



Technology For Tomorrow

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

2020 Quarter 2 Newsletter

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Message from the Program Manager



Greetings to all! We hope that you are all safe and healthy during this unprecedented circumstance of the Corona Virus outbreak. Technology for Tomorrow (T4T) has continued our success in 2020 despite COVID-19, not only with moving current and creating new programs online but also by being recognized for our insights into workforce development for New Americans in Vermont and being featured in media on the *Across the Fence* TV show to discuss our older adults program. Please read on for greater details and for the links to access that information. We look forward to resuming our programs in physical locations as soon as we can.

Thanks for your support and participation.

Bjorn Norstrom

Community Impact...



Total Participants:

In Quarter 2, 2020, T4T provided technology education to 402 individuals.

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. We served a total of 1,037 individuals. Of those, 69% were New Americans while 48% were older adults.

Meet Our Newest Board Member

Peter Sanschagrin

Peter is an IT professional leader with comprehensive experience, over 30 years, in eComm, financial institutions, pharmaceutical / healthcare, customer service and telephony industries. Skilled in managing global projects using cross functional teams based in the US and overseas. He has excellent interpersonal, problem-solving, planning and communication skills. Passionate with mentoring less experienced professionals and driven with making sure



projects meet requirements and are completed on-time and within budgets. Peter has a customer-centric management style which serves his clients well. He lives in Sun City West, Arizona with his wife.

Program Updates

Older Adults

The [2020 AARP Older Adults Technology Survey](#) has been released and shows that the interest and usage of technology and need for technology training within this community is high.

During May and June, we provided two webinars to the AARP Vermont, one on social media overview and one on using Zoom. We also provided a series of live online classes for the AARP membership on using Facebook and Twitter.

Our older adults program was featured on the WCAX *Across the Fence* recently. [Click here](#) to access the video segment.

Home Education

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we ramped up our online program to provide needed opportunities for children who were left with only [home education](#) in Vermont, across the US and around the world through the teaching platform [Outschool](#). We're teaching daily classes in several technology subjects. During quarter two, we provided on-line education to learners from approximately 25 states and five countries, including Canada, Mexico, Great Britain, Ireland, and Spain.

New Americans

We were recently mentioned in the Vermont Department of Labor Report on Promoting the Employment of New Americans in Vermont. [Click here](#) for the report.

We were awarded a grant from Mascoma Bank to provide technology training to new Americans in collaboration with the USCRI. [Click here](#) for the press release.

Workforce Development

We are currently in the process of working with VocRehab in St. Albans to provide 1:1 telephone and online training to one of the VocRehab clients who needs technology training.

Participant Story - New Americans

In our fourth story about Technology for Tomorrow participants, we are proud to introduce you to an incredible individual. She is an immigrant from Mozambique who is now participating in our joint technology education program with the USCRI.

To learn more about our New Americans program, please visit our [New Americans web page](#).

Meet Alzira Agostinho



My name is Alzira Agostinho, originally from Mozambique but now living in Vermont. This is my story and how I ended up in Vermont.

Before coming to Vermont, I was a Catholic Sister for five years. However, I decided to leave the congregation of Sisters because I did not want to be part of that group any longer.

After that, I started searching for a job. Eventually, I was hired as a teacher. I taught math and social studies for four years. I was then promoted to be a principal at a primary school (elementary and middle school). I also served with the ruling political party "FRELIMO" as a member of a consulting committee in our district.

After that, I was working for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) malaria consortium. That's when I met my husband as he was a teacher at a secondary school (high school) in the same area that I was working in.

I was officially married in 2012. At that time, my husband was relocated to the United States as a refugee. I could not accompany him because I did not have the proper visa. Once my husband arrived in the U. S., he applied for our reunification. The reunification process was very long. It took a little over five years for me to be reunited with him in America.

First, I had to travel to Johannesburg, South Africa on four separate occasions. The first time, I went for an interview at the U.S. Embassy. Then, I had to go twice more for the medical check-up and vaccination. The fourth and last time I went to South Africa I was able to obtain and pick up my U. S. visa. The U. S. immigration services required me to go to South Africa because the U.S. embassy in Mozambique does not provide visa services for those who wish to enter and reside in America.

In March 2017, I finally had my U.S. visa in hand. I left Mozambique on March 24 that same year and arrived at a New York City airport on March 25. My husband met me at the New York City airport when I arrived and we drove all the way up to Vermont. It was a long trip, about 29 hours from Mozambique to our final Vermont destination.

Now, I am finally here in Vermont together with my husband. As soon as I arrived in Vermont, I started to attend an English class at O'Brien Center in Winooski as my native language is Portuguese. My English class teacher is Sherry Star. Sherry is very patient and concerned about her students. In addition to English class, I also started working at City Market. I am a grocery bagger in the City Market store in the South End of Burlington.

Since late 2019, I am also learning about computers and technology with Bjorn from Technology for Tomorrow. Computer skills are very important in my life because if I know how to use a computer, I will have more opportunities in the future. For example, if I go to college, I will need to use a computer to write my research papers. If I get a job promotion, I will need to use a computer. There are many things one can do online such as checking the news, doing banking, researching library books, and looking for jobs if knowing how to use a computer. Having sound computer skills, I can accomplish all that and more.

Thanks to the technology education services provided by Technology for Tomorrow, I have been able to learn such skills.

A Word from the Board:

Greeting to everyone! Hope y'all and your loved ones have been trying your best to stay safe and get through this unprecedented and challenging times.

If we take a step back and try to imagine our life back in early March, it has completely changed and hard to believe that we've already settled (somewhat) in to the "new normal" (let's call it 2.0); and continue adapt to the another round of new normal (let's call it 3.0) where everyone across the global economy (public or private sectors) are trying to adjust to the new balance of re-opening of economy vs continue reducing the overall impact to human lives. This upgrade cycle between "new normal" has shortened dramatically over past 3 months and gives an impression that it is more frequent than major release announcements from any other big tech companies (Apple, Google, Amazon, IBM and others).

While many fortunate people (with ease of access of technology and associated education) have been able to minimize impact to their daily lifestyles (by managing work remotely or attending schools online via Zoom, etc), there are, unfortunately, still millions of unserved and underserved communities lacking the access to those technology and associated training and education. This COVID-19 situation has showed that telehealth and social isolation are of critical nature to the older adults' communities, not just in Vermont but all across the country (including my resident

state of Texas).

With our ongoing mission to continue empower people in need by providing affordable technology training and education, we have attempted to start eradicate those state boundaries and started collaborating with many local organizations in states such as Texas, Arizona, and others to start offering our services at the grassroots level. With your ongoing support and blessings, we strongly believe that we are in a good position to replicate our success & learning from Vermont to rest of the country - starting with states of Texas, Arizona and Connecticut. Let's continue to play a big role in this "new normal" = "ongoing positive change"!!

Thank you,

Dipen Shah, T4T Board

In Closing

We hope that everyone is able to stay safe and healthy during these uncertain times. We look forward to resuming our regular services as soon as possible.

We want to thank all of our generous donors. You enable us to maintain our current programs as well as to develop new and exciting ones. If you are not yet a donor, we encourage you to learn more about us at our [web site](#), and to make a donation to our organization (below).

We also want to thank our collaborative partners that help us make our programs successful. 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, especially Mascoma Bank for their grant, 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.

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