



Technology For Tomorrow

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

2019 Quarter 4 Newsletter

[Calendar](#) | [Leadership](#) | [Impact](#) | [Volunteer](#) | [Donate](#) | [Social](#)

Message from the Founder and President



The team at T4T is deeply committed to providing technology education to underserved communities. In 2019, we're extremely proud to have built on that mission by renewing our commitment to diversity and continuing to deliver high quality programming. Programs run this year touched over 1000 unique individuals. More importantly however, 69% of these attendees were New Americans.

Moreover, 62% were Women and half were Senior Citizens. We're grateful to have had the opportunity to work with engaging communities across Vermont. As we turn the page into another year, we're laser focused on keeping the communities we serve at the core of our work. We're excited to partner with more organizations to continue expanding our program offerings and work with even more communities.

Lastly, we thank the countless partners, donors, and supporters for your ongoing support and encouragement. We appreciate you more than you know.

Neel Desai

Fundraising Drives

During the fall and early winter, we conducted two fundraising drives: one for our New Americans programs and one for Older Adults programs. We were also the beneficiary of the Williston Shaw's grocery store reusable shopping bag fundraising program during the month of November.

Community Impact...



Total Participants:

We provided technology education to approximately 430 individuals during quarter 4, 2019.

**2019
Impact
Report**

In 2019, Technology for Tomorrow had a great impact on many communities and community members. Please read our [2019 Impact Report](#) for more details.

Meet Our Newest Board Member

Jennifer Borch

Jennifer Borch has spent the past 20 years in language



education in both the United States and abroad. She has developed language and cultural education projects and facilitated teacher training in the Middle East, North Africa, Vietnam, Senegal, and France. Jennifer holds a Master of Arts (M.A.) in French from the University of Vermont and an M.A. in TESOL from Saint Michael's College where she teaches in the graduate program and supervises students seeking Vermont state teaching licensure. Jennifer's areas of academic interest include service learning, virtual cultural exchange, technology integration in the classroom, and girls' empowerment training. She is currently the Education Program Coordinator at the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) in Colchester, Vermont where she

manages educational programming for New Americans.

Program Updates

Older Adults

We want to thank the [AARP of Vermont](#) for providing us with a grant to provide workshops and 1:1 tutoring services to older adults at three different Burlington senior locations: Thayer House, Heineberg Senior Housing, and the Champlain Senior Activity Center. We will provide our services once per month for two hours at each location where residents and visitors can sign up for free technology tutoring slots. Read our [grant approval press release here](#).

We have just entered into a new collaborative partnership with [Cathedral Square](#). Cathedral Square is a leading provider of affordable housing with support services for older adults and people with special needs. Nearly all of the organization's 1,300 residents earn less than 50% of the area median income, and 80% qualify for housing subsidies. To say that paying for cable is a luxury many cannot afford is an understatement. As such, a partnership with T4T becomes very important. Two of the three AARP 2020 grant funded locations we will provide our services to are Cathedral Square residencies.

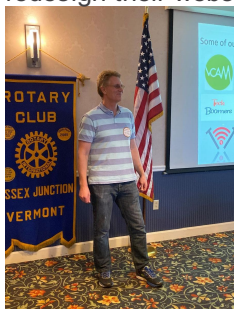


Kim Fitzgerald, Cathedral Square CEO, points out that "In the coming months, T4T will be helping more of our residents get on the streaming bandwagon and saving them money. This is a tremendous benefit to the people we serve! We thank everyone responsible for this wonderful program."

T4T recently reached out to us helping our residents take advantage of streaming services. With funding from AARP, Bjorn/T4T has trained residents at several of our properties and helped them set up the service in their apartments. We are tremendously grateful to both AARP and T4T for helping our residents become tech-savvy!

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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 help EEE redesign their website in the upcoming year.



In November, we presented our organization and programs at the [Rotary Club of Essex](#) monthly meeting.

New Americans

We are continuing to provide 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 \(USCRI\)](#) at

locations such as the Community College of Vermont and the Winooski Community Library. We also successfully completed a training series with a group of elderly New Americans at the [Winooski Senior Center](#) in collaboration with [Age Well](#).



Home Education

T4T is now officially approved by the Vermont Agency of Education to provide the home education community with the end-of-the-year portfolio assessment. We are continuing to offer classes to the Vermont home education community as well as to the home education community across the country through the teaching platform [Outschool](#).

Workforce Development

Technology for Tomorrow is now offering an apprenticeship program for people interested in entering the information technology and/or non-profit sectors. If you're interested, contact us!

T4T Participant Story - Older Adults

In our second story about Technology for Tomorrow participants, you will meet an individual who is passionate about older adults and who is collaborating with us to deliver our programs to her work location at the Thayer House, which is a Cathedral Square affordable housing location in Burlington.

Meet Syndi Zook, Thayer House



Syndi Zook is the SASH Coordinator at the Thayer House in the Burlington North End and organizes and facilitates a number of programs in health and wellness for the residents there, including how to access technology. She works for Cathedral Square Corporation, which is a non-profit organization that develops housing for low income senior citizens all across Vermont. Syndi has been working with older adults since the 1980s with a stint as the director of the Lyric Theatre Company.

Syndi has always loved working with older adult and feels very comfortable in this setting. She explains that many older adults choose to move into senior housing because it "takes a huge weight off their shoulders" since they don't have to worry about maintaining a home anymore. In particular, she loves to work for Cathedral Square Corporation as it provides affordable housing for older adults. She also loves to listen to the real stories that older adults share based on their life experiences.

One aspect of Syndi's job is to provide various opportunities and activities for the residents at the Thayer House. As technology is becoming more important and prevalent, Syndi decided to reach out to Technology for Tomorrow (T4T) in the summer of 2018 having found the T4T contact information on a resource list at Cathedral Square Corporation. Syndi points out that "we are at a crossroads with technology between elderly who have never touched technology and seniors with great technology skills from previous life experiences." As such, it becomes critical to provide various levels of technology education services to senior housing residents.

Syndi continues that T4T provides this opportunity and that the services are greatly appreciated by the Thayer House residents. Syndi points out that the 1:1 tutoring service is very popular but that some group workshops also have a value when the topic is of interest to a larger audience.

Syndi explains the importance of T4T's services in helping seniors avoid the typical social isolation that can occur when leaving home, and often family and friends, behind. T4T helps by providing immediate and customized technology help for individual needs as well as group activities for socializing and connecting. These activities are important aspects of senior life and housing today, as technology really changes lives and can transform the way of living. Acknowledging this, it's important for residence coordinators to understand the value of technology and training to create and lead effective programming.

Syndi continues that it's challenging for senior housing coordinators to be involved in programs such as this due to coordinators being extremely busy. However, she emphasizes

that technology training is a critical aspect of senior living so it must be a priority for coordinators. This even extends to knocking on doors to inform residents about the technology training opportunities available.

Syndi adds that understanding their cell phones, tablets and computers better helps senior citizens to avoid scams and fraud as those are big concerns for seniors today.

Syndi concludes that the Thayer House will continue to collaborate with Technology for Tomorrow for technology training since there is a demonstrated demand and value in the services to the residents.

A Word from the Board: Fundraising and Donations

Hello T4T Community,

This year, T4T began officially participating in Giving Tuesday, as a new major component to increase our fundraising activities throughout the year. Thanks to our wonderful donors, the Giving Tuesday campaign was a success! We are wrapping up our annual campaign on a strong foundation. However, as we rely most heavily on grant money and governmental funding, your continued support is vital for us to continue to provide this level of service to our community.



Your donations to T4T not only provide necessary resources for our programming, they also serve as a sign of confidence and appreciation for the myriad opportunities T4T creates throughout Vermont. Your support enables us to provide high quality technology education to under served Vermonters and bridge the information gap for all, ensuring Vermont thrives.

Our goal for 2019's Annual Giving Campaign was to raise \$10,000. If you have already made your contribution, we deeply appreciate it! If not yet:

[Will you join us by making a tax-deductible gift to T4T today?](#)

We realize not everyone is able to make a financial gift, and we also appreciate your time and care. Contact us to become a volunteer or support our community work.

Thank you,

Emily and 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, expertise, experience, 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).

If you are using Amazon for online shopping, please consider adding T4T as your charitable recipient through the Amazon Smile program. For instructions how to do that, [please click here](#).

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 2020 and beyond!

Sincerely,

The Technology for Tomorrow team

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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