

January CORE Team Notes

Guest Speakers:

- **Ben Wimett- Assistive Technology Outreach Specialist**
 - Works with the general public
 - NON-VR Consumers all ages
 - Southern VT
 - Specific Interest in Complex Mobility related Tech and Smart Home Tech.
 - EMAIL: Ben.Wimett@partner.vermont.gov
- **Caelan Manning- Assistive Technology Access Specialist**
 - Works exclusively with VR Consumers
 - Transition and Adult population
 - Eastern part of the State
 - Recently certified in Ergonomics
 - EMAIL: Caelan.Manning@vermont.gov

Together They:

- Offer Assistive Technology core services to folks in Southern/Eastern VT with A.T needs.
- Possess and provide consumers with a wide variety of A.T serving any and all disabilities.
- Pull out unique uses for tools/employ tools in ways that they wouldn't normally be associated.
- Provide multiple uses and cheaper options for tools w/consumer's financial well being in mind.
 - Example: Expensive Grabber Tool vs. Cheap Grill Tongs... creative!
 - Tech Loan Process:
 - Pre-Pandemic: Offer 30 day loans with extensions possible.
 - Currently: Loans are specific to high needs and high priority cases only.
 - For VR consumers, Tech is VR funded
 - For non VR consumers, Tech is paid for via fee schedule and other funding sources.
- Provide in-person, hands-on assessments to consumers with opportunities to fit and try out tech after specific tech needs are identified.
 - A.T Specialist meet consumers where they are at
 - Example: Farmer vs High School Student- they will have very different life experiences and abilities, and A.T Specialists take this into consideration by providing very individualized services.

New and exciting Tech emerges every day!

- Samsung has a built in accessibility feature which, when paired with a \$15 device bought from Amazon, can help to translate/provide closed captioning in real time.
 - For more info pertaining to this tech, please contact Ben or Caelan.

Ben and Caelan produce the weekly Newsletter "Tech Tuesday"

- 3 out of 4 weeks a specific topic is written about
 - Examples: Working from home with ADHD, Chromebook accessibility for low vision users
- 1 week is dedicated to reuse/recycle of Tech
 - Kind of like craigslist for people who have tech to give/sell, and people who need tech.
- Please contact Ben or Caelan for more info on how to subscribe to this newsletter.

The Hearing Aid Coalition is working on a program that provides funding for hearing aids.

- Titled "Hear, Hear!"
- Please contact Caelan or Ben for more details.

Ben and Caelan are willing to do in person, hands on presentations for VR or outside agencies if and when safety allows. During these presentations, we would be able to view and try out different tech.