

# TECHIE YOUTH



[www.TechieYouth.org](http://www.TechieYouth.org)

Techie Youth's mission is to create economic opportunities for teens in foster care and at-risk youth by utilizing technology-focused career skills training to establish a stable long-term profession leading to financial self-sufficiency.

Our emphasis is on redirecting the life-path of youth who are on a track towards homelessness or incarceration.





TECHIE YOUTH

Techie Youth has helped **over 4,000+ youth!**

**245,615 hours** of individualized training were provided during the Summer-2021 semester!

Techie Youth makes a **huge impact** on an enormous quantity of youth relative to our operational-scale and budget.







## LETTER FROM THE **FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in and support of Techie Youth!

We are proud to share with you our accomplishments and growth, and how we focus our services on youth who are facing the most-challenging of life situations. We aim to help each one become financially self-sufficient and self-sustaining, so they no longer need anyone's assistance. We believe that teaching self-empowerment is the best form of charity.

*Give a man a fish and he eats for a day.  
Teach a man to fish and he eats for life...*

It feels like yesterday that we were visiting foster kids at their group homes and individually inviting them to join our first Techie Youth class of a dozen teenagers, back in November of 2015. Now in 2021, we have thousands of youth enrolled and our student-body has exceeded the scale of many universities!

A lot has been accomplished but there remains much more to be done; our mission will not be satisfied until we help every youth who needs us.

On behalf of all of our staff, board, interns and dedicated volunteers, we greatly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

**Eric David Benari**  
Founder & Executive Director



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**Eric David Benari**, Founder & Executive Director of Techie Youth, is an IT business expert and master-technologist who has founded and/or built the infrastructure for a large portfolio of ventures, spanning sectors of social networks, e-commerce, B2B, open-source, online advertising (while in a senior-role at Yahoo!) and others.

He has been invited to speak at numerous conferences and universities, including NYU and MIT, and is a published writer for Forbes.com, MIT CIO Corner & other journals. Eric is also organizer of the world's largest community of database-technology professionals and chairman/coordinator of the biannual Database Month festival in New York City.





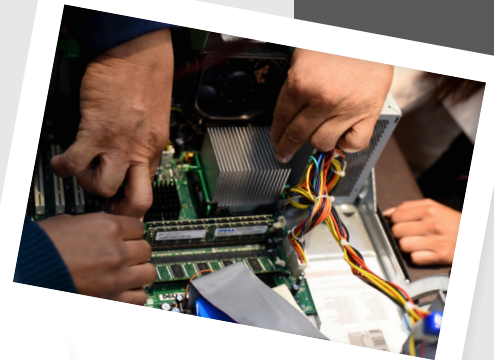


## 2021 PROGRAMS

### Techie Youth Learn to E-Earn

Learn to E-Earn teaches youth how to earn income while working remotely from a computer

- Up to **150-hours** of e-learning with live 1-on-1 coaching available to students 24/7
- Over **20+ elective career-tracks** for the youth to choose from including:
  - Entrepreneurship & leadership of Internet startups
  - Computer-based music production
  - Trading stocks, cryptocurrencies & other securities
  - Video editing
  - Writing for profit
  - Artificial intelligence & machine learning
  - Social media monetization
- Prerequisite units teach the fundamentals of earning income remotely, covering many topics including:
  - Resume creation & interviewing skills
  - Personal finance and responsible management of your funds
  - Coping with employment-related stresses
  - Maintaining a professional public image on social media
  - Time management and task prioritization



*One of our first Techie Youth classes, circa Nov. 2015*



## 2021 PROGRAMS

### Foster Gifts by Techie Youth

Foster Gifts provides foster kids and underprivileged youth with free gifts that support their career advancement

- Distributed **500+ brand-new suits** and formal-wear from Brooks Brothers and Macy's
- Gave away **100+ laptop computers** to foster youth and teens facing extraordinarily-challenging life situations
- Upcycled **40+ computers** to create computer-labs and workstations at multiple foster care group homes and charitable locations serving in-need demographics
- Youth have received Foster Gifts giveaway-items by:
  - Being at a foster agency that Techie Youth has visited for Foster Gifts distribution
  - Attending periodic giveaway events at our Techie Youth facility
  - Living in one of the foster care group-homes that bussed their residents to Techie Youth







## Techie Youth Constituents

- City of New York agencies have enrolled over **3,000+ youth** in Techie Youth Learn to E-Earn
- Over **800+** at-risk youth have participated in our Techie Youth 150-hour in-person career training programs
- **Hundreds** of youth have participated in Techie Youth Learn to E-Earn through collaborations with city agencies beyond NYC, including Phoenix, AZ and Kansas City, MO
- Techie Youth has been consistently growing in scale since our first class of a dozen foster kids in Nov. 2015, whom we recruited individually by visiting them at their foster agencies and group homes

### Who we serve:

- Foster kids who are approaching their age of emancipation
- Homeless teens, displaced youth & teenagers living in shelters
- Formerly-incarcerated and justice-involved minors
- Youth with learning challenges (autism, ADHD, etc.)
- Trans and LGBTQ+ teenagers
- Pregnant & parenting teens
- ...and youth facing many other major life challenges...

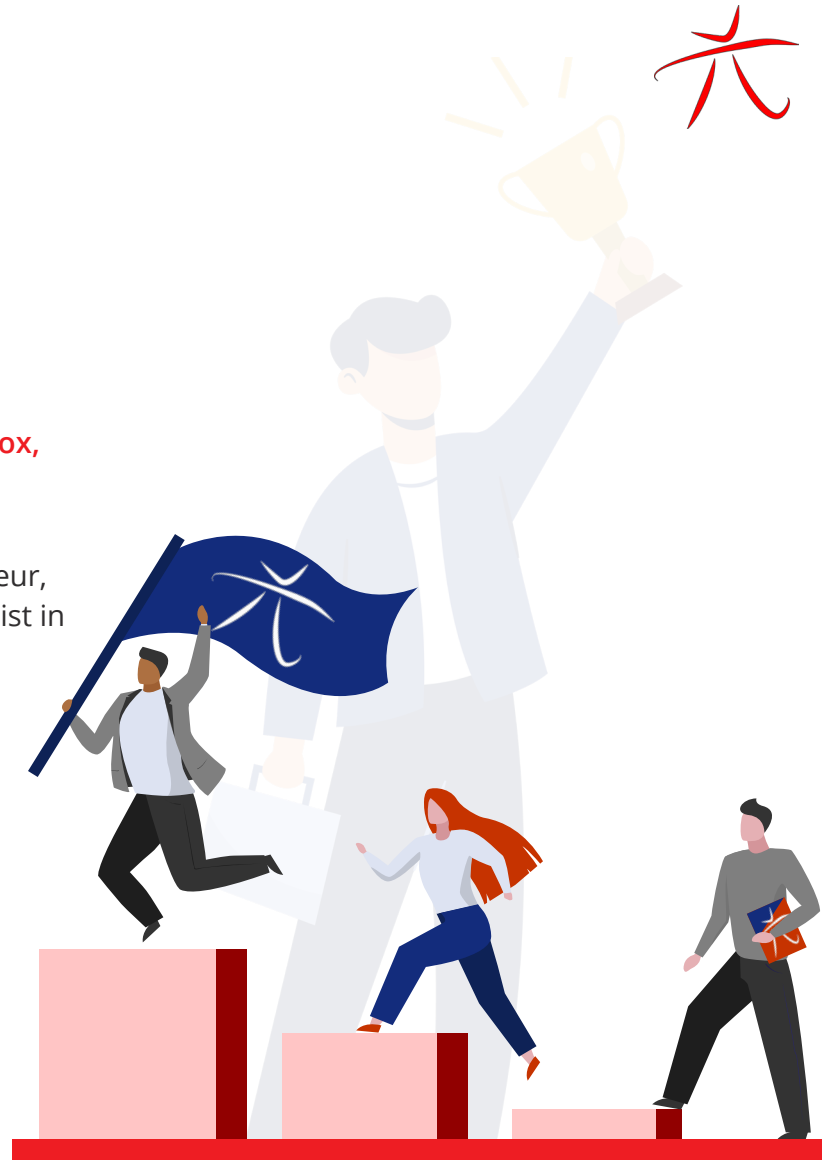




## RECOGNITION

### ■ Many famous people have supported Techie Youth, including:

- **Craig Newmark**, founder of craigslist, provides ongoing financial support
- The 55th President of Mexico, **Vicente Fox**, has created an inspirational video to welcome new Techie Youth students
- Multi-Platinum musician and entrepreneur, **Shawn Mims**, volunteers his time to assist in our Foster Gifts programs
- **Perez Hilton** created a super-enthusiastic promotional video for Techie Youth
- **Redfoo** of LMFAO launched a Techie Youth fundraiser
- NY Times best-selling author **Jeffrey J. Fox** contributed to the Techie Youth curriculum
- Just weeks before his passing, the late actor **Willie Garson** created an inspirational video supporting Techie Youth
- ...and many others...



### ■ Techie Youth has endorsements from:

- **Ed Oates**, co-founder of Oracle Corporation with Larry Ellison
- The Chief Technology Officer of the City of New York
- Musicians including **Crystal Waters**, **Mystikal** and **Redman**
- The US Olympic Sailing Team
- Actors including **Stephen Baldwin**, **Sinbad** and **Danny "Machete" Trejo**
- ...and many others...

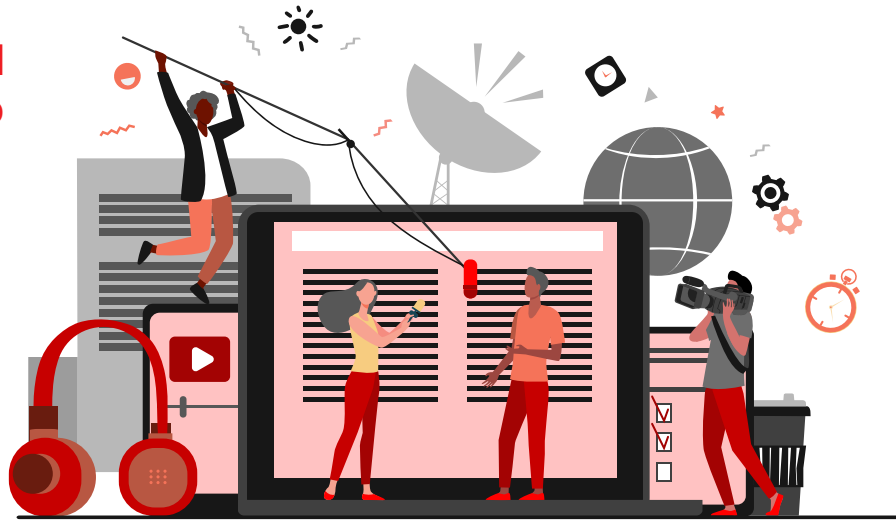




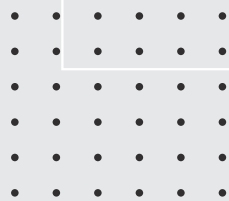
## RECOGNITION

Techie Youth has been featured in many broadcast TV and radio programs, airing on:

- WNBC
- Fox5
- WABC TV and WABC radio
- NY1 News
- WPIX 11
- ...and many other stations...



- The **Discovery Channel** series Billy Buys Brooklyn featured an episode on vintage computing that integrated Techie Youth
- Techie Youth has earned Spanish-language coverage on **Univision**, **NY1 Noticias** and **Telemundo** as well as a front-page cover-story article printed in **El Diario**





## AWARDS

- Techie Youth has won the 1st-place prize from among thousands of applicants in the Chic-fil-A Northeast True Inspiration Awards
- Techie Youth was awarded with the 1st-place prize in the \$10K challenge from 1010 WINS (NYC radio station)
- 1010 WINS also provided multiple free airtime slots running a PSA-segment promoting Techie Youth, narrated by a teenage voice-actor







## TEAM

■ Techie Youth Learn to E-Earn is the result of efforts from over **100+ people!**

- **5 full-time team members** based in NYC
- **26 paid-staff** in impoverished English-speaking regions of Asia and Africa
- **80 interns** consisting of 10 in-person in NYC and 70 remote



Some of our remote-staff live in extreme poverty, in shacks made of plywood-walls and sheet-metal roofs. Techie Youth always compensates remote-staff competitively. Our remote-team members have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to have their roles, and some have stated that they utilize the money from this job to be able to afford food, so that they have what to eat.

■ **Foster Gifts by Techie Youth is organized by our NYC staff and volunteers**

- **23 volunteers** have helped with Foster Gifts giveaways and related programs
- **3 foster care group-homes** have collaborated to get Foster Gifts distributed to all of their teenage residents





## TECHIE YOUTH CHARITABLE COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

### Catholic Guardian

Foster Gifts by Techie Youth has provided dozens of foster care teenagers at Catholic Guardian with laptop computers, and has also donated and set up computer centers at each of the Catholic Guardian group homes in the Bronx, including the mother-and-child home. These centers are for teens in foster care who are unable to be placed in foster-family settings.

### Martin de Porres Group Homes

MDPGH has referred many of their participants to both Techie Youth training and our Foster Gifts programs. Martin de Porres Group Homes provides housing for foster kids with records of juvenile delinquency and other major life challenges. Our very first Techie Youth class in Nov. 2015 included 2 youth from MDPGH (they have both graduated successfully,) and there have been other MDPGH youth in most of our NYC-based classes since then. We have also provided computers for each of their group home locations and gifted more than a dozen MDPGH youth with their own laptops and brand-new Brooks Brothers suits.

### Hour Children

Techie Youth has provided 60-hours of in-person technology-career training to a full class of formerly-incarcerated females seeking to re-enter the workforce, through a collaboration with Hour Children's "Hour Working Women" program and our Techie Youth Plus+ program that serves "beyond-youth" in-need demographics.

### Arman Roy Foundation

In Feb. 2020, Techie Youth was planning with the Arman Roy Foundation to open a new youth career-training center to serve homeless youth from the Covenant House in Newark, NJ. The pandemic has halted those plans, and instead the Arman Roy Foundation has been supporting our Foster Gifts program, and has donated laptops for 50 kids in foster care.

### New York City Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD)

NYC DYCD oversees the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) of NYC, the largest youth employment program in the USA. In 2021, Techie Youth has grown to be the largest SYEP training site in NYC. After our initial year of collaboration with the DYCD in 2016, Techie Youth had earned honorary mention in their DYCD Annual Report.







## TECHIE YOUTH CHARITABLE COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

### Wounded But Not Defeated Heridas Pero No Vencidas (HPNV)

Techie Youth has converted an extra room at the HPNV Women's Center into a full computer lab. The new lab donated by Techie Youth provides support, guidance, career-advancement and education to dozens of females recovering from extraordinary life challenges.

### HeartShare St. Vincent's

Techie Youth has donated and set up multiple computer workstations for the youth at each of HeartShare St. Vincent's residential facilities, including foster care group homes, shelters and youth community residences.

### Simzee Cares

Techie Youth has provided brand-new suits to Simzee Cares, who has exported and distributed them to Africa and given them to 150+ people in Nigeria who were in need of professional attire to support their career prospects.

### Laptops for Kids

LFK donated to the Techie Youth Foster Gifts program 56 brand-new HP laptops, which have been distributed to foster youth and teens facing extraordinary life challenges.

### Mental Health Association of New York City

Techie Youth has provided laptops to 20+ youth with documented history of emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges, who are enrolled in the MHA-NYC Adolescent Skills Centers (ASC) to learn vocational skills and earn a GED.



**Manny Acosta**, Techie Youth Director of Youth Affairs, has been guiding and coaching Techie Youth students since 2016. Manny is a Navy veteran, former teacher and retired civil servant who has an exceptional ability to build rapport with youth from challenging upbringings.

Manny shares with our youth demographics his own personal life experiences, including having spent most of his childhood in foster care, raised by a parole officer foster parent. Later in life, he has raised several of his own foster children into their adulthood and is currently caretaker for his foster mother.





## TECHIE YOUTH CHARITABLE COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

■ Techie Youth has formed collaborations with many other organizations to serve at-risk youth demographics in their care, including: (partial-list)

- Aspira
- The Door
- Children's Aid
- Bronx Connect
- St. Nicks Alliance
- Henry Street Settlement
- Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club
- Catholic Guardian Services
- Police Athletic League (PAL)
- HireKC, Kansas City, Missouri
- Infinity Educational Programs
- LaGuardia Community College
- El Barrio's Operation Fightback
- Arizona@Work, City of Phoenix
- Riseboro Community Partnership
- HackSAS Tech Community, Nigeria
- Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
- Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services
- Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush
- Community Counseling and Mediation (CCM)
- Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation
- New York Center for Interpersonal Development
- Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association
- Community Association of Progressive Dominicans
- Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee
- South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SoBro)
- CASES, Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services

**Paul Johnson**, Techie Youth Safety Director, was previously a teacher and tenured NYC football coach with several decades of experience coaching and mentoring children. Paul has been with Techie Youth since 2019.





**To Whom It May Concern,**

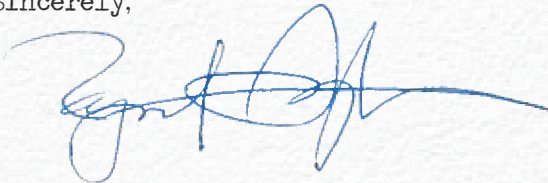
As Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Employment and Education Initiatives at the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS), I am delighted to provide a letter of support for Techie Youth.

Techie Youth has provided great value to New York City by providing youth with summer worksites focused on technology. ACS is committed to helping our youth attain self-sufficiency and lead productive lives, and Techie Youth has offered our youth an opportunity to explore the many different career paths associated with jobs and careers in technology. Presently, the pipeline of young talent for the technology sector is limited, especially for women and people of color.

Techie Youth is helping ACS to meet its goals of ensuring that the youth who are traditionally excluded from the tech sector are given the opportunity to apply for employment and become leaders in the field. In addition, the organization continues to help leverage tech industry jobs for youth who might choose a different pathway other than college.

Techie Youth has structured its programming so that all youth no matter their learning level or financial situation is able to access the resources and benefits to pursue an interest in a tech career path. We are looking forward to continuing to build upon our collaboration with Techie Youth.

Sincerely,



Raymond Singleton

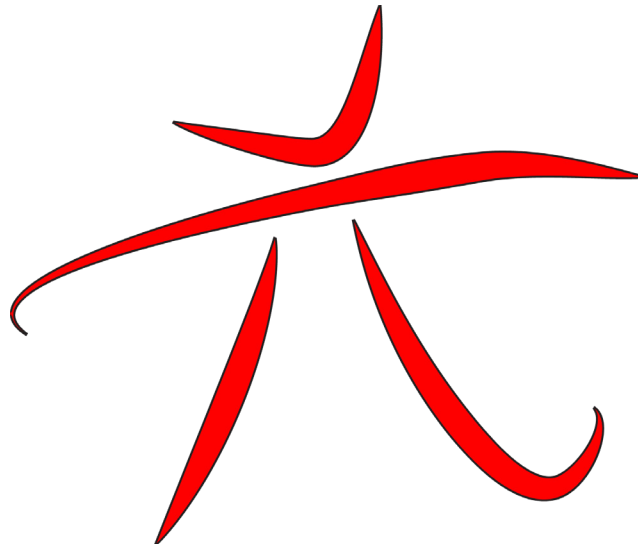
Assistant Commissioner

New York City Administration for Children's Services

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE  
TECHIE YOUTH LOGO HAS  
**MULTIPLE WAYS TO INTERPRET**  
IT'S SHAPE?

**How many meanings can you find?**

(match up your guesses to the answers on the next page)







■ **The Techie Youth logo is simultaneously:**

- A compilation of the **letters T & Y**
- The **Pi mathematical symbol**, representative of being “Techie”
- A **human figure** amidst a stride, conveying “Youth”
- A human figure with **welcoming outstretched arms**, representing Techie Youth’s mission to help every foster-child and youth who needs us
- Resembling the **number 6** in **Chinese Hanzi & Japanese Kanji**, just because it looks cool :)

**TECHIE YOUTH**

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