

Springpoint Foundation
Empowering Seniors: Digital Inclusion Program
Final Report

Introduction

The Springpoint Foundation extends sincere appreciation to Friends Foundation for the Aging for supporting the *Empowering Seniors: Digital Inclusion Program*. With your funding, we made significant strides in bridging the digital divide faced by low-income seniors living in HUD-subsidized housing in Monmouth and Ocean counties, New Jersey. This report summarizes our activities, outcomes, and lessons learned.

Project Activities

Technology Installation

- Interns installed 12 Lenovo ThinkCentre M75q desktop computers (two per site) across six communities for very low-income seniors, with secure communal access.
- Deployed 6 HP LaserJet printers, one per site, with secure communal access.
- Configured all systems with antivirus software and user-friendly accessibility features.
- Installed monitors and webcams to support video calling and virtual learning.

Digital Literacy Training & Ongoing Support

- With funding from another grant, we were able to offer Candoo Tech, a remote tech support and digital literacy training organization that specializes in working with older adults. Candoo provided initial classes in logging into the computers and general use, and will follow up with one-on-one and group lessons on a wide variety of technology (including personal TVs, phones/tablets, and more).
- Conducted core courses including Computer Essentials, Connecting to the Internet, Staying Safe Online, and Accessing Telehealth Services.
- Residents were able to meet with interns who answered immediate questions on devices, providing accessible, personalized guidance during and after training sessions.
- This program is still in its infancy, and we look forward to seeing our residents become more confident with their digital literacy.

Population Served

- The program reached over 500 residents across six HUD communities in Monmouth and Ocean County, NJ.
- Demographics: Very low-income seniors (median annual income: \$17,100), age 62+, diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds.
- Many residents live with mobility challenges, chronic health conditions, and social isolation risk factors.

Challenges

- Some seniors required more individualized attention than group sessions allowed, highlighting the need for additional “digital volunteers.”
- Language barriers occasionally limited engagement,
- A small number of residents remained hesitant to adopt technology, requiring ongoing encouragement.

Budget Summary

The program was delivered within the approved budget of \$22,900, consisting of:

- \$10,000 grant funding (Friends Foundation for the Aging).
- \$8,900 in-kind support from Springpoint Foundation and Springpoint IT
- \$4000 from an additional grant funder.
- All funds were expended as projected, with the majority allocated to computer and printer purchases, intern training, and installation.

Next Steps

- Continue offering quarterly digital refresher workshops.
- Expand outreach to reluctant adopters by offering one-on-one training
- Seek additional funding to continue this initiative into the future.

Conclusion

Thanks to the generosity of Friends Foundation for the Aging, the *Empowering Seniors: Digital Inclusion Program* has created tangible and lasting improvements in the lives of seniors. By fostering digital skills, we have enabled residents to better manage their health, strengthen family connections, and engage more fully in their communities.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership in reducing inequities and supporting healthy aging.