

OPRA Foundation Grant Report 2023

RecTalker

WEARABLE "TALKER" FOR INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS



THE CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Project Summary



Project Objectives

The City of Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department has successfully introduced an innovative program that involves offering a wearable communication device, known as the RecTalker, to children and adults participating in our summer programs. This assistive device enhances communication abilities and fosters greater inclusion in daily activities.

Participating Agencies

The City of Cuyahoga Falls collaborated with Summit DD, our local county agency who provided valuable insights during the design and implementation of the program extension. They offered numerous suggestions and provided on-site assistance to encourage the utilization of the device.

Outcomes and Impact

The grant and acquisition of the Rectalkers have enabled us to offer accommodations tailored to individual needs. Previously, there was a noticeable lack of effective communication with some campers. Consequently, a considerable amount of time was spent trying to offer non-verbal options or cues to disengaged participants. However, the use of the talker device proved to be an effective and impactful way of improving communication between not only the staff and participants but also among the participants themselves.

The device was instrumental in enhancing the self-confidence and independence of the users. It allowed them to engage with others while also providing an avenue to communicate when they needed a break or desired time alone.

Moreover, the availability of these devices provided a means of communication for individuals who may not have previously known or understood how to interact with those who use them. This visual cue has enabled them to communicate with greater confidence and ease.

By removing these barriers to interaction, we are taking a significant step towards making our programs fully inclusive.

Subsequent Plans

Based on the success of this project during its initial implementation and first year, we intend to extend and broaden the program, incorporating it into other city-sponsored events and programs, even those outside the purview of the Parks and Recreation Department.

PROJECT TIMELINE

MAY

MET WITH SUMMIT DD TO DESIGN RECTALKER AND CREATE DRAFT MOCKUP



JUNE

STAFF WORKED TWO WEEKS TO PRINT, CUT, LAMINATE, AND STUFF 70 ARM BANDS FOR DAILY PARK USE.



JULY

STAFF WORKED 4 DAYS TO PERSONALIZE, AND CREATE ARM BANDS FOR 30 REGISTERED DAY CAMPERS.



AUGUST

RECTALKERS WERE USED THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER, INCLUDING SPECIAL EVENTS, PARK VISITS, SUMMER CAMP, AND CONTINUE TO BE USED THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM.



PROJECT EXPENSE REPORT

		CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS
OPRA FOUNDATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT- RecTalker		
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
PROGRAMMING SUPPLIES		AMOUNT
ARM BANDS (100)		\$1,498.00
PAPER		\$312.53
LAMINATOR		\$120.65
LAMINATION SHEET		\$35.89
PRINTING SUPPLIES		\$249.96
Total		\$2,217.03
LABOR AND WAGES		AMOUNT
1 INCLUSION SPECIALIST STAFF x 60 hours	(\$20/hr) unloaded cost	\$1,200.00
1 SEASONAL STAFF x 60 hours -info sheets for parents/guardians, surveys (\$15/hr) unloaded cost		\$900.00
Total		\$2,100.00
EXPENSE TOTAL		\$4,317.03
FUNDING SOURCES		
AGENCY NAME		AMOUNT
OPRA FOUNDATION GRANT		\$2,000.00
CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS- MATCHING		\$2,317.03
Total		\$4,317.03

SAMPLE MARKETING MATERIALS

Mobile Rec Summer 2023

FREE 8-week program for children of all abilities!
June 5th-July 27th



NOW OFFERING INCLUSIVE RECTALKERS!

Monday/Wednesdays

Woodridge Elem.	10:00-10:45am
Valley Vista Park	11:00-11:45am
Quirk Cultural Ctr	12:30-1:15pm
Oak Park	1:30-2:15p

Tuesday/Thursdays

Water Works Park*	10:00-10:45am
Indian Mtn Park	11:00-11:45am
Lions Park	12:30-1:15pm
Linden Park	1:30-2:15p

*We will be meeting at the Little Stone Shelter

GET OUTSIDE AND HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER!



2023 ALL-ABILITIES SUMMER CAMP

\$50 Camp Fee*

JULY 31- AUG 4
9-11:30 AM DAILY

AGES 6 AND OLDER

CITY OF Cuyahoga Falls
MAYOR DON WALTERS

PARKS & RECREATION
Cuyahoga Falls