



Investments in TechBridge Yield Impressive Results

TECHNOLOGY HELPS BRIDGE THE GAP FOR ATLANTA'S HOMELESS

When Atlanta's 24/7 Gateway Center opened its doors to Atlanta's homeless this summer, the facility was powered by state-of-the-art technology thanks to TechBridge, a nonprofit supporting nonprofits with technology solutions.

The 24/7 Gateway Center is the keystone project of the Regional Commission on Homelessness and part of a broad initiative to build comprehensive services and systems to meet the needs of homeless individuals in the metropolitan area.

Acting under a grant from the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, TechBridge provided complete technology planning and implementation services to the Center. TechBridge designed a local area network, installed PC hardware and software, set up specialized homeless shelter management software, implemented security and backup systems and conducted technical training for the Center's staff.

Having the right technology in place and operational from day one will be beneficial to

the Center's long-term success. To ensure optimal resource planning, TechBridge worked with the Center's management, architects and builders throughout the construction of the facility to identify and resolve technology infrastructure issues such as determining the location of approximately 80 network drops and mapping and installing the supporting network cables. TechBridge also facilitated the acquisition of technology assets, negotiating nonprofit discount rates, submitting the orders and installing computer equipment and software.

Upon its opening, the 24/7 Gateway Center featured four servers, a network router, 13 communication switches, 50 PC workstations, seven networked printers and four networked copiers in its technology arsenal. TechBridge also provided the Center's management staff with a comprehensive infrastructure diagram for the facility that can be used to locate and identify technology components when it is time for upgrades or space reconfigurations.

"The 24/7 Gateway Center is a shining example of how vision, insight and practical knowledge can come together to create a community asset that will have deep and lasting impact," says Michael Nachman, Chief Operating Officer, TechBridge. "We are proud to have been a part of this project from the ground floor up, as it allowed us to plan, procure and implement the optimal mix of technology resources to help the Center function smoothly from day one."

The Center provides an estimated 500

people per day with shelter, medical attention and services that help persons overcome chronic homelessness. The technology infrastructure put into place by TechBridge enables the Center to efficiently manage their well being and access to resources while at the Center, and track their progress as they work towards the goal of becoming self sufficient. For more information, visit www.gatewayctr.org.

"TechBridge brought essential technical knowledge and expertise to the table and helped us build a solid technology infrastructure that will serve us for years to come."

Vince Smith
Director
24/7 Gateway Center

TECHBRIDGE FACILITATES KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Through its Corporate Partner Program, TechBridge is providing Atlanta technology workers with an opportunity to help people compete for jobs in today's computer-based economy. As a recipient of the Microsoft

TECHBRIDGE DIGITAL BALL®

Save the Date

Saturday, May 6, 2006
6:30 p.m. – Midnight

The Georgia World Congress Center

- Atlanta's premier technology event
- More than 1,100 attendees
- More than 95 corporate sponsors
- Raising more than \$1 million to help Georgia's nonprofits

2006 Presenting Sponsor:

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Unlimited Potential grant, a global initiative designed to help people gain vital computer workplace skills, TechBridge continues its work to narrow the technology skills gap and aid workforce development.

TechBridge is leveraging the Community-Based Technology and Learning Centers (CTLCs) of its nonprofit clients such as Agape Community Center and the Atlanta Enterprise Center. The CTLCs currently provide a free or low-cost, friendly place where people of all ages and abilities learn about computers, use the Internet, explore new careers, further their education, participate in community activities, and develop needed technology skills.

TechBridge is supplementing the training currently provided at these Centers to provide much-needed programs focusing on Microsoft Office productivity applications. Technology-savvy workers from TechBridge Corporate Partners including GE Energy, Home Depot, The Coca-Cola Company, BearingPoint and NetBank have volunteered to teach the Microsoft Unlimited Potential twelve-week curriculum and coach program participants.

The Unlimited Potential curriculum provides the foundation for teaching basic to intermediate technology skills in a hands-on manner. "This is a great fit for me," says Jeremiah McClary, Global IT Training and Communications Manager, The Coca-Cola Company. "I've volunteered my time at nonprofits before, but never where I could use my IT skills: one IT person helping another IT person."

Students are given a course guide and provided access to a desktop PC. Classes consist of two sessions per week and run for a period of twelve weeks. Specifically, the courses cover the Internet and Web fundamentals and Microsoft Office software including Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Presently, there are 16 students at the Agape Community Center, a nonprofit serving youth, disabled individuals and the elderly in northwest Atlanta. There are another 16 students participating through the Atlanta Enterprise Center, a workforce development nonprofit that serves Atlanta's homeless population and those newly released from prison. Thanks to the nearly 30 volunteers from TechBridge's Corporate Partners, the student to teacher ratio is very low, never exceeding 1:4.

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AWARD

APPLY ONLINE NOW!

Applications for the 5th annual Technology Innovation Award are available on the TechBridge web site at www.techbridge.org



L-R: Jack McMillan, CEO, TechBridge. From Hemophilia of Georgia: Shelley Tamburro, Development Director; Maria Manahan, V.P. of Finance and Operations; Jason Shipp, Network Administrator.

GEORGIA'S TECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY JOINS TECHBRIDGE IN HONORING NONPROFITS

Each year Georgia's nonprofits are recognized for their innovative use of technology through the TechBridge Technology Innovation Award. Given by Accenture, the Award this year provides over \$45,500 in TechBridge consulting services, Microsoft software and cash to the nonprofit who best demonstrates an innovative use of technology to advance its mission and enhance overall effectiveness. Similarly, two nonprofit finalists are each awarded over \$16,500 in TechBridge consulting services, Microsoft software and cash.

The recipient of the 2005 Technology Innovation Award was Hemophilia of Georgia, Inc. Award finalists were Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta and Hands on Network.

According to Rob Stadler, Project Director for GE Energy, the Unlimited Potential courses are much more successful than general, single-session computer training classes typically offered through various nonprofit agencies. "My background has included client training, so this is a natural for me," he continues. "I am excited about the potential for positive impact on the people who participate in this educational project."

However, the feeling of the volunteers is probably best summed up by Angel Mayes of

Home Depot who has been volunteering since the age of 19. She says, "It has been hard to find where I could use my computer skills to help others. This program is a perfect way for technology people to get involved."

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

For more information about TechBridge or the annual Digital Ball®, visit www.techbridge.org or call 404.879.5412.

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