greatest challenge. Jacob uses an assistive device at school that has provided him some level of independence communicating and advocating for himself. The Eric Fund is pleased to award Jacob an iPad with applications that can be customized for his specific needs and that can be with him at home and when he transitions from school to camp to kindergarten. His mother said that when Jacob opened up his new “words” device, “his face lit up. It was wonderful to see him realize he could connect now. Thank you so much for making this possible for our family,” she said.



Anjanette is 55 years old and has had polio since birth, but did not know she was entitled to assistance, therapy and other services until she was 28 years old. The delay in receiving assistance caused her condition to worsen, making it painful to walk. She requested a power mobility scooter to get out and about more and have more interaction in her Washington, DC community. Now Anjanette can run errands and attend things she normally would not have been able to do.



Derrick is an active 8-year-old boy from Woodbridge, VA, with spinal muscular atrophy. His condition causes weak muscles, making it a challenge to move independently and requires use of a wheelchair. Derrick wants to be able to ride a bicycle in the neighborhood like his brothers and friends. He was evaluated for an adaptive tricycle and it was recommended not only for his social involvement, but also to build his muscles, stamina, endurance and mobility. The bicycle is not covered by insurance, so The Eric Fund was honored to purchase one for Derrick.

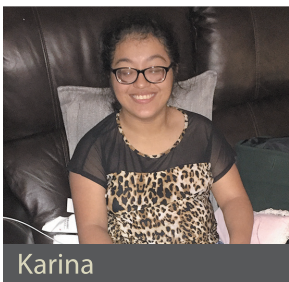
Derrick’s mother said that means the world to her that her son has a bike of his own, allowing him to go outside and play with other children. He loved using the bike at physical therapy and he was thrilled when he found out he was getting one of his own to use at home.



Joshua is a 19-year-old young man with intellectual disabilities from Washington, DC, who works hard and chases his dreams. Once told he would never read or write, Joshua is a high school honors student and a member of his school’s distinguished Core Leader Team, working with parents, students and teachers. The Eric Fund is purchasing an iPad mini for Joshua so he can use a special reading app that will help him read books and notes as well as record some of his classes for note taking. The iPad will help Joshua continue to excel at school and beyond.



Stephanie is an active, 41-year-old woman from Springfield, VA, who is part of the Undiagnosed Disease Network at the National Institutes of Health. It has been difficult for Stephanie to get funding for a wheelchair since she doesn’t have an official diagnosis. She has a neuromuscular condition that reduces her stamina, making it necessary to use a wheelchair when out of the house. She requested a Fold & Go electric wheelchair that is heavy duty and good for outdoor activities. Stephanie enjoys being outside and exploring new things. On her first official outing with her new equipment, she used the chair to go to Great Falls, Virginia. She said the gravel paths were bumpy, but she was able to navigate them well, especially with the help of the self-propel feature. Stephanie plans to have more exciting adventures with her new wheelchair.



Karina is a vivacious 20-year-old woman with cerebral palsy from Springfield, VA. Karina uses a manual wheelchair, but struggled to operate it optimally around her high school campus and in the community. With an electric wheelchair out of her family’s financial reach, Karina’s therapists at her high school tested a device that would convert her manual wheelchair into a power chair when needed, enabling her to navigate her world at a pace that matches her energetic personality. The Eric Fund is honored to purchase a SmartDrive device for Karina, which will help power her wheelchair and her dreams, as she gets ready to embark on a new chapter in her life.

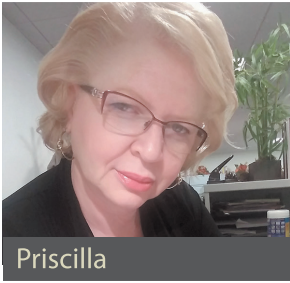


2019 Awardees



Marcello

Marcello is a 14-year-old boy from Springfield, VA, who misses playing video games and connecting with friends online. Marcello suddenly began to lose function in his hands, arms and legs and now uses a wheelchair. His therapist recommended “life changing” assistive technology that would help Marcello use a phone and computer to participate with friends socially and via video games. While a private donor purchased an adaptive Xbox controller for him, Marcello’s existing Xbox is old and does not support new adaptive devices. The Eric Fund is purchasing an adaptive joystick controller and new Xbox to help Marcello once again play video games with his friends. The Eric Fund is also providing a switch, iPad and case. “He is going to be so excited,” said his mom, Guissela. “Thank you so much to The Eric Fund for getting this equipment for Marcello. We can’t thank you enough.”



Priscilla

Priscilla is a 56-year-old woman from Washington, DC, with visual disabilities and albinism, who works for the DC government. When the existing magnifying screen and reader she received through her job was old and did not work reliably, she sought other options to help her get equipment that would make her job easier. The Eric Fund purchased a brand new magnifying screen for Priscilla that will enlarge her computer as well as be able to scan and enlarge papers and other hardcopy media for easy viewing. Priscilla was thrilled to receive her new magnifying screen, and is happy that the device is hers to use at work or at home.



Richard

From the time Richard took and absorbed his sister’s math and computer programming book when he was in middle school, his interest in all things computers was undeniable. Richard, who is on the autism spectrum and lives with ADHD and other disabilities, is now 19 and attends a tech lab at his high school. Richard’s computer skills have grown exponentially, recently programming a virtual reality video game with two of his friends, and spending his free time creating games, animations and programming computers. When Richard’s laptop was accidentally broken on the bus beyond repair, a new computer was not in his family’s budget. The Eric Fund is proud to purchase a new laptop and computer bag for Richard so he can continue pursuing his interest in computers, building skills that will help him when he is ready to land a job.

WHERE Are They Now?

Here is an update on some of our past Eric Fund award winners and what they are up to today.



Ammar, now 19, is the older of two autistic twins and one of six children. In 2018, Ammar received an iPad with specialized visual applications to accommodate his abilities as a visual learner. Ammar’s autism primarily affects his communication skills and the applications help guide his verbal output. His mom, Kathy, says that Ammar has loved using the iPad and benefitted greatly from the award all year. “He takes it wherever he goes,” she said, thanking The Eric Fund on behalf of their whole family, adding touchingly, “Those of you who take time from your lives to help those who struggle with autism are truly giving.”



Jake, a 2018 Eric Fund recipient, is now 12 and according to his mom, Chiara, he “has become excited about learning for the first time!” Jake has Down syndrome and autism spectrum disorder, which together makes communication his most difficult challenge. The Eric Fund provided a Dynavox augmentative communication device that helps Jake to communicate. His mom says the device has done so much more than they expected and they are very thankful for the award.



James, 16, received a communication device from The Eric Fund in 2017 with the financial assistance of the manufacturer and designated donations from Eric Fund supporters. James has hearing loss in both ears and verbal communication challenges. James’s father says that James uses the device with prompting and that it “really helps convey what he’s trying to say.” He said that James is attached to the device and brings it to school and therapy appointments every day. We are inspired by James who continues to work toward a level of independence while having endured two open-heart surgeries, a bone marrow transplant, leukemia and the loss of his mother to cancer. “I am so grateful to The Eric Fund...because it’s so helpful to him,” said James’s dad.



2017 Fundraiser and Silent Auction at Nellie's Sports Bar in Washington, DC

SAVE THE DATE!

The Eric Fund will host its 2020 reception and silent auction on Monday, May 4 at Nellie's Sports Bar in Washington, DC, at 6pm. Washington's favorite & finest restaurants, salons, sports and events tickets, winery tours, vacation homes and much more will once again be available for bid and will raise money to help us continue to fund needed assistive technology for people with disabilities in the Washington, DC area. More details to come. Mark your calendars!

The Eric Fund

Support The Eric Fund

Help us make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities with a gift to The Eric Fund. We put your donation to work by providing much-needed equipment and assistive technology to children and adults with disabilities in the Washington, DC area. We are an all-volunteer organization, so your donation goes to programs, not overhead.

Your contribution could make a significant difference in someone's life!

YES! I want to help provide much-needed technology to people with disabilities

Donation Amount: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other: \$ _____
or donate online at www.ericfund.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Please make checks payable to The Eric Fund and mail to:
The Eric Fund, P.O. Box 65188, Washington, DC 20035-5188 or donate online at www.ericfund.org

And don't forget to keep a record of your donation. It's tax deductible!

DC CITY COUNCIL HONORS THE ERIC FUND

With the help of At-Large Councilmember Elissa Silverman, the DC City Council presented The Eric Fund with a resolution to commemorate its 20th anniversary in 2018: "The Council honors The Eric Fund For Its Many Contributions to People with Disabilities in the Washington Metropolitan Area; And Congratulates It On Its 20th Anniversary."

Eric Fund President Mary Hanley and Vice President Heidi Kurtz joined Councilmember Silverman (pictured) to accept the honor on The Eric Fund's behalf.



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Choose The Eric Fund as your Amazon Smile organization to help us raise extra funds!

*Find us under
The Eric C. Savader Memorial Disabilities Fund*

The Eric Fund Flyer is produced by The Eric C. Savader Memorial Disabilities Fund (d/b/a The Eric Fund), a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to assisting persons with disabilities in the metropolitan Washington, DC area to be more independent.

The Eric Fund Board: **Honorary Chairman:** John D. Kemp; **President:** Mary F. Hanley; **Vice President:** Heidi Kurtz; **Vice President & Secretary:** Lisa Stockmann Karp; **Directors:** D. Michael Murray, Susan Reese, Ruth Rodgers, Barbara Savader Cohen, Scott J. Savader, M.D., Sarah Watkins

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