



Technology Impacts the Fight to End Chronic Homelessness in Atlanta

Since opening its doors in July 2005, Atlanta's Gateway Center has served more than 16,000 homeless individuals and statistically, the Center is one of the largest providers of homeless services in Georgia. However, the Center provides more than just the 'band aid' services of a warm shower, a hot meal and a safe place to sleep. Rather, its mission is to end chronic homelessness by connecting individuals with the specific services they need to move toward self-sufficiency. Today, Gateway Center provides outreach, intake and assessment, referrals for housing and jobs, counseling and assistance in accessing mainstream benefits.



"Day one we had no computers," says Vince Smith, Director of the Gateway Center, "We were processing intake forms by hand." Then, just three months after Gateway's opening, Hurricane Katrina hit and the Center was flooded with hundreds of evacuees. The great influx of homeless individuals so early in the Center's existence left no doubt that its services were sorely needed in the community and that it would need a more streamlined and sophisticated process for helping people fight chronic homelessness.

TechBridge Supporters Join the Fight

The Gateway Center engaged TechBridge to develop and implement a comprehensive three-year technology plan that would serve as the cornerstone of the Center's IT system. The immediate task was to install a specialized nonprofit software application that enabled

Gateway to efficiently process the large volume of data generated by the intake and assessment processes as individuals enter the Center's programs.

Over the course of the first three years, TechBridge helped the Gateway Center further refine and maintain its IT systems and has since become its sole source for IT support. But, TechBridge provided the Center with more than just ongoing IT support. According to Smith, "TechBridge brought their relationships and powerful resources to the table."

The Center's future plans include leveraging TechBridge's services to help it enhance its IT systems to facilitate placements among other nonprofit agencies; for example, the Center would be notified in real-time when a bed in another agency becomes available, and if the individual qualified for placement in that agency.

The Battle Continues

In the current economic crisis, the need for organizations like the Gateway Center is magnified. More people are finding themselves out of a job and ultimately, out of a home, for the first time in their lives. TechBridge is helping the Gateway Center remain agile and responsive to the changing economic climate and increasing demands.

"TechBridge is our partner in the IT journey," says Smith. "They understand our vision and help us maximize technology to accomplish our vision. In five years, I hope we as a community will have eliminated chronic homelessness. If a good technology system can put us out of work, then so be it."

A Word From Kathleen Kurre TechBridge CEO



The year was 2000. Technology was the new, new thing. Innovation seemed infinite - changing as quickly as we were learning how to use it.

In the midst of this innovation, TechBridge began - innovative in its own way of connecting community to bring technology to life for nonprofits. The creativity didn't stop here. There was a second compelling and complementary idea - one of celebration, friendships and networking. In 2001, TechBridge inaugurated the Digital Ball. This pioneering event has grown in size and impact every year since.

It's been a wonderful ten years. You, the Atlanta technology community, have been with us each step of the way - through sponsorship dollars, technology donations, volunteer hours and through sharing your expertise and networks. Your support has been, as they say, priceless.

Now, it is time to celebrate! May 8, 2010 is the date for the 10th Year Anniversary Digital Ball and plans are underway. Come join us as we celebrate 10 years of friendships, community, and technology. Come ready to make new friends, share stories and see the impact you have made and the lives you have touched. It will be an evening to remember for the next 10 years.



L to R: Emcee Tom Sullivan; Becky Blalock, SVP and CIO, Southern Company; Jean-Michel Arès, SVP and CIO, The Coca-Cola Company; Dave Barnes, SVP and CIO, UPS and John Seral, VP and CIO, GE Energy Infrastructure



L to R: Kathleen Kurre, CEO, TechBridge, Jean-Michel Arès, SVP and CIO, The Coca-Cola Company; Cindy Tierney, SVP and CIO, Beazer Homes USA, Inc.



L to R: Randy Fox, CIO, GE Energy Services, Joe Surber, VP and CIO, AGL Resources; Gerard Frey, VP of Practice Management, InfoMentis; Larry Frey, Former VP and CIO, BlueLinX Corporation; John Seral, VP and CIO, GE Energy Infrastructure.

TechBridge Sponsors Maximize Networking and Philanthropy

Over the past nine years, the impact of TechBridge on the nonprofit community is unmistakable. Since its inception in 2000, TechBridge has delivered effective IT solutions to hundreds of nonprofit clients helping them harness the productivity gains long since enjoyed by the corporate sector.

As an affiliate of the NPower Network, TechBridge has facilitated the donation of millions of dollars of Microsoft software and connects the needs of nonprofits with the skills and financial resources of the technology community. Thanks to the enthusiastic support of the local IT and business communities TechBridge has helped to significantly increase the capacity of local nonprofits to serve our community.

Earned revenues account for only half of TechBridge's annual operating budget. The remainder comes from fundraising activities such as the annual TechBridge Digital Ball. The staunch support of Atlanta's IT Executives has made the Digital Ball the not-to-be-missed tech event of the year. Accenture has served as the Digital

Ball's presenting sponsor since its debut. Other major corporate supporters include Microsoft, The Coca-Cola Company, The Home Depot, First Data Corporation, SAP, AutoTrader.com, AirTran Airways and SAVVIS.

This year's event, held on May 9th at the Georgia World Congress Center, brought together more than 1,020 technology, business and nonprofit leaders and raised over \$1 million in cash and in-kind donations to continue the TechBridge mission. Co-chaired by Cindy Tierney, SVP and CIO, Beazer Homes USA, Inc. and Jean-Michel Arès, SVP and CIO, The Coca-Cola Company, the event also recognized The Tommy Nobis Center, winner of the 2009 Technology Innovation Award. Given by Accenture, the Award provides cash, software and TechBridge services totaling more than \$55,500 to the winner and over \$13,000 to the two finalists to help them accomplish their technology visions.

Atlanta IT Leaders Lend Expertise to TechBridge Board

TechBridge is pleased to announce that Cindy Tierney, SVP and CIO, Beazer Homes USA, Inc. has been named as Vice Chair of its Board of Directors. Ms. Tierney joined the board in 2007 and also served as the 2009 Co-Chair of the Digital Ball. She will continue in that role alongside Dave Barnes, SVP and CIO, UPS for the 10th anniversary of the signature fundraiser in 2010.

Also serving as Co-Chair of the Board's Volunteer Committee for 2008-2009, Ms. Tierney helped ignite recent growth of TechBridge's volunteer program and oversaw the launch of its new TechVolunteer website designed to communicate with and gather information about technology skills from potential volunteers.

Ms. Tierney will succeed current board chair, Wain Kellum, CEO, Omnilink, at the end of his term.

TechBridge is also pleased to welcome the following new additions to its board for 2009:

Ashish Bahl, Chairman and CEO, Acculynk; Marva Bailer, Software Executive, IBM SE; Kevin Campbell, Group Chief Executive – Technology, Accenture; Vida Durant, CIO and VP of Technology, CARE USA and Armando Escalante, Chief Technology Officer, LexisNexis Risk & Information Analytics Group.

Plan Now for Digital Ball May 8, 2010

Join us to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the TechBridge Digital Ball – the best way for Atlanta's technology community to extend the influence of technology in ways that really matter...the improvement of human lives. For sponsor information, visit www.techbridge.org or e-mail digitalball@techbridge.org.