



AWARD VALUE: \$45,000 Increased Confidence to Undertake Technology Projects: PRICELESS

The 2006 winner of TechBridge's Technology Innovation Award (TIA), given by Accenture, gained much more than the dollar value of the prize. Hemophilia of Georgia also gained a partner that will help them embrace new technology to better serve their clients.

"The TIA experience enabled us to establish a partnership with a nonprofit IT provider who shares our values," says Maria Manahan, Vice President of Finance and Operations for Hemophilia of Georgia. "As a nonprofit, we have a commonality with TechBridge and we're confident they truly understand how to create the best possible solution for our needs at the best possible price."

Prior to winning the Technology Innovation Award, HoG relied primarily on its internal IT department to define and implement its technology needs. Leveraging this valuable internal resource, HoG recently developed a custom client management system (CMS) that frees its pharmacy staff, nurses and social

workers to devote more time to providing direct services to clients. The CMS reduces paperwork, improves workflow and helps the agency maintain governmental compliance. As a result, HoG has expanded its impact without incurring the cost of additional personnel,

earning recognition from TechBridge's distinguished panel of TIA judges for its innovative use of technology.

But, says Manahan, "Technology can be difficult to understand. There is always a fear of the unknown

and even though we have very competent IT staff, it reassures us to have TechBridge affirm our decisions and share knowledge of what is possible."

An experienced nonprofit executive, Manahan finds that many nonprofits have difficulty justifying technology initiatives. The reason, she believes, is because the return on investment is more difficult to quantify. As a result, many viable and productive technology solutions are not implemented. "But this

situation speaks well for TechBridge", says Manahan. "They bridge the gap by providing the needed expertise at a very reasonable price."

Choosing to invest their TIA winnings in a website upgrade, Manahan says the project was completed without diverting any funds or focus from HoG's planned client-oriented IT projects. "The website TechBridge created for us through the Technology Innovation Award is more interactive, easier to use, and much more professional than our previous site," states Manahan. "We were so impressed with TechBridge and their helpful and responsive staff that we have continued our relationship in other areas including volunteering."

The successful website project HoG initiated with TechBridge has delivered additional positive results. "The possibilities are endless," states Manahan. "The website is a key part of the strategic planning process for our organization."

Asked to sum up the benefits of winning TechBridge's Technology Innovation Award, Manahan states, "With TechBridge, we believe we have a trusted partner to work with in the future."

[Visit HoG at www.hog.org](http://www.hog.org)



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Thanks to the generosity of its corporate sponsors, TechBridge was able to deliver critical technology services and solutions to 170 nonprofits in 2006. TechBridge provided web/email hosting to 86 nonprofit clients, and welcomed its 22nd nonprofit client to its new IT outsourcing services. Corporate sponsorships enabled TechBridge to save its nonprofit clients an estimated \$850,000 in service fees in 2006 alone.

"TechBridge's efforts have significantly enhanced the operations at the Gateway Center. In the last year, TechBridge covered about half of its operating budget through the consulting fees paid by organizations like the Gateway Center and half from generous donations from companies like yours. Thank you for your commitment to the community...and those so often overlooked. The net result is for every hour of services I buy from TechBridge, you donate the next hour. I thank you for that."

*Vince Smith, Director
24/7 Gateway Center*

Celebrating Unlimited Potential

Thanks to generous grants from Microsoft and SAP America, TechBridge is significantly impacting the lives of some deserving adults. By undergoing training on the Microsoft Office Suite, adult students are gaining key job-readiness skills through a unique hands-on learning program staffed by volunteers from TechBridge's Corporate Partners.

The Microsoft Unlimited Potential program (UP) is made available free of charge to disadvantaged adults who are pre-qualified and tested on their basic computer knowledge. The UP program requires participants to commit to rigorous coursework over a 14-week period. Thanks to the grant donations, TechBridge adapted a training curriculum for Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Outlook to suit its students' needs and has made the program available in two locations: the Atlanta Enterprise Center in Midtown, and the Agape Community Center in northwest Atlanta. To date, forty-four students in five classes have taken advantage of the Microsoft Unlimited Potential training opportunity.

"After taking this class I have learned how to do a PowerPoint presentation and my Excel skills are much, much better than what they used to be," says Minnie Monroe, a recent UP graduate. "I just feel much more comfortable using the computer; not afraid to touch it. I am comfortable with the mouse now too, so it's been a big help to me."

Ms. Monroe was so inspired by her UP experience that she hopes to continue her professional training through online courses and is

looking forward to one day teaching a UP class to other deserving students. "This experience has changed my attitude about technology tremendously," adds Monroe. "If I could say one thing to my instructors it would be 'Thank you, thank you! I really appreciate it. You were very patient with each of us, very knowledgeable, and you helped us a lot.'"

Teaching an Unlimited Potential course is also a rewarding experience according to the program's volunteer instructors. These talented individuals are employees of TechBridge's Corporate Partners, companies that donate at the \$10,000 level and above annually. Participating companies include AGL Resources, The Coca-Cola Company, GE Energy, The Home Depot, Microsoft, NetBank, Seagull Software and Southern Company. More than 50 employees from these prestigious Atlanta companies have volunteered their time in the Unlimited Potential program.

Commenting on his volunteer experience as a UP course instructor, Patrick Hankey of Microsoft said, "For me, it was looking the folks in the eye and seeing they were getting it and really valuing it. It was making a difference in their lives and giving them hope to advance their skills and maybe their job situations. That was tremendously rewarding."

The Unlimited Potential program is one of many ways TechBridge Corporate Partners extends the influence of technology in the community. For more information on becoming a TechBridge sponsor, visit www.techbridge.org.



Students from the fall 2006 UP Program



L to R: John Nozzi, Microsoft, Volunteer; Tina Williams, UP Program Graduate; Jennifer Higgins, TechBridge

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TechBridge Welcomes New Board Members

TechBridge welcomes the following additions to its board of directors and appreciates their commitment to serve.

Roosevelt Giles, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer – Information Management Systems, Inc.

Chris Jones, General Manager, SE District – Microsoft Corporation

Vince Smith, Director – Gateway Center