

AUGUST 2022

# Impact Report: Serve Our Seniors

Powered by Survivors Speak



# About Serve Our Seniors (S.O.S)

The older adults in our communities are often overlooked as it relates to adapting to modern technology, which causes a barrier or challenge for this specific population in receiving adequate support. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our organization saw a need for a program that brings resources to older adults as they had limited access due to safety concerns.

## Our Vision

When society transitioned to living in a virtual world, the older adult population were overlooked and isolated from their loved one, friends, and the community. Therefore, Survivors Speak created the Serve Our Seniors (S.O.S). initiative, which includes the Senior Tech Lab and Senior Supply Program to ensure older adults, in Ypsilanti, MI, would get the help they so desperately need. The “Senior Tech Lab” is a 6-week program that teaches seniors the basic functions of a technology. As for the Senior Supply Program, our team and volunteers go out each week into the Ypsilanti area to deliver cleaning supplies and emergency food cards to older adults that are unable to leave their homes in the midst of the pandemic. In engaging with the older adults, we have seen how appreciative they are for the resources and moments to see people in-person.



# Plan of Action

When a senior signs up for this program, they have the option of one to one or group learning. They also receive one free tablet and a newfound community to learn from within the Senior Tech Lab and Survivors Speak! During these sessions, we have found that older adults are more likely to adapt to modern technology with basic practice and repetition. Our volunteers serve as trainers in this program and ensure the older adults are learning at a comfortable, progressive pace.

## Program Goals & Objectives

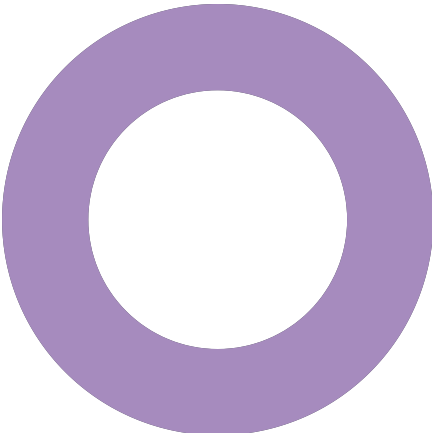
- Support trainees in becoming more comfortable with basic technology
- Ensure the trainee understands how to use technology for their personal and professional purpose of usage
- Encourage trainees to explore new purposes for using technology
- Create opportunities for community members to learn from one another's experience in the Senior Tech Lab



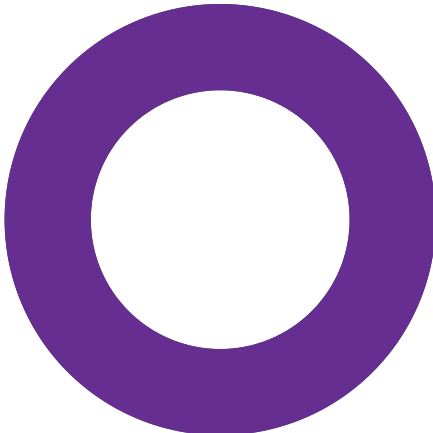
# Our Community Impact

We encourage all participants to complete the Survivors Speak program evaluation survey once they have completed their time in the program. The survey is a requirement in the graduation process for Senior Tech Lab trainees.

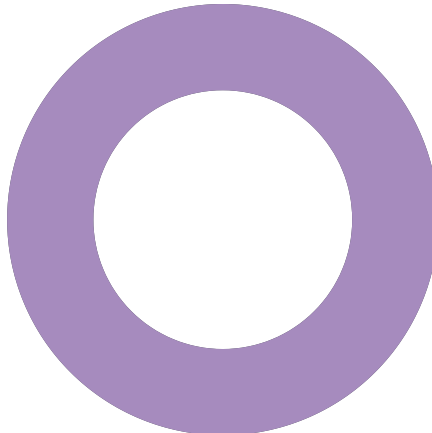
When we established the Senior Tech Lab, there was a goal set of serving 50 seniors in the Ypsilanti area. So far we have taught 35 seniors basic technical skills.



100% of the participants felt the volunteers were knowledgeable on the topics and program processes.



100% of the participants felt the content and resources provided were relevant to their needs



100% of the participants would recommend the S.O.S. programs to others

\*16 out of over 50 SOS participants completed the program evaluation survey.

# Q4 Budget Breakdown

A summary of the company assets, liabilities, and owner's equity for Q4.

Type of Expense	Total Amount	Justification
Administration	\$5,500	Stipends provided to tech trainers and donations by trainers
Food/Catering	\$358.67	Lunch provided for seniors for all in-person sessions
Program Supplies	\$20,201.10	60 tablets purchased for participants, print jobs, grocery and gas cards
Rent/Overhead Space	\$600	Grace Fellowship Church
Miscellaneous	\$15	Bank statements
Grand Total	\$26,659.77	
Remaining Grant Funds	\$264.56	(including \$114.33 credit)

# S.O.S. Plan for 2022-23

## Next steps in serving our seniors.

As an organization that continuously adapts to meet the community's needs, Survivors Speak recognizes the importance of using technology to connecting people. with resources. The Covid-19 pandemic illuminated just how important it is to ensure that everyone has access to technology and education on how to use it to communicate with family, friends, and medical care providers. With this in mind, Survivors Speak directed its focus on the individuals who are often the most isolated and most forgotten in conversations about technology literacy—elders. During the early stages of the pandemic, social distancing guidelines left many with technology as their only option for connecting with family and friends. Now, seniors have experienced a program that provides patience and elevation. The demand for the Senior Tech Lab is greater than we expected.

“The program was excellent. I enjoyed myself and learned some new apps and how they work. Wonderful staff and thank you guys for the tablet.”

*-D. Brown, participant*

The initial funding for this program was for one year only. Since then, the Serve Our Seniors initiative has been an effective and demanded service by the community. We would like to request a total of \$30,000, per year, for the next 3 years. Each year, we are expecting to need approximately \$5,300 for cleaning supplies, \$5,000 for Senior Tech Lab trainee tablets, \$1,000 for Senior Tech Lab trainer tablets, \$5,000 to provide stipends for Tech Lab trainers, \$5,700 for emergency food gift cards (\$75 for 75 emergencies), \$1,000 to provide transportation stipends to volunteers, \$1,000 for supplies, \$1,000 for volunteer expenditures, \$5,000 for administration as all staff are volunteers.

# Our S.O.S. Volunteer Team

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers of our Serve Our Senior program initiatives!

Annie Bacon

Ernesto Querijero

Jazmyn Bradford

Tess Rian

Amari Brown

Margaret Schankler

Lori Donovan

Ruby Tan

Tanya Graham

Todd Ziegler

Devin Meyers

Kelly Zechmeister

Linda Nkemere

Trische' Duckworth





# Thank You Washtenaw County!

We appreciate the continued support and funding provided to make this initiative possible!

-Survivors Speak

