



RUTH BACHA

President and
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In This Issue

[Page 2](#)

Highlighted Student
Featured Classes

[Page 3](#)

Featured
Staff and
Volunteers Needed

[Page 4](#)

Impact and Needs

[Page 5](#)

Event Calendar
Contact Us

Greetings to the Inclusive Technology of Washington Community! Thank you, again, for all your support in 2024! As we begin the year of 2025, I wanted to give you a “sneak peek” into the directions we are headed, and ways in which our community can come alongside us!

As we lean into our purpose statement to “Engage and empower Washington’s communities of individuals with special needs and underserved populations through technology while teaching essential life skills,” I am reminded of the legacy that Inclusive Technology of Washington inherited from the company Engage Thru Tech (a “for profit” company that I founded, which the non-profit Inclusive Technology of Washington has taken over operations of). In the early years of Engage Thru Tech, when I was seeking to name the company in a manner that encapsulated its core values, a marketing consultant recommended that I name the company “Engage With Tech.” I told her that this did not fully convey how unique our organization was. There are many places where students can receive instruction on how to engage WITH technology. But with our organization, we seek to help students engage THROUGH technology. Engage with each other and enhance their social IQ (which is an essential life skill). Engage with the community, and advocate for themselves and others to make their own lives (and the world) a better place. And to do so THROUGH technology, not only to motivate them to engage in the process, but also to learn essential technology skills along the way.

We will explore more fully in the next several newsletters all the ways in which Inclusive Technology of Washington lives out this purpose statement. In this newsletter, we will focus on our new class format called Specialized Habilitation. Be sure to read the article in which we describe this more fully!

Specialized Habilitation is a program available to many individuals with special needs who receive funding from the Developmental Disabilities Administration! Our goal is to not only be able to provide this service to those who qualify to receive funding for it, but also to anyone else desiring this service regardless of ability to pay for it. To that end, we need the Inclusive Technology of Washington community to connect us with volunteers to help in our classrooms (or other administrative roles) as well as recurring donors and sources of grant money to help us grow and expand the great work we have begun!

Highlighted Student of the Month

Listen to Abby's Favorite Parts of Class



Featured Class of the Month

This month, we are featuring Specialized Habilitation! These are a couple of fancy words to describe something that is really quite basic. Habilitation refers to a process aimed at helping individuals with disabilities attain, keep, or improve skills and functioning for daily living. The only difference between “re-habilitation” and “habilitation” is that “re-habilitation” refers to a person regaining skills they previously had. In the word “habilitation,” the “re” is omitted, because the person is not re-gaining skills, but acquiring them for the first time.

Now that you've had your English lesson for the day, let's talk about the specialized instruction that we are planning for “Specialized Habilitation!” As mentioned in our opening newsletter article, we are excited to combine the teaching of technology skills with the teaching of the essential life skill of developing one's social IQ! This can take many forms, not only in terms of the types of social skills that a person seeks to develop, but also the technological medium through which they engage! Imagine students creating videos in which they role play tricky social situations! Or students creating educational video games which teach certain social skills concepts! Or creating a graphic arts “meme” power point presentation, or publisher product which imparts insights and wisdom of how to navigate the social world! All this and more are available to students to explore and create! We are only limited by our imaginations!

Each quarter, Inclusive Technology of Washington will organize an online “talent show” in which many of these projects will be featured! We invite you to “stay tuned” for further updates on how you might participate in or be “in the audience with” these inspirational moments!

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Featured Staff



JOAN NJOROGE

Instructor for Special Population

It is a pleasure to acknowledge Miss Joan Njoroge as our January featured employee. She has been with the company for over a year and has firsthand understanding of what it's like to live with special needs and overcome the obstacles to thriving in society.

Her primary goal as an instructor is to educate pupils coding and game creation over the course of a semester. She engages students in brainstorming ideas, implementation, and bringing the idea to animation so that others may see their successful product come to life.

She traveled to Washington from East Africa to further her study at Highline College and earn her BA in Social Services. Joan will graduate in spring 2025. She moved to the Pacific Northwest to pursue a career in human services. She has a family connection in the area, allowing her to live and pursue her educational goal of assisting others.

Her most memorable experience at ITW was her first time working with the Girl Scout Camp. The days are beneficial and rewarding.

The best part of her day is providing new information and tools to help students improve their skills and progress in the learning process.

In conclusion, Joan wants to express to readers that "people with special needs deserve to be given a chance, and with the right tools and instruction, they will excel."

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

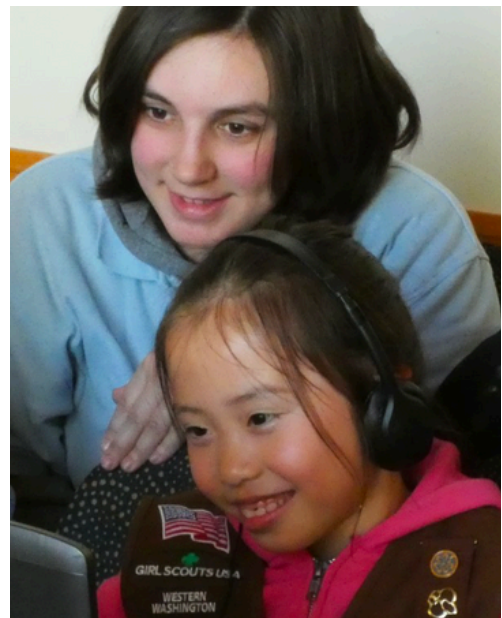
Help increase the social media presence of our organization, as well as highlight to the community our accomplishments!

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

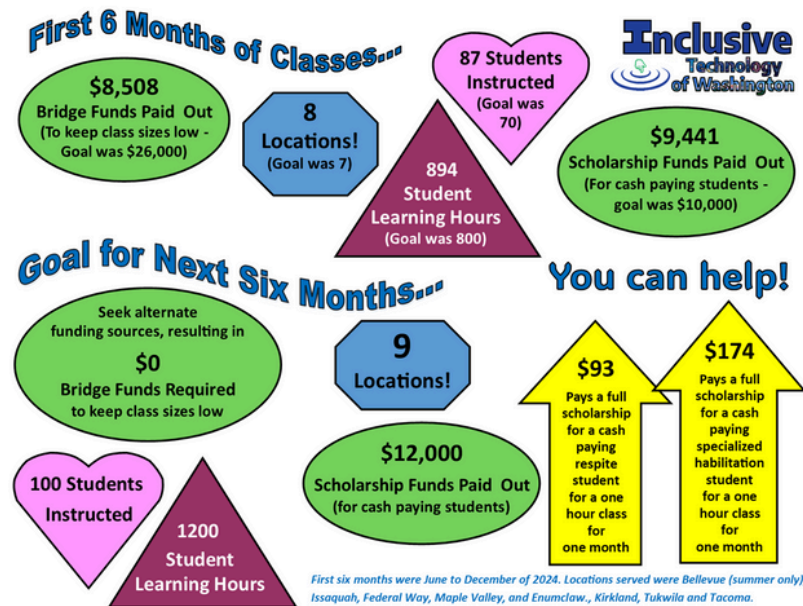


Impact and Needs

As we close out 2024, we are still finalizing our impact for the first six months of serving individuals in under-served communities! Already we have tabulated having served 87 students (our goal was 80) while providing 894 student learning hours (our goal was 800)... and the numbers keep rolling in!

As we set goals for 2025, we look forward to new funding sources that will basically cover all of our bridge fund needs... so our goal is to not require ANY donations to cover bridge funds (originally used to help keep class sizes low)! Instead, our focus is on cultivating a group of donors who would commit to recurring monthly donations, to cover our scholarships needed for cash paying students (for existing students as well as ones on the "wait list" desiring assistance). This would stabilize our finances and free us up to utilize fundraising events and grants to cover specialty needs, such as updating and expanding our computers and other equipment, as well as curriculum development (to name a few short-term goals). Below is a thermometer tracking the number of recurring monthly donation pledges we have received thus far. As you can see, we have a ways to go on this goal, but it is very reachable if everyone helps out even a little bit!

Inclusive Technology of Washington Impact and Needs...



Progress towards MONTHLY recurring donations pledges for 2025...



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays Issaquah	Mondays Enumclaw	Tuesdays Tukwila	Wednesdays Maple Valley	Wednesdays Federal Way
2:30pm - 4:30pm Cooking	12:30pm - 2:00pm Moviemaking	1:45pm - 2:45pm Moviemaking	3pm - 5pm STEAM	
4:30pm - 6:30pm Arts and Crafts	2:15pm - 3:45pm Coding	3:30pm - 4:30pm Computer Tools	5:30pm - 7:30pm STEAM ages 6-12	
		4:45pm - 5:45pm Moviemaking		
		6pm - 7:30pm Intermediate Coding		
Thursdays Kirkland	Thursdays Maple Valley	Fridays Maple Valley	Saturdays Issaquah	Saturdays Tacoma
2:15pm - 3:15pm Moviemaking	3:30pm - 5:30pm Cooking	12:30pm - 2pm Graphic Design	9:45am - 10:45am Moviemaking	10:45am - 11:45am Graphic Design
4pm - 5pm Computer Tools	5:30pm - 7:30pm Arts and Crafts	2pm - 3:30pm Moviemaking	11am - 12:30pm Coding	12pm - 1pm Beginner Coding
5:15pm - 6:15pm Graphic Design		3:30pm - 5pm Beginner coding ages 8-10	12:45pm - 1:45pm Moviemaking	1:45pm - 2:45pm Moviemaking
6:30pm - 7:30pm Coding		5pm - 6:30pm Intermediate coding ages 10 - 12	2pm - 3pm Graphic Design	3pm - 4:30pm Intermediate Coding



Explore, Collaborate, Lead!

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



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