

# **Technology for Tomorrow**

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

# 2023 Impact Report

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# Vision

We aim to bridge the digital divide, empowering individuals with comprehensive and accessible technology education to foster a society where everyone, regardless of background, has equal opportunities to thrive in the digital era.

# Mission

We empower individuals and organizations through affordable technology, skills training, and virtual opportunities. We want to give people of all ages, backgrounds, and origins the ability to apply their skills and experience in aiding those in need.

Click here to see our introductory video that explains who we are and what we do: **Technology for Tomorrow Introductory Video** 

# Message from our President

The start of a new year is the perfect time to reflect on the strides we've made toward our mission and plan for the year ahead. The theme for 2023 was centered around relentless execution of our programs, and deepening our collaboration with our community partners.

We're most proud of having served more than 2,000 learners over the last year across our various programs. I've seen firsthand the hard work, dedication, and willingness to learn from those that have come to our classes. Additionally, we couldn't have done it without our dozens of community partners, who share our enthusiasm in serving our community and corporate



social responsibility. Lastly, this year was also marked by a strengthening of our team, with new staff members and adding to our delivery team. Our heartfelt thanks go to each of you for your steadfast support. It's your commitment that drives our progress and success. As we embark on another year growing our impact, we encourage you to get involved, whether through support, partnership, or collaboration, to help us continue making a meaningful difference in the communities we serve.

Neel Desai **Board President** 



# **OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBER**

2,198	135
learners	trainings
92%	8%
of all learners were older adults	of all learners were New Americans

#### Nationwide impact

We served people across Vermont and the country in 2023. With Associates for Training and Development and AARP Vermont, we served individuals from every state, plus Puerto Rico.

#### Message from our staff

As 2023 wraps up, I find myself looking back on the amazing journey we at Technology for Tomorrow have undertaken. This past year has been a testament to Technology for Tomorrow's unwavering commitment to bridging the digital divide and fostering digital equity for everyone.

Collaborating with a dedicated team and witnessing the positive impact of our projects and initiatives on the many individuals and communities, we served has been both humbling and inspiring. Our collective efforts have laid the foundation for a more inclusive and connected future.



I am honored to be part of an organization that relentlessly pursues its mission, and I look forward to 2024 where we will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

**Maliki LaForce** Program Manager



# 2023 Major Events

## Microsoft TechSpark Roundtable

In December, Microsoft invited us to be a part of their TechSpark program, which seeks to promote digital skills and employability, increase access to broadband, and help local organizations thrive. We are now a proud TechSpark fellow.

In 2024, we will teach a 20-class series with two cohorts: The first group is focused on digital

literacy, and the second group is focused on Artificial Intelligence.

We hosted a Roundtable Conversation with Vermont nonprofit and state leaders. Guests joined us from Microsoft, Associates for Training and Development, State Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale, Vermont Community Broadband, AARP Vermont, Wake Robin, Central



Vermont Council of Aging, Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, Vermont Adult Learning, and many more. This event helped strengthen connections and set Technology for Tomorrow up for success in 2024.

## Comcast NBCUniversal Grant

A generous grant from Comcast NBCUniversal in 2023 expanded our reach and deepened our community impact. Their support enabled us to offer seven free classes this year with an



exciting lineup of additional classes scheduled for 2024. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Comcast NBCUniversal for their commitment to advancing digital literacy and education in our community.



### Senior Planet Licensing

We are proud to announce that two of our technology trainers, Becky Holt and Maliki LaForce, alongside our Executive Director Vijay Desai have been licensed through AARP's SeniorPlanet program. This has given us access to their curated lecture-based classes and resources.

With their materials, we hope to provide classes to many different audiences here in Vermont. Their bountiful library of lectures, including lessons on Internet of Things, TikTok, and many more, will increase efficiency and quality of our instruction in the coming year.



## Mature Worker Workforce Program with A4TD

We kicked off our Mature Worker Workforce Program, in collaboration with Associates for Training & Development, in November. The project consists of nine cohorts of 10 individuals



each. Participants are all looking to re-enter the workforce. Each cohort will take 12 classes, covering aspects of Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, and general digital literacy topics, including smartphones, computers, scam identification, and Zoom. This is one of our largest projects at Technology for Tomorrow, providing 108 total classes.



# **Client Testimonials**

Vermont Works for Women (VWW) is grateful for its partnership with Technology for Tomorrow to teach an Introduction to Computer Literacy class as part of a grant with AALV to deliver career development workshops to New American and refugee women. The instructor, who taught the 12-week sessions to over 20 women, was personable, adaptable and creative, and successfully increased computer use knowledge for many women who had various levels of education and limited English language skills.

With the help of multiple language interpreters, (the T4T instructor) was able to quickly connect with the women, gain their trust and adjust her lessons to meet the individual needs of each participant. She even brought toys and activities for young children so their mothers could come to class and focus on their lessons. At the completion of the class, participants expressed gratitude for their new skills, reduced fear of using a computer, and a desire to continue their computer literacy journey. This class was the perfect beginning and springboard into the remaining career development workshops for women being delivered by VWW through the remainder of the grant period.

#### Paige Ruffner

Career Coach and Program Manager <u>Vermont Works for Women</u>



The Montpelier Senior Activity Center and its members greatly benefitted from the Technology for Tomorrow sessions and appreciate their support of older adults learning technology. We've heard from our members. It is very evident that there is a great need for tech classes for older adults because they don't always have tech support around them.

As one member writes, "I don't have children of my own or right around me, and so I don't have the tech tutors that my friends receive from their kids." Technology for Tomorrow provides easy-to-follow sessions, which make even complicated tech questions more accessible for the non-tech-savvy among us. As another member writes, "Sometimes I want to throw away my tablet because it is too difficult to operate, but you made it feel easy to learn." We're grateful for these tech learning sessions and hope to have them return to our Senior Activity Center very soon.

Sarah Lipton Director <u>Montpelier Senior Activity Center</u>





We cannot thank T4T enough for all that they do for job seekers in our community! We worked closely with Vijay, Becky, and Maliki to set up and run a six-week computer class that teaches Microsoft Office at an intermediary level. Becky and Maliki are not only amazing at what they do, but they are kind, caring, and understanding. They create an open, warm, and inviting environment for our job seekers to learn in! For many people we are supporting, they have not worked in years. For them to come to a class like this is important and often their first step in getting back to work! We highly recommend T4T to anybody.

#### Katie Coe

Business Account Manager <u>HireAbility Vermont</u>



Partnering with Technology for Tomorrow (T4T) has been a vital component of our Lifelong Learning Program here at Wake Robin Lifecare Community for almost a decade. Working with various T4T offerings to educate our residents on successful navigation of the ever-changing world of technology, we have seen an increase in confidence, as well as a reduction in stress related to technology.

T4T's thoughtful and comprehensive programs geared toward older adults offer an opportunity for a deep dive into areas that empower our residents to try new things, leading to stronger and more easeful connections with family and friends, and a more organized approach to managing the essentials of daily living. The instructors are highly knowledgeable and attentive, fantastic to collaborate with, and able to deftly navigate offering support to the group as well as individual coaching. Our residents complete the classes with a stronger feeling of well-being and safety related to engaging with the exciting opportunities offered in our digital world.

#### Jena Necrason

Program and Events Manager <u>Wake Robin Retirement Community</u> WakeRobin VERMONT'S LIFE PLAN COMMUNITY

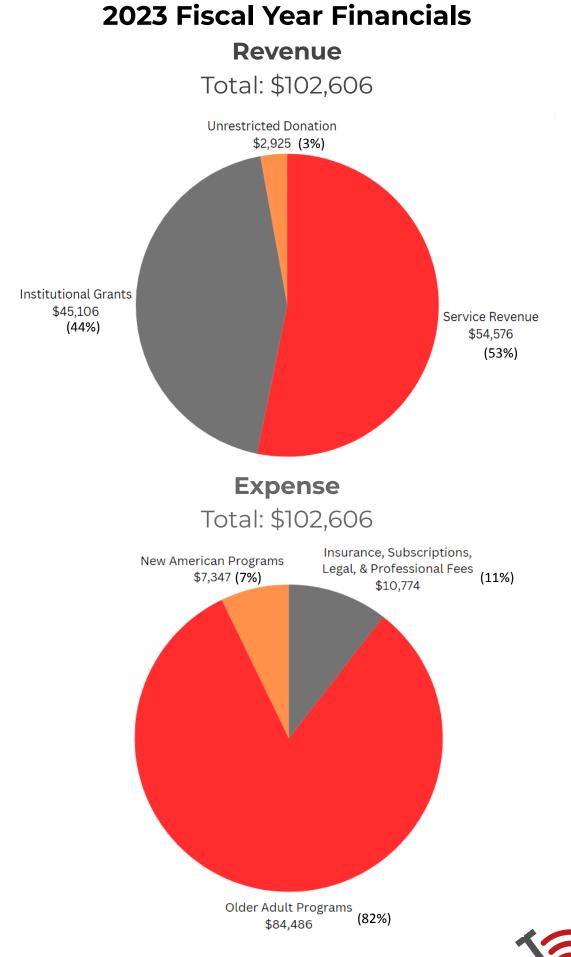
Technology for Tomorrow (T4T) is a longstanding partner of Associates for Training and Development (A4TD). T4T provides digital literacy instruction for participants who are enrolled in our workforce development projects. Vijay and his team are professional, respectful, and a pleasure to work with. The T4T trainers are patient and responsive to our participant's challenges and needs, and their instructional approach is welcoming, relatable, and effective. After completing a T4T class, one of our participants stated: "Ranga's class was both informative and fun. He is a natural born teacher, and I can honestly say I was sad when the class ended. I would gladly take any class he presents in the future and consider it a gift". We look forward to working with T4T on future projects.

#### **Rick Bugbee, PMP**

Vice President of Programs Associates for Training & Development









# **Community Partners**



**Activity Center** 

## Grantors











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