

EQUITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

GENERAL FUND OVERVIEW

United Way of Racine County is pleased to continue its investment in the community through the Equity Through Technology Fund. This second funding cycle built upon the momentum of the initial awards and further strengthened partnerships focused on expanding opportunity and reducing barriers for Racine County residents. The impact of this work remains possible due to the continued generosity of Microsoft Corporation.

The Equity Through Technology Fund supports projects and programs designed to advance equitable outcomes by utilizing technology as a tool to increase opportunities, mitigate barriers and support local organizations in serving their clients with the use of technology. Funded programs and projects address disparities affecting historically marginalized populations by expanding access to education, workforce readiness, mental health supports and earning potential.

Throughout Cycle 2, the Equity Through Technology Fund invested in 13 nonprofit partners, with this report reflecting outcomes from projects completed during the reporting period. Completed projects served a total of **6,236** Racine County residents during this cycle.



“Thanks to the Equity Through Technology funding, our students finally have enough devices to learn, practice, and test without barriers. We’ve already seen them work more confidently and complete STAR assessments and daily assignments with far less stress. This investment has made a real difference in the flow of our classroom and in the quality of support we can offer.” – Darci Green, Executive Director of John 23 Educational Center



UNITED WAY
Racine County



Microsoft

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Through innovative approaches and strategic use of digital tools, the following organizations enhanced the services they provide to underserved communities.

DeKoven Center for Church Work: Food for Change Community Teaching Kitchen Program

purchased laptops and a printer to support food safety certification and kitchen training, helping adults and older teens with developmental or intellectual disabilities build life and entry-level job skills while expanding access to the program.

Frazier Family Support Services: Family2Family

used Equity Through Technology funding to integrate iPads and laptops into family mentoring and therapy sessions, expanding access to mental health resources, digital tools, and culturally responsive support while reducing barriers to care for vulnerable families.

John 23 Education Center: The Flagship Program

purchased iPads and supporting technology to integrate an interactive learning platform, addressing identified literacy gaps and strengthening math and English language arts support for afterschool students.

Racine Friendship Clubhouse: Work-Ordered Day Program

established a Marketing Department where members gained hands-on experience creating newsletters, social media content, and promotional materials while learning marketing coordination, video and audio editing, and other emerging technology skills that support community and workplace participation.

Racine Public Library: STEM for All expanded STEM and digital literacy programming by launching a Computer Basics Series and LinkedIn Learning Labs and purchasing Microsoft Office 2024 to provide community members with workforce-ready digital skills.

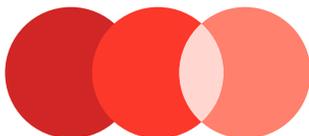


Racine Video Production Workshop hosted a smartphone filmmaking workshop for local business owners and high school students, teaching participants to use their devices to create marketing and storytelling content while building resume-ready media skills and strengthening outreach for minority-led organizations.

WRTP | BIG STEP purchased laptops and a charging cart to support participants in pre-apprenticeship training and career services, expanding access to online learning, job applications, and resume development while strengthening pathways to family-sustaining careers in the skilled trades.



“With this generous donation from the United Way of Racine County and Microsoft Equity Through Technology fund, we were able to increase our capacity to provide direct instruction to Racine County residents by providing the tools for them to complete online training modules, update their resumes, and apply for registered apprenticeships. Additionally, this afforded us a new capability to engage groups in virtual learning.” – John E. Anderson II, Southeast Region Director, WRTP | BIG STEP



OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS

Each organization was required to identify a single outcome they aimed to achieve. Within each outcome, they selected specific indicators to measure the impact their participants would experience within that focus area. This approach ensured the outcomes were clear, achievable, and measurable.

Focus Areas:

1. Increase in job-readiness skills
2. Increase in earning potential through increased knowledge and skills that facilitate access to jobs with higher wages
3. Increase in educational attainment (pre-kindergarten and K-12)
4. Increase in access to and utilization of physical and mental health services

Key Outcomes:

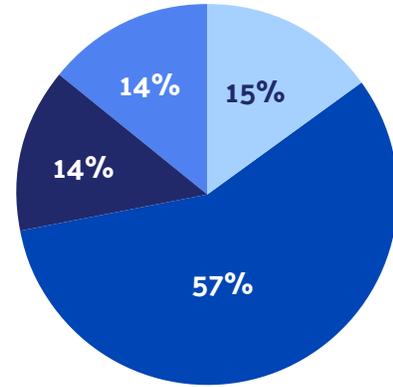
Measurable outcomes achieved by participants include:

- 75% demonstrated improved time management
- 100% showed improved work ethic
- 94% increased problem-solving skills
- 100% demonstrated stronger critical thinking skills
- 87% showed increased professionalism
- 95% achieved improved communication skills
- 100% improved reading/writing/literacy and math/numeracy/STEAM skills
- 100% gained access to support groups

These outcomes demonstrate the meaningful progress achieved in addressing community needs and empowering participants.

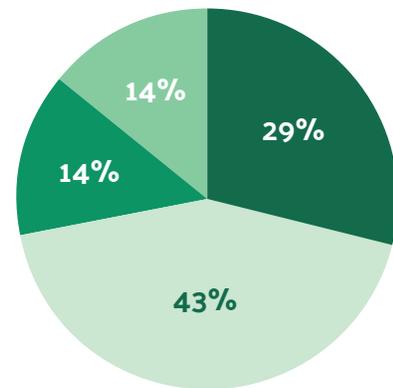
“This was a great way to help small businesses learn how to use video for promotion, especially when advertising budgets are limited.”- Racine Video Production Workshop participant

Identified Focus Areas



- Increase in access to and utilization of physical and/or mental health
- Increase in job readiness skills
- Increase in educational attainment
- Increase in earning potential through increased knowledge/skills that facilitate access to jobs with higher wages

Marginalized Populations Served



- Individuals with cognitive and physical differences
- Latinx/Hispanic
- Women
- People of color



IMPACT ON PARTICIPANTS AND THE COMMUNITY

United Way of Racine County recognizes funded partners for their innovation in using technology to reduce barriers and improve access to services. Their efforts have strengthened connections between community members and resources. The following highlights and success stories demonstrate how these programs have expanded opportunities and supported positive outcomes for those served.



58 mentoring sessions completed



310 pre- and post-therapeutic assessments completed



115 people completed 2,420 online learning modules



47 STEAM programs were delivered, reaching 562 participants



Participants completed employment preparation activities such as:

- Accuplacer Testing
- Financial Literacy Modules
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Highway Construction Skills Training
- Multi-Craft Core Curriculum
- First Aid/CPR
- OSHA 30 Certification
- Flagger Training
- Job Applications
- Letters of Interest for Unions



“I learned how to create a video that allows me to focus more clearly on my message.” – Racine Video Production Workshop participant

Success Story: From Training to Employment

Nine students age 18 to 21 participated in a nine-week training program that included rotations in housekeeping, dining service, and kitchen safety. The program was a partnership between DeKoven Center for Church Work's Food for Change Community Teaching Kitchen Program and Racine Unified School District's Transition to Employment (T2E) program.

Using laptops and printers provided through the grant, students completed coursework and assessments to earn certifications, with 100% of participants earning industry-recognized credentials in food safety, housekeeping, and soft skills.

The training quickly led to real opportunities. One student secured employment with Aramark, another was invited to apply after the employer recognized the certification, and two students are gaining ongoing experience through volunteer placements at The Inclusive Bean. The program provided participants with practical skills, confidence, and a clear pathway toward employment and greater independence.



Success Story: Skills Into Employment

Through the member-led marketing department at Racine Friendship Clubhouse, participants gained hands-on experience in photography, media production, and community communications. One member, Travis, applied these skills to secure a position with the Sturtevant newspaper, where he photographs and documents local community events.

This opportunity demonstrates how the project extended beyond the Clubhouse – building employability, supporting professional growth, and strengthening connections between members and the broader community.

“Our members have learned so much and gained so much confidence during the last year. Our members have become more active in Clubhouse activities. The marketing department has given them a way to interact with our community during activities like the Brat Fry, Go Green Monday Rally, and Gala with lowered anxiety. Their creativity, confidence, and ability to communicate with each other has greatly improved. As members continue to learn new skills and improve the skills they have gained, they will continue to gain more responsibilities for marketing department activities for the Clubhouse. We are excited to see the growth our members will make in the future.” – Kati Rognsvoog, Executive Director, Racine Friendship Clubhouse

