

# TechBridge and Microsoft Impact History in Atlanta

TechBridge and Microsoft have partnered to improve and support the technology needs of one of the Southeast's largest historical museums. The Atlanta Historical Society, the operating body of the Atlanta History Center and famed Margaret Mitchell House & Museum, is receiving nearly \$1 million in software and services to ensure that its technology challenges are "gone with the wind."

This technology collaboration will also support the business needs of the Atlanta Historical Society's Kenan Research Center and archives, the Swan House and Tullie Smith historic homes, and the society's lecture series, interactive programs and workshops.

Microsoft will provide document and database management applications such as Microsoft Office, SharePoint Server 2007 and Microsoft SQL Server 2005. TechBridge has been engaged to provide

implementation and consulting services to ensure a secure, stable platform for the Atlanta History Center that will serve the organization well into the future and significantly enhance the educational experiences of its more than 140,000 annual visitors.

"TechBridge is dedicated to providing nonprofits with new and innovative technology-based solutions that help organizations provide services benefiting the community," said Jay Hart, senior network engineer and TechBridge project lead.

Located on 33 acres in the heart of Atlanta's Buckhead district, the Atlanta History Center includes one of the Southeast's largest history museums; a research library and archives that service more than 10,000 patrons annually. It also contains two historic homes illustrating over a century of Atlanta's history as well as a two-acre midtown campus which houses the Margaret Mitchell House and Museum and a series of gardens unique in both design and horticultural presentation in the metropolitan area.

Two previous grants from Microsoft helped the



Atlanta Historical Society to implement its basic information technology system at a time when the History Center was beginning significant physical and programmatic expansion.

"The benefits that the Atlanta Historical Society will realize from this donation will result in an enhanced experience for visitors as well as a more robust IT environment for the Historical Society's employees," said Microsoft Greater Southeast District Manager Chris Jones. "As a Microsoft employee and a member of the TechBridge board of directors, I am thrilled to see our technology having such a positive impact on an important cultural institution here in the Atlanta community."




## Hands-On Volunteer Opportunities

TechBridge provides employees of its sponsors with rewarding volunteer opportunities that put their IT skills to great use within the community. Far Left: Philip Sustar from The Home Depot shows residents at Lutheran Towers how a computer really works. Left: KPMG's Family Volunteer Day at Computers for Youth – Atlanta.

**Digital Ball®**  
**May 10, 2008**  
**Georgia World Congress Center**

**Co-Chairs:**  
Kristin Kirkconnell, CIO - Atlanta Gas Light  
Jean-Michel Arès, CIO - The Coca-Cola Company

**Presenting Sponsor:**  
  
*High performance. Delivered.*

**Sponsor Information:**  
[www.techbridge.org](http://www.techbridge.org)  
404.879.5416  
[digitalball@techbridge.org](mailto:digitalball@techbridge.org)

## TechBridge Welcomes New Board Members

Patience Allan-Glick, Vice President, Strategic Markets – Benevolink

James Franklin, Portfolio Director – Avanade

Reggie Hammond, Vice President - Atlanta – Exervio



L to R: Guido Sacchi, CIO, CompuCredit; John Yates, Partner, Morris, Manning & Martin; Ellen Sacchi, Sacchi/Marane



L to R: Larry Clark, Managing Director & CIO, Randstad; John Dunbar, CIO, Aquilex Corp.

## TechBridge Corporate Sponsors Gather

Excitement is building as plans for TechBridge's Digital Ball 2008 come together. Recently TechBridge shared information about the Digital Ball and recent work for its nonprofit clients at a sponsor reception.

# TechBridge Helps Local Nonprofit Make the Grade

Thanks to a generous grant provided by GE Infrastructure, TechBridge recently helped the Atlanta Education Fund (AEF) develop a solid technology infrastructure and enhance its business processes. After an initial assessment, the nonprofit's new leadership realized they were working with an outdated and unsecured server. Their network was running very slowly, making the organization's daily business cumbersome. Technology that is supposed to make work less complicated and faster simply wasn't performing to its full potential.

To meet its growing need for virtual office capability with collaborative meeting space, AEF's leadership required technology to enable them to be fully functional from home and other remote locations. However, the current technology couldn't provide the needed new functionality nor did AEF have the technical knowledge on-staff to manage the necessary equipment and software upgrades.

"As a small nonprofit, it does not make sense to hire someone to manage and maintain our systems," said Melissa Solomon, chief operating officer of AEF. "Nor does it make sense to purchase a lot of hardware that we would then have to store, backup, update and secure." However, selecting a third-party IT provider to recommend solutions, provide support and manage day-to-day IT operations can reduce the burden and costs for nonprofit organizations of any size. The Atlanta Education Fund began searching for a company that could offer hosting

services for their network as well as implement the necessary software solutions to meet their business needs and provide ongoing IT support.

After an extensive vendor search, the Atlanta Education Fund selected TechBridge based on their reputation, specific nonprofit experience and low prices. "You can't beat the quality of service for the price," said Solomon. "Essentially starting from scratch, TechBridge went to work to determine the best solutions and services to meet our needs, making recommendations on everything from what laptops we should buy to what software would be required."

After reviewing several options presented by TechBridge, AEF chose a completely virtual environment. The only hardware now installed at the organization's location is a firewall. Today, AEF staff need only their laptop computers and an Internet connection to create a completely functional office from any location. The Atlanta Education Fund's business applications reside on a server housed in TechBridge's secure data center. Using Hosted Exchange, AEF staff members enjoy a seamless e-mail experience thanks to their Microsoft Outlook client. And, with remote storage of all data files that are backed up nightly for improved security, the organization's business processes are enhanced thanks to improved availability and access to information.

### Earning Extra Credit

Taking advantage of TechBridge's nonprofit membership program, the Atlanta Education Fund

qualified to receive all of their Microsoft software at no cost. TechBridge also facilitated the process to ensure the organization met critical deadlines necessary to get them up and running as soon as possible. "For a membership fee of only \$450 we saved thousands of dollars," said Solomon. "The added value of the TechBridge membership was a tremendous benefit to our organization."

### A Bright Future Ahead

Now that the Atlanta Education Fund's IT infrastructure has been updated and its functionality significantly improved, TechBridge is providing ongoing support to ensure that things keep running smoothly. "TechBridge goes above and beyond to meet our needs," says Solomon. "I am relieved that all I have to do is call them and they'll handle it. Regardless of the issue, the TechBridge team will work to find an answer and solve the problem."

TechBridge's hosting services give the Atlanta Education Fund flexibility, reliability and business continuity, all at a cost-effective price. This leaves the organization's people free to do what they do best: reforming education.

Commenting on his company's involvement, GE Vice Chairman, President and CEO of GE Infrastructure, John Rice said, "Our commitment to advancements in education is a natural part of the way we work. We were pleased to provide this grant to strengthen productivity for the Atlanta Education Fund."