



Technology For Tomorrow

Empowering People in Need with Technology Education
A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

2019 Quarter 3 Newsletter

It's Coming!

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 3, 2019

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Message from the Program Manager

The third quarter of 2019 has ended. T4T has stayed busy providing multiple services as part of our offerings, adding several more locations in which we provide our training and services. We have also begun to engage in larger, more long-term programs, as well as more online education programs, all of which we are excited about. You can read more about this throughout this newsletter.

Bjorn Norstrom

October Fundraising Programs

October is our annual fundraising drive month. This year, we are focusing on fundraising for our New Americans program in order



to continue and expand our technology training for that community and in collaboration with the [USCRI](#). Please learn more about it [here](#) and please consider donating to this cause.

Our [fundraising campaign](#) also focuses on fundraising for our technology education program for senior citizens. Please [read more about it here](#).

[Shaw's](#) grocery store at 71 Boxwood Street in Williston has selected Technology for Tomorrow as the November beneficiary of its reusable

grocery bag program. For every reusable grocery bag sold at that Shaw's store in the month of November, we will receive a \$1 donation. Please make sure to shop at that Shaw's store in November and buy a few reusable grocery bags to support Technology for Tomorrow!

Community Impact...



Total Participants:

We provided technology education to approximately 250 people during quarter 3, 2019.

2018 Impact Report

In 2018, Technology for Tomorrow had a great impact on many communities and community members. Please read our [2018 Impact Report](#) for more details.

Program Updates



Home Education

We are continuing to offer online classes on the [Outschool](#) platform, meaning we are now reaching home educated students in the entire United States. We even had a learner from the country of Turkey in one online class. Our first class on that platform was on Social Media Marketing, and we have also now delivered Internet safety and Digital Citizenship as well. We are currently in the process of creating and adapting more classes on the Outschool platform.

In other Home Education news, we are now officially approved by the state of Vermont Home Study office to provide [home educated learners](#) with their end-of-the-year

portfolio assessment. For more information about this, including our fee, please [contact us](#) directly.

We are pleased to announce that we are offering several new exciting courses over the next few months in collaboration with the [Media Factory](#) on topics such as Podcasting and Storytelling, Video and Storytelling, and Green Screen and Space Exploration. We are also offering classes on 3D Modeling and Art Design, Game Development and Design, and several other exciting courses. Please visit our [course schedule](#) and [course description](#) for more details.

Older Adults

We are continuing to provide Audio/Visual support for the [Enrichment and Education for Everyone](#) (EEE) during their Friday afternoon seminar lectures throughout the fall and we will be designing their new website this fall.



We have formed a collaborative partnership with [Cathedral Square](#) and are scheduling training and services at several of its senior citizen locations such as the Heineberg Community Center, Wright House, Grand Way Commons, and more.

We also had a couple of summer interns who helped us provide workshops and 1:1 support sessions at senior residencies such as the Pines in South Burlington and the Thayer House in Burlington. Topics of the workshops included important areas such as Internet Safety and How to be a Smart Media Consumer.

New Americans

We are providing many technology education opportunities through several different

classes for New Americans, in collaboration with community partners, including the [United States Committee on Refugees and Immigrants](#) (USCRI) and the [King Street Center](#) in Burlington. We successfully completed the first series on how to use cell phone cameras with a group of New Americans at the [Winooski Senior Center](#) in collaboration with [Age Well](#). We also provided technology training to New Americans at the Mills in Winooski over the summer.



Workforce Development

Technology for Tomorrow is now offering a formal apprenticeship program for individuals interested in entering the information technology and/or non-profit sectors.

Additionally, we are moving forward with the [Creative Workforce Solutions](#) (CWS) on providing remote training throughout Vermont for individuals enrolling in workforce development programs.



Miscellaneous Programs

During the week of July 8-12, we offered a comprehensive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) camp with sessions held at South Burlington High School. [Efficiency Vermont](#) and the [Vermont Agency of Transportation](#) (VTrans) helped lead classes with us on solar energy and bridge building. [Logic Supply](#) and [NRG Systems](#) were generous donors to this camp and the [Vermont](#)

[Student Assistance Corporation](#) (VSAC) assisted us in recruiting learners. A student intern from the [Vermont Commons School](#) provided instruction on computer coding during the camp. The success of the camp is a good illustration of T4T's focus on bringing technical professionals together to share their knowledge and experience with those looking to learn.

Following the camp, the same intern provided a week-long coding camp focusing on HTML, CSS, and Javascript to a group of middle school-aged learners.



T4T Participant Story - Home Education

Technology for Tomorrow is starting a series of stories from and about attendees to our various programs. In each story, you will meet participants in a program, and learn more about what

brought them to T4T, what their learning experience has been like, and where they hope to take the results.

In this first story, you will meet two individuals in our Home Education program, and their mom, all of whom are benefiting from T4T offerings.

Meet Ricky and Kiki



Ricky and Kiki are two home educated learners from Randolph, Vermont. Ricky is the grade level equivalent of 10 and Kiki of grade 9. Both Ricky and Kiki have been home educated their entire lives. For them, as with many other home educated Vermont children, access to quality and affordable technology and STEM education has been a challenge. With no alternatives available for structured STEM education, they face potential disadvantages, as expectations by colleges and employers are that candidates are capable of using technology effectively in order to complete required assignments and job duties.

In September of 2018, Ricky and Kiki's mother, Nancy, became aware of T4T's STEM opportunity through communication from the Agency of Education Home Study office. The email provided clear information about various structured technology and STEM classes offered through T4T. Nancy, who considered asking one of her older children to tutor both siblings on how to use technology for school work, immediately understood the value of the Technology for Tomorrow offerings to Ricky and Kiki's education and life. She enrolled them in several T4T classes such as Animation and Game Design, Digital Citizenship/Internet Safety, and Bridge Engineering/Google Suite (Docs, Sheets, and Slides).

Nancy realized that beginning involvement in technology classes directly addressed two concerns she had as a home education parent:

- the potential for disadvantages in education and careers without a practical grounding in technology, and
- getting Ricky and Kiki an opportunity to take classes from someone besides the local home education parent team to prepare them for future learning.

It is only a matter of time until Ricky and Kiki will be experiencing this when they go to college, something both will pursue following their home education experience. Ricky is interested in history and geography while Kiki is interested in psychology as a college major and professional career.

Both students reflected on their very first structured technology class with T4T in the fall of 2018. They were unsure what to expect, but by the end of the class, Ricky and Kiki explained that "we felt we got everything out of the class that we hoped for" as they created a computer game from scratch while in the class. Nancy was also very pleased as "the class covered the learning objectives outlined in the course description."

"Technology for Tomorrow is the only structured program that Ricky and Kiki have stuck with," Nancy explains, as it provides the technology and STEM classes they need to be successful now and in the future.

Both Ricky and Kiki have gained confidence and curiosity around technology as a result of attending the classes and are now interested in exploring technology opportunities and systems. Ricky is setting up his own technology space at home while Kiki is focusing on using technology to complete academic assignments. She was quick to point out that she is very proud of a recent event where, as the target of an internet scam, she immediately recognized the scam and

acted accordingly to not become a victim, thanks to the recent Digital Citizenship/Internet Safety class she took from T4T

Nancy says that this shows a direct connection between the classes and real life application. Nancy encourages home education families to enroll their children in Technology for Tomorrow classes so they can receive the same experiences and knowledge to benefit their children.

A Word from the Board: Whom Do We Serve?

At T4T, we often get asked how the decisions are made as to which populations we support. In the last quarterly newsletter, T4T Board member Mike Maslack talked about the board of directors making those decisions. And to make those decisions, we ask several questions and judge the answers against our core values and our mission statement. Our tagline does a nice job of summarizing our mission and values: Empowering People in Need with Technology Education.



That is where everything we do at T4T starts: technology education. Every service, program or project we undertake has, at its core, technology. While we believe in the intrinsic value of education, our focus is on education as it relates to technical pursuits. That may be learning how to use new hardware, or new applications, and it may even involve STEM classes. Regardless of what class, workshop or service we're providing, though, technology is at the core.

From there, we focus on under-served populations. We began by offering classes to older adults in our community on how to use their computers, tablets and phones. Then we got involved with New Americans, immigrants and refugees, partnering with other organizations to bring a much needed familiarity with technology to these populations. Recently, as part of our Workforce Development program, we have started to explore another partnership to help elevate the technical knowledge of women in prison.

We see our mission continuing to expand as we bring technology education to more under-served populations here in Vermont, and across the country.

By Scot Barker, for the T4T Board

In Closing

We are sad to share with you that one of our dedicated Board members has resigned from our Board. Dr. Raichle Farrelly, formerly of St. Michael's College, recently accepted a job at the University of Colorado and moved to Boulder. As such, she is not able to participate in our Board and activities with New Americans as desired and decided to resign from the Board to open up an opportunity for someone else to serve as our Board member focusing on the local Vermont New Americans community. We wholeheartedly thank Rai for her dedication and hard work to the New American community and the T4T Board of Directors and wish her the very best out in Colorado.

We also want to thank all our generous donors who enable us to maintain our current programs as well as to develop new and exciting ones. Please be encouraged to make a donation to our organization (below).

Make sure to visit our social media channels and website as we regularly post updated information about our developments as well as our dynamic calendar of events.

We graciously thank you for your support, and we look forward to unveiling even more programs throughout 2019 and beyond!

Sincerely,

Thank you to everyone who has donated to support our mission of technology education for all.

If you are interested in donating, please click the button below.

Donate Today!

100% of your donation contributes to our efforts of making the greatest impact on the people and causes we support. We are a public charity; your tax-deductible donation, large or small, will make a difference.

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Thank you!



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Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

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OR

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