

EQUITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

GENERAL FUND OVERVIEW

United Way of Racine County deepens its investment in the community through the Equity Through Technology Fund. Made possible through the continued generosity of Microsoft Corporation, these investments support nonprofit partners working to expand opportunities and reduce barriers for Racine County residents. This third report highlights the progress and outcomes reported since the previous reporting period, detailed in the cycle 2 Equity Through Technology Report, available online at UnitedWayRacine.org/ETT.

Five projects served 564 Racine County residents during this cycle. Since its inception, Equity Through Technology-funded projects have served 7,587 Racine County residents.



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“The ChessUp ELCs are working very well in attracting more attention from the students to our chess efforts. Bringing this new technology into the program’s arsenal has definitely broadened our opportunity to reach more students and volunteers. This has inspired me personally in many ways. There are new and great opportunities for chess and technology to add significant enrichment value to the community.” – Ed Larkin, RUSD/EL Chess Instructor

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UNITED WAY
Racine County



Microsoft

PROJECT RECAPS

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

NAMI Racine County: Empowering Mental Wellness Through Technology transitioned program forms, surveys and evaluations to a digital format. This streamlined data collection, reduced errors and improved the organization's overall reporting capabilities. Digital demographic forms and electronic pre- and post-tests were used during recent Crisis Intervention Partner and Crisis Intervention Team trainings, creating a more efficient and organized process for participants and staff. NAMI also used an Owl Labs meeting camera to continue offering virtual peer support groups and improve internal and partner meetings, increasing access for individuals who can not participate in person.

Racine Heritage Museum: Enhancing Exhibit Technology at Racine Heritage Museum program upgraded several exhibits with new monitors, mini hard drives and interactive technology. The improvements updated content and visitor experience in exhibits related to the Underground Railroad, historic Racine County sports venues and Racine's drum and bugle corps history. The museum also partnered with Racine Unified School District to engage K-12 students in testing the technology and providing feedback to strengthen future exhibits and educational programming.

Racine Unified School District: Racine Chess Mates Ltd. Clubs integrated ChessUp 2 Smart electronic chess boards into after-school chess clubs throughout Racine Unified School District to recruit and teach new players. The interactive boards helped students learn chess, which is proven to boost math and problem-solving skills, strengthen memory and focus and develop adaptability and executive functioning in players. The program also partnered with a teacher at Gilmore Fine Arts School to provide weekly chess instruction, expanding opportunities for students to use chess as a learning tool.



SAFE Haven of Racine: Digicorp Migration program consolidated SAFE Haven's Microsoft 365 accounts into one secure centralized system, improving communication, collaboration, data protection and access to nonprofit licensing while also reducing costs. The upgraded system also strengthened email security and provided backup services for email, Teams, SharePoint and OneDrive data. These improvements allowed staff to respond to participant needs up to 35% faster, streamline forms, reduce service disruptions and provide more consistent support. For youth and young adults, the project created more reliable access to coordinated support groups, strengthening connection, safety, engagement and continuity of care.

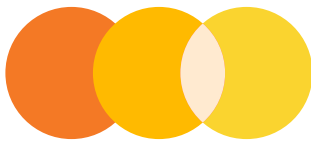
Women's Resource Center: Survivor Safety Through Technology provided discreet personal safety devices to survivors at high risk of domestic violence. The device enables survivors to quickly request emergency assistance if they are faced with a dangerous situation. Funding allows WRC to maintain multiple devices with active service, so they can be provided immediately to clients when needed. Having active devices readily available strengthens WRC's ability to respond quickly, provides an additional layer of protection, and potentially prevents future tragedies in the community.

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 ensures 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



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.



294 participants demonstrated improved critical thinking skills.



Participant needs were addressed up to 35% faster through improved communication and coordination.

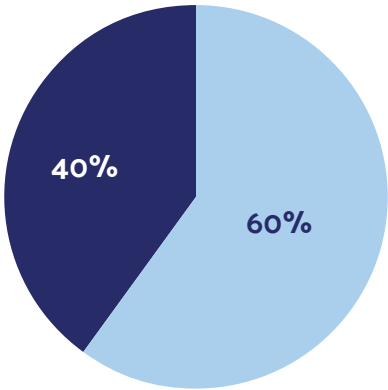


294 participants gained access to updated, interactive museum exhibit content.



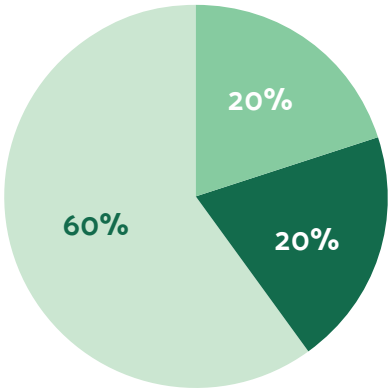
94 participants received access to acute care.

Identified Focus Areas



- 60% Increase in access to and utilization of physical and/or mental health
- 40% Increase in job readiness skills

Marginalized Populations Served



- 20% Individuals with cognitive and physical differences
- 20% Women
- 60% People of color



Students at five schools gained access to weekly after-school chess clubs.



New technology, including an OWL camera, expanded access to mental health services by allowing virtual peer support groups to continue for individuals unable to attend in person.



88 students participated in technology-supported learning opportunities.



44 participants increased their information, media and technology skills.



Community members gained ongoing access to potentially life-saving personal safety devices, strengthening safety and emergency preparedness.



Digital surveys strengthened program evaluation, data collection and reporting.



A new customer relationship management system created more complete donor histories and streamlined reporting, membership tracking and donor acknowledgments.



Success Story: A Lifeline in a Moment of Danger

A domestic violence survivor was being tracked by her abuser, making it difficult for her to safely escape or seek help. She was provided an emergency-response device by Women's Resource Center. During a physical attack, the device allowed her to quickly request police assistance. Law enforcement responded and stopped the immediate threat. She believes the device saved her life.

Since reaching safety, she has rebuilt her life and is now working as a medical assistant. Her journey demonstrates what is possible when survivors have immediate access to the tools and support needed to escape violence and move forward safely.



“At Racine Heritage Museum, we are committed to understanding the interests of the constituencies we serve, and to deliver programming that is engaging, relevant and relational. This new technology supports that commitment, allowing us to introduce new generations to our community’s unique history.” – Staff Member, Racine Heritage Museum