



Teaming for Technology

Volume 1 Number 2

Teaming for Technology is a national partnership between IBM Corporation, United Way of America and AmeriCorps*VISTA.

January 2002

CommunityNet's e-business Solution Supports IBM Days of Caring

Nonprofit organizations can learn a lot from the private sector. A perfect example of this is the solution implemented by IBM and CommunityNet to manage thousands of volunteers.

CommunityNet's e-business solution allowed 62 area nonprofit agencies to submit 185 jobs requiring more than 1,630 volunteers for IBM's Days of Caring. This nonprofit organization's mission is to mobilize information and volunteer resources to meet community needs through the broad use of technology. Internally, IBM's IT team developed a tool to take the input from CommunityNet so IBMers could sign up for volunteer projects from their desks.

The seamless connection between CommunityNet and IBM resulted in elimination of more than three weeks of internal administrative work required in the previous manual system. IBM has supported CommunityNet's development through technology grants that include servers and workstations.

Tom Bellinger, a Rochester IBM employee, is a founding board member and has helped integrate CommunityNet with IBM's Teaming for Technology program. As part of the Teaming for Technology program, CommunityNet is using its online registry for volunteers to identify technical professionals who are willing to assist area nonprofits with technology needs. For more information, go to "How Can I Help?" at www.c-net.org. CommunityNet receives a portion of its funding from the United Way of Olmsted County.

CommunityNet

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Steve Smith Named Executive Sponsor for Teaming for Technology



Steve Smith has been named the IBM Executive Champion for Teaming for Technology initiative in Southeast Minnesota. Steve is the IBM director of the Rochester Hard Disk Drive Development Laboratory. He brings great enthusiasm and experience to this assignment. He also serves on the board of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund, a

key partner in Teaming for Technology.

As Executive Champion, Steve will help us focus on a sustainable programs to help nonprofits utilize technology effectively. He will help us with strategy and focus our efforts to ensure we deliver on our program goals:

Teaming for Technology Goals

1. Increase operational efficiency
2. Deliver services more effective more efficiency
3. Increase their ability to leverage funding and other resources

Steve will also bring additional IBM resources to our project. In particular, he is working to match IBM technical professionals with various volunteer needs of T4T agencies and educational programs. Steve is also providing mentors and opportunities to help our VISTA volunteers with skills and resources to ensure their success.

Steve joined IBM in 1978 after receiving his BS and MS degrees in Mathematics from the University of North Dakota. He held various engineering positions in hard disk drive development including instrumentation development, recording physics integration, and mathematical.

Steve has been active in university relations and joint university research work with a number of midwest universities.

Workshop Addresses Technology Planning for Nonprofits

Over 60 nonprofit directors, Board members, technology committee members, and staff attended Teaming for Technology's (T4T) Quarterly Event: *Increasing Organizational Capacity through Technology Planning*, held at the Mayo Civic center in Rochester on Tuesday, December 17, 2001.



Hilla Cline, United Way of Olmsted County Executive Director addresses the crowd

The hour and a half session began with a welcome from Steve Smith, T4T Minnesota IBM Executive Sponsor and a brief overview of the T4T program from Brad Baso, AmeriCorps*VISTA with T4T. A panel of local nonprofits shared their stories of how technology helped them to increase their organizational capacity, deliver their services more effectively, and increase their ability to leverage funding and other resources.

A presentation of T4T's "Technology Planning Manual for Nonprofits" followed. The basics of tech planning were outlined, followed by a brief exercise to encourage participants to think how technology might help their organization. Evaluations from the event were very positive. Every respondent said that they knew the next steps to take for their organization to develop a technology plan and every portion of the event was deemed useful. The manual and evaluations are available on T4T's website (www.uwolmsted.org/teamingfortechology).

T4T's next Capacity Building Workshop will be in February, at which time more detailed information on technology planning will be discussed. Please visit our website to learn more or contact Brad Baso at brad_b@uwolmsted.org or 507-529-4505 with any questions.

New Vista On Board

Chris Webb was born on Guam Island and has lived most of his life in Phoenix, Arizona. After completing two years of study abroad, Chris graduated from Northern Arizona University with a BSBA, International Marketing and a BS, Spanish. In December 2000, he completed Peace Corps service in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Chris arrived in Rochester to work in Teaming for Technology in November 2001. Some of his personal activities include volleyball, karate, and fitness training at the YMCA.

CommunityNet and T4T Encourage Nonprofits to Sign up for Workshops

Volunteers can be a valuable resource for nonprofits, especially those on a tight budget. Understanding the abilities, limits and mindsets of technical volunteers, and knowing how to deal with or manage technical volunteers, are important things to consider if you plan on using technical volunteers to help your agency use and manage technology.

Teaming for Technology has partnered with CommunityNet to mobilize technical volunteers to assist nonprofit organizations to better utilize technology.

We are currently inviting agencies to sign up for our workshop on "Working with Technical Volunteers." The workshop will help your organization:

- Understand technical volunteers
- Know how to find technical volunteers
- Manage a technical volunteer
- Write job descriptions that reflect organizational needs
- Write a work plan
- Access information on managing technical volunteers

For more information contact CommunityNet at 287-7877

Computer Learning Month Promotion a Success

T4T volunteers set up kiosks at the local malls to encourage people to visit the Computer Learning Foundation's Website (www.computerlearning.org) and promote Teaming for Technology projects and activities.

The kiosks were set up at Apache Mall on October 6th and at the Galleria Mall on October 20th.

We gave out information on CommunityNet's Online Volunteer Matching Service. Over 100 individuals stopped and picked up information.

The individuals that took the CLF Books (*Everything You Need to know (But were afraid to Ask Kids)*, *About the Information Highway*, and *Young Kids and Computers: A Parents' Survival Guide*) appreciated receiving such a valuable resource.



Teachers Trained in Using Technology

Early childhood education teachers gathered at Rochester Community and Technical College to learn how to better incorporate the IBM Young Explorer computers in their classrooms.



About 40 teachers took part in the training that was conducted by Lisa Klossner, early childhood education specialist for Child Care Resource and Referral.

The computer is a relatively new arrival in many early childhood classrooms. For many teachers, computers are already one among many of the rich, varied materials found in a good learning environment. For others, technology is new territory and they may need to become comfortable with the equipment and familiar with software activities. IBM is hosting a site at www.kidsmartearlylearning.org. The site contains:

- **Overviews** - introductions to important issues about teaching and learning with technology;
- **Conversations** - practical discussions that teachers have about these issues;
- **Teacher Tips** - concrete tips on evaluating software and useful aids for classroom management;
- **Promising Practices** - real lesson plan ideas submitted by teachers; and
- **Home Link** - suggestions for what parents can do to use computers to support early learning at home.

For information on upcoming workshops for the Young Explorer Computer System call Jason Engelhardt at 529-4506 or visit our website at www.uwolmsted.org/teamingfortechology

Great Websites to Visit

Points of Light Foundation

www.pointsoflight.org

This is the Points of Light Foundation's website. It has information useful for volunteer managers, including a good link page. Another useful resource is the national directory of volunteer centers.

Corporation for National Service

www.cns.gov

If you're curious about initiatives like AmeriCorps, Learn & Serve America, or National Senior Service Corps, this is the site to visit. Several pages of information are available about these and other national programs.

Software Training Available for Nonprofit Agencies

As part of our mission to help non-profits improve their services by using technology, we find it is crucial for non-profit staff to understand the technology they use. To provide effective training, Teaming for Technology has established a partnership with the Workforce Development Center.



Special offer! Free Classes

For January 2002 only, classes are available to nonprofits with a voucher from Teaming for Technology. If your agency's staff or volunteers could benefit from free software training, please contact Jason_E@uwolmsted.org or call Jason at (507) 252-0268

Course Descriptions can be found at www.workforcedevelopment.ws

Vouchers are only good for classes taken before 1/31/02, after that date, the vouchers will be good for a discounted rate of \$90 + books/class and registrants at discount rate may be "bumped" due to class size.

Teaming for Technology Recognizes Volunteer Efforts

A special thanks goes out to the members of Ken's "Mastermind Group". This group of volunteers have been meeting most Wednesdays since September to brainstorm ideas and strategize ways to fully realize the T4T mission.

A shout goes out to David Meer, Wayne Morgan, Julia Chu, Roger Veges and Scott Clough for their extra special efforts and general support of the Teaming for Technology goals and objectives.

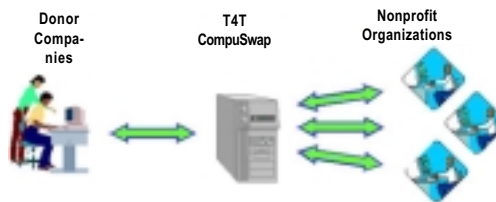


CompuSwap Project Introduced

Agencies will be selected based on the following criteria:

The Teaming for Technology, (T4T), CompuSwap project will deploy computer systems and peripherals made available due to upgrades from area wide government facilities and businesses to 501 (c)3 nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and programs. The goals of the CompuSwap program are:

1. To bridge the digital divide by supplying organizations, programs and projects with computer systems and peripherals necessary to maintain their mission in today's age of fast-paced technology.
2. To increase the general level of technology throughout Southeast Minnesota by replacing lower end systems (i.e. 486's or older) or providing computer systems and peripherals to organizations lacking a sufficient number of computer systems to equip a basic office environment.
3. To keep computer systems and peripherals out of land fills by insuring that computer systems are properly recycled.



1. Replacing a 486 or older computer system
2. Lacking sufficient number of computer systems to equip basic office environment.
3. Recent loss of computer/s needed to maintain daily mission.
4. Completed the Teaming for Technology self-assessment
5. Developed a Organizational Technology Committee and a technology plan

Agencies/organizations will need to complete the pre-application form stating their contact information, mission, the desired use for the computer/s and complete a technology self-assessment.

Upon review those agencies/organizations chosen to receive computer/s will have to sign a computer system recipients agreement.

For more information contact Ken Nelson at 287-1958

Teaming for Technology

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