

WWW.LIKEICAN.COM VIDEO TRANSCRIPTS CONTENTS

1. [Connecting the Dots: My Assistive Technology Story](#)
2. [Jackie's Story](#)
3. [Tom's Story](#)
4. [Charisse's Story](#)
5. [Nicholas' Story](#)
6. [Contact](#)

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VIDEO: CONNECTING THE DOTS, MY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY STORY

[Fade in. Moving dots of various colors fill lower part of screen while video plays above with Assistive Technology in use and close ups of people speaking. Acoustic rock/funk music plays]

[Charisse in driver's seat of van driving down street]

Charisse speaking: You can't drive a van like I can.

[Nicholas typing on Braille PC]

Nicholas speaking: You can't query a database like I can.

[Jackie typing on laptop computer keyboard]

Jackie speaking: You can't keep in touch with family members like I can.

[Tom adjusts settings on tabletop electronic magnifier]

Tom speaking: You can't read the fine print like I can.

[Nicholas typing on Braille PC]

Nicholas: There is so much that I can do now with Assistive Technology that I could not do in years past, for example I can instant message with friends and family, I can use Skype which is a very popular internet telephony application for the PC, I can send and receive e-mail with ease...

Charisse: Start at Easter Seals Crossroads, it's the place to go.

[Person walking into Easter Seals facility while showing face of the building, name, and logo]

Charisse: You'll tell them what you can't do and they'll show you how you can do it.

[Charisse sits in wheelchair at a computer equipped with voice dictation software and microphone, Nicholas using Braille PC, and Tom talking through hall at Easter Seals]

Narrator speaking: Assistive Technology is opening doors to independence by making it easier to do the things that most of us take for granted in our daily lives. Having access to Assistive devices can make all the difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Tom: It's just made me feel good that there's help out there and I can continue to be a productive citizen and a good father, and it just gives me hope.

[Tom closes door as he exits his truck. Charisse exits her van using a wheelchair lift, Jackie walks with assistance through courtyard, other shots of people using magnifiers, screen readers, and other Assistive Technology]

Narrator: The limitations from disabilities, ranging from macular degeneration to paralysis, autism to blindness, can be reduced through the use of Assistive Technology. By focusing on the untapped abilities of a person, Easter Seals Crossroads has so far enabled thousands of our friends, family, and coworkers to live, learn, work, and play with greater ease.

Charisse: I mean basically I came in and I said OK, this is what I'm gonna do: I'm buying a new business. I don't know anything about computers. I need help.

[Nicholas exits elevator using walking guide and Tom adjusts computer screen zoom settings while typing on large font computer keyboard]

Narrator: Easter Seals Crossroads has helped Hoosiers with disabilities gain access to Assistive Technology since 1979. Now in the 21st century, the biggest challenge remains the same: getting the technology and the related training to those who need it.

Jackie: My experience with Easter Seals has been very good. The people know what they're doing. They definitely know the technology backward and forward and upside down in their area of expertise. They will point you to the people who can best meet your needs and answer your questions.

[Nicholas uses screen reader and music playing application on a PC while talking to an Easter Seals Crossroads specialist. Graphic map shows regional locations across Indiana]

Narrator: The first step for many people is arranging for a device demonstration, a service that is available state-wide at regional locations. This allows a person to spend time with a specialist for a hands-on experience.

[Nicholas reads Braille with his fingers using Pocket PC]

Nicholas: There was a gentleman named Brian Norton who came to my residence and he brought with him what was then a PAC Mate BX, this is a Braille pocket PC, he recommended that the PAC Mate definitely be purchased for my college career as well as the JAWS for Windows screen reader.

[People using various Assistive Technologies]

Narrator: After the demonstration the INDATA team helps to identify resources to get the best technology into the user's hands. Device loans, funding assistance, equipment exchange, computer recycling; these are just a few of the ways that Easter Seals Crossroads makes it happen.

Tom: She kind of showed me the different options that they have and she even loaned some of the equipment to me, which really got me used to what I wanted.

Narrator: Since access to equipment is only the beginning, the INDATA project offers a number of training opportunities including quarterly small group presentations and an annual Assistive Technology Conference.

[Close up of Easter Seals logo and sign in front of building]

Charisse: Before Assistive Technology there were things that I just didn't think I could do, that I can do now. [Speaking into computer microphone] Scratch that. New Paragraph.

[People using various Assistive Technologies]

Narrator: Devices such as large print and talking computers, Braille systems, magnifiers, communication devices, and hundreds of other innovative products are becoming a part of daily living.

Tom: Before coming here to Easter Seals I didn't know what technology was out there, so to read a book I was just using a little magnifying glass. So coming here has opened up a lot of opportunities.

Narrator: Going to school...

[Nicholas walks with pole]

Nicholas: When I'm in the classroom I can take and review notes regularly.

Narrator: Starting a new career...

[Charisse using computer microphone with dictation software]

Charisse: I can run a business without anyone else. I can do it on my own.

Narrator: Building hope...

[Tom using large font computer keyboard]

Tom: My father had the same condition that I've got, my grandfather had it, and they did not have the opportunities, the technology to continue on like I have been given.

[Jackie walking through courtyard, sitting, and talking to Easter Seals employee]

Jackie: I am a Christian, I have a lot of faith in God, and clearly speaking and clearly walking I attribute it to being totally miraculous.

[Charisse talking to several Easter Seals employees, all seated in a room at Easter Seals]

Narrator: The opportunities are here and available now, with Assistive Technology resources from the INDATA project at Easter Seals Crossroads.

[SLOWLY ZOOMING IN: Easter Seals employee talking with telephone headset on]

Ewart Soloman: If you've got questions, we've got answers. Contact the Easter Seals Crossroads INDATA hotline.

[ONSCREEN TEXT WITH INDATA AND EASTER SEALS CROSSROADS LOGOS: Contact us. for additional information or questions contact: 888-466-1314. www.likeican.com]

[Music Fades]

[Back to Contents](#)

VIDEO- MY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY STORY: JACKIE'S STORY

[Fade in. Moving dots of various colors fill lower part of screen while video plays above with assistive technology in use and close ups of Jackie speaking. Acoustic rock music plays]

[Jackie types on laptop computer]

Jackie: You can't keep in touch with family members... like I can. You can't see your computer when the power goes out... but I can.

[Video close up while speaking]

Jackie: I try whenever I can to educate people about Assistive Technology.

[Walks through a courtyard with assistance from Easter Seals employee, sits at table]

Jackie: For 14 years of my life I needed augmentative communication; that means a computer to speak for me, because I wasn't able to speak as we are speaking today because I have a neurological condition called distonia.

[Close ups of Jackie using laptop computer]

Jackie: Contact the INDATA hotline because they will point you down the path that you need to go to the people who can best meet your needs and answer your questions.

[Music Fades]

[Fade to black]

[Back to Contents](#)

VIDEO- MY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY STORY: TOM'S STORY

[Fade from black. Moving dots of various colors fill lower part of screen while video plays above with Assistive Technology in use and close ups of Tom speaking. Acoustic rock/funk music plays]

[Close ups of Tom speaking]

Tom: You can't research on the computer like I can. You can't proofread reports like I can. You can't read the fine print like I can.

[More close ups]

Tom: My name is Tom Poynter. I've been a probation officer for my local county for about 23 years now.

[Tom exits truck, walks towards Easter Seals building while guitar rock music plays]

Tom: My main responsibility with my job is preparing reports for sentencings a majority of my time is spent on the computer.

[Tom adjusts screen magnifier settings with close ups of speaking]

Tom: People are kind of envious of what I'm getting because our case management system, the font is only ten and they are straining to see it. Meanwhile on my computer I have a nice 22 inch screen that has magnification, and I'm also getting a little handheld magnifier so I can read my reports and check for mistakes and read my books.

[Typing on large font computer keyboard, and using computer screen magnifier]

Tom: I also have a friend who just recently had a stroke, and so I told him about what I'm going through and I gave him the hotline number and I'm encouraging him to call to get the services so that he can have the peace of mind as well.

[Walks down a hall]

[Music Fades]

[Fade to black]

[Back to Contents](#)

VIDEO- MY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY STORY: CHARISSE'S STORY

[Fade from black. Moving dots of various colors fill lower part of screen while video plays above with Assistive Technology in use and close ups of Charisse speaking. Rock Music Plays]

[Turns steering wheel of van, driving around a corner]

Charisse Speaking: You can't drive a van like I can.

[Sits at computer workstation, using dictation software]

Charisse: You can't run a business like I can.

Charisse: My name is Charisse Cogell, and I run a new business with the help of Assistive Technology.

[Close up of Charisse speaking]

Charisse: Easter Seals Crossroads asks you what goals you want to achieve and finds out your limitations and allows you to get over your limitations with their technology.

[Driving wheelchair onto van's lift platform, then into Easter Seals building]

Charisse: I have very limited use of my hands. I'm what they call a semi-quad. So I came to crossroads because to write, to actually dictate a letter, to write a letter would take me forever with a one finger typing on the keyboard.

[Using computer dictation software with headset microphone and close up of speaking]

Charisse: I've heard about 20 years ago they had Dragon Dictate and now Dragon Dictate is a whole new animal. It's just totally different than what it used to be. Everything is possible.

With Crossroads I was able to go to college, graduated college. I don't have to rely on anybody else and I can do it. Even though you have physical limitations, it doesn't matter. With Assistive Technology there is no 'I can't,' it's always 'I can.'

[Music Fades]

[Fade to black]

[Back to Contents](#)

VIDEO- MY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY STORY: NICHOLAS' STORY

[Fade from black. Moving dots of various colors fill lower part of screen while video plays above with Assistive Technology in use and close ups of Nicholas speaking. Acoustic rock/funk Music plays]

Nicholas speaking: You can't surf the web like I can.

[Close up of fingers typing on PAC Mate Braille PC]

Nicholas: You can't write a term paper like I can.

[Smiling at desk, typing on PAC Mate]

Nicholas: You can't read a textbook as efficiently as I can.

[Close up of Nicholas speaking]

Nicholas: My name is Nicholas Goldsberry. I go to Butler University in Indianapolis, I am a senior there. My major is international studies, and minors in Spanish and music recording.

[Piano music plays]

[Walks through hallway with walking stick]

Nicholas: I originally got connected with Easter Seals when I was in High School to get the necessary technology to succeed in the college environment. It's just opened a myriad of possibilities that I wouldn't even have dreamed of a few years ago.

[Using Assistive Technology and close ups of speaking]

Nicholas: For example I did my internship at Eli Lilly and Company, and using Jaws for Windows I was able to do my job very successfully. The type of work at Eli Lilly and Company that I was assigned was going to a database system and interacting with suppliers via e-mail.

[Reading Braille on PAC Mate]

Nicholas: People can contact INDATA by calling their hotline and the service is free. They offer product demonstrations of lots of Assistive Technology devices.

[Music Fades]

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[Back to Contents](#)

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