

Inclusive Technology of Washington




RUTH BACHA

President and
Treasurer

Welcome to Inclusive Technology of Washington's inaugural monthly newsletter! Here you can find amazing stories of our kids, the activities they participate in, and the staff and volunteers that make it all possible! This is also the greatest location to stay up to date on the newest advancements in upcoming endeavors, as well as how you can become involved!

But first and foremost, I'd like to thank everyone for a fantastic first season of our newly created non-profit! Inclusive Technology of Washington was founded in April of this year, and in July of this year, we took over the operations of the for-profit Engage Thru Tech, which had been in operation for fourteen years! Although Engage Thru Tech will cease operations this year, Inclusive Technology of Washington will carry on a rich heritage of technology and life skills education in underserved areas. Taking over current operations for over 50 students with special needs, as well as dozens of ongoing Girl Scout, inner city, and rural community classes each month, has been no easy feat! Our volunteer board of directors (of which I am president) and Kira Sorensen, our Chief Executive Officer staff member, are working hard to make this a reality! (On a side note, we have a few available board positions.) More on this later in the newsletter. Not only are we trying to absorb Engage Thru Tech's current students, processes, and duties, but we also have several new endeavors in the works! Speaking of new projects, here's a "short recap" of what's "in the works!"

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[Spotlight on Success Live Online Talent Show:](#) Please join us online on December 7th from 10:00am to 11:00am for a fantastic opportunity to see samples of student projects, student testimonies, and participate in the wonderful Inclusive Technology of Washington community! Register using the link [HERE!](#)

[Specialized Habilitation and Community Integration:](#) Inclusive Technology of Washington has recently signed on with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to offer these services! This will help us to not only serve a wider spectrum of DDA consumers, but also to provide more personalized and goal-oriented services! Goals may include improving life skills, building community ties, and developing social skills through technology. Stay tuned for future messages with additional information on this wonderful opportunity!

[President's Volunteer Service Award:](#) Inclusive Technology of Washington has been certified as a non-profit organization, allowing us to officially reward our volunteers through the President's Volunteer Service Award program! We want to not only enroll our present volunteers in this award process, but also to welcome Girl Scouts seeking leadership skills (and a recognition program known as "journeys") to intern with us! For now, here's a [link to volunteer opportunities!](#)

[Funding Opportunities:](#) We are in the early phases of pursuing funds for our programs and scholarship needs. In the meantime, we encourage you to participate in our "Pave the Way" online fundraising auction on the weekend of December 7th. This online auction will feature trips, holiday gifts, and experiences! Some things have beginning bids as low as \$3, ensuring a diverse selection. The auction will begin immediately following the talent show (at 11:00am on Saturday, December 7th) and continue until 6:00pm on Sunday, December 8th. For additional information, go [HERE!](#)

Thank you for a wonderful start to our non-profit! We hope to continue serving underserved communities for many years to come!

December 7, 2024: 10:00am – 11:00am

A live online talent show and auction celebrating success!

Click to view the [Talent Show](#) from 10am to 11am

Our [Online Auction](#) begins at 11am open til December 8 at 6pm

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**Board Positions
Available**

Treasurer

**External Affairs
co-chair**

**Internal Affairs
co-chair**



Featured Class of the Month

Join Our Upcoming Blender Class with Anwar Beleku

We're thrilled to announce our forthcoming Blender class, taught by the amazing Anwar Beleku! Anwar, a software engineer at the University of Washington, provides a plethora of expertise and a strong interest in coding and filmmaking to our community.

About the Blender Class

This workshop will immerse you in the world of Blender, with an emphasis on coding and filmmaking. You'll discover how to utilize Blender, take measurements, and edit in both 3D and 2D. You'll also work on tasks like constructing scenes with Blender, analyzing them, and polishing them for use in film. We'll go over important tools like measuring distances and angles, creating 3D views, and switching object tools.

Special Needs Students

We believe in providing an inclusive learning environment. Anwar's approach is compassionate, patient, and adapted to all students, particularly those with specific needs. Simple words, frequent follow-ups, and soft communications are essential for ensuring that every student feels comfortable and supported. Small educational steps and meticulous attention to growth make every moment in class joyful and fulfilling.

A Heartwarming Journey

It's the nicest feeling to see pupils develop abilities and confidence. Our class is more than just studying Blender; it's about addressing real-world challenges and applying those answers. We emphasize detail-oriented communication and practical applications to help students improve both their technical and social skills. Join us on this trip where beauty and mathematics intersect to provide a haven for your creativity to bloom. For further information and to register, please contact us or visit the [website](#).

Featured Staff



KIRA SORENSEN

Executive Director and
Program Manager

Mrs. Kira Sorensen represents the clique; "when you work hard for a company, good things happen!" Sorensen joined the company in 2015, when it was known as EngageThruTech. She began as a teen assistant at summer camp, advanced to lead instructor in 2018, and was recently promoted to Executive Director / Project Manager on October 1, 2024, following the company's transition to Inclusive Technology of Washington this summer.

As a girl scout, Kira learned the value of working with others and supporting different communities. She believes it's important that everyone has equitable access to technology and technology support.

The highlight of her job is to ensure that everyone, whether a student or an instructor, is well-informed and has the tools they need to advance in class. Sorensen continues to teach in a Tacoma after-school program, which provides her with valuable inside knowledge for her position.

Sorensen appreciates the opportunity to learn from President Ruth Bacha. In 2025, the company is looking for more funds to introduce the one-to-one program in January, which implies one student to one instructor for individuals who require extra help to study.

When Kira is not working professionally, she enjoys spending time with her wife, animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, and numerous fish in five tanks), and friends, as well as gardening for a sustainable lifestyle. A personal goal for her since returning to Washington after graduating from Pacific University in Oregon with a BA in Film in 2018, is to expand her social network.

Volunteers Needed

Inclusive Technology of Washington is looking for volunteers! We are a non-profit technology and life skills education program that proudly instructs under-served communities including special needs, inner city and rural regions, and young women (through Girl Scout programming).

We are looking for enthusiastic people to serve as classroom assistants, as well as fill administrative and "behind the scenes" roles... or anywhere you wish to use your skills! Below is a partial list of our areas of need...

Classroom Assistants

Help our instructors support our students! Classes are now held in Enumclaw on Mondays, Tukwila on Tuesdays, Federal Way on Wednesdays, Maple Valley or the Kirkland/Redmond region on Thursdays, Maple Valley on Fridays, Tacoma on Saturdays, and Issaquah on Saturday/Sundays.

Social Media and Newsletter Ambassador

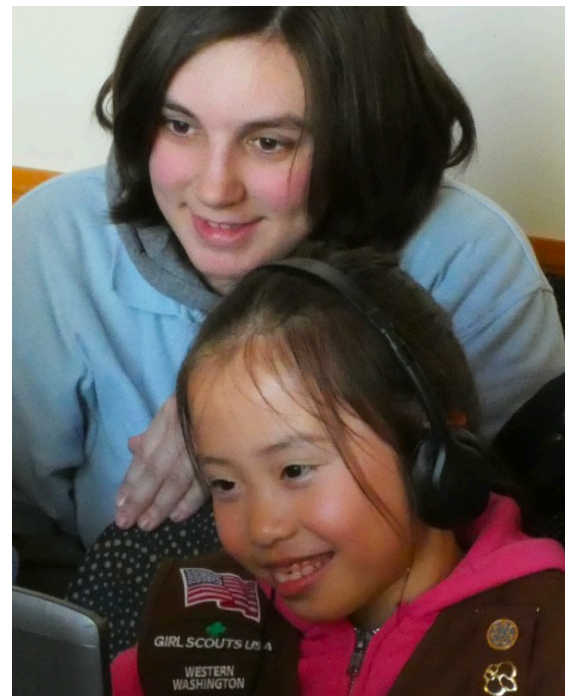
Help increase the social media presence of our organization, as well as highlight to the community our accomplishments!

Fundraiser and Special Event Organizer

Help recruit and organize a group of volunteers to implement a series of "parties" and events to raise funds for our organization!

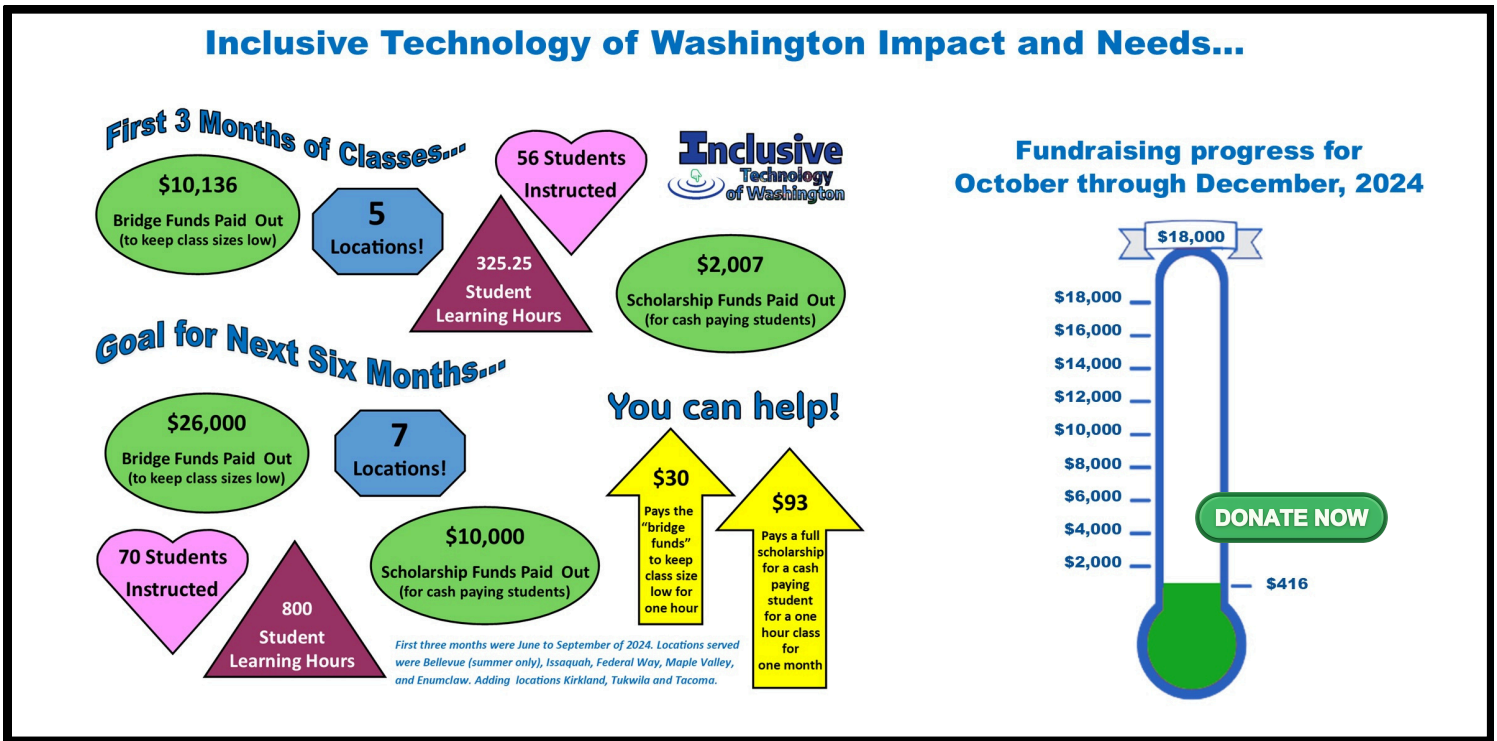
Program Manager

Helps to manage the moving pieces to make sure that students have what they need to attend classes regularly, and adequate volunteer support to assure a positive experience



Impact and Needs

Below is a graphic of the impact that Inclusive Technology has provided to under-served communities in the first three months of providing programming as a non-profit (from June to September of 2024). It also describes our goals for the next six months, as well as a “fundraiser thermometer” showing our progress towards the funds we need through the end of December of this year. As you can see, the need is great, and every little bit counts! [Click here](#) to help us continue to expand our services to under-served communities!



Testimonial

“

I wanted ... to say how much it means for (our daughter).

She loved the camp and all that she learned to do. She was very happy and proud and showed off the certificates to my mom in India via video call (she wanted to do that). She mentioned she misses the camp many times this week... We feel like you guys are making a big change for good in her. She's less anxious and looks forward to Saturday and Sunday for the classes.

Parent of a Participant with Special Needs

”

Featured Student of the Month

Sean has been a regular student of ours for over a year now!

Watch this heartfelt short video about the great progress he has made with us!



▶ WATCH NOW

DECEMBER - JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 Enumclaw	3 Tukwila	4	5 Kirkland Maple Valley	6 Maple Valley	7 Issaquah
8	9 Enumclaw	10 Tukwila	11	12 Kirkland Maple Valley	13 Maple Valley	14 Issaquah
15	16 Enumclaw	17 Tukwila	18	19 Kirkland Maple Valley	20 Maple Valley	21 Issaquah
22	23 Enumclaw	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28
29	30 Enumclaw	31 New Years Eve	1 New Years Day	2	3	4 Issaquah



Explore, Collaborate, Lead!

We would love to hear from you or help your loved ones!



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