



Profiles of Technology
IN TENNESSEE

Senior Citizens in Jefferson County Prove You're Never Too Old to Join the Age of Technology

Name: Jefferson County Office on Aging

Location:
Jefferson City/Jefferson County

Products/Services:
Computer classes for the elderly

Leadership:
Joan Bolden, Director

Reach: County-wide

Innovative Insight: *“We got them over the fear by showing them how they could email their grandkids. And since then, we’ve had a great response.”*

Importance of Technology:
“Computer skills are becoming more and more important. We have younger seniors coming into our centers now who are interested in technology. The trend is growing. We’ve had to change our entire focus.”

Jefferson City, TN – The Jefferson County Office on Aging is working hard to keep their senior citizens technologically savvy by offering free computer classes to their clients. The classes last about 30 minutes to an hour and cover various topics, ranging from how to email to using Microsoft Word to researching things on Google. According to the Director of the Office on Aging and member of the Jefferson County eCS Leadership team, Joan Bolden, staff members initially worked to remove any misconceptions about technology to peak the interest of their elderly clients.

“We got them over the fear by showing them how they could email their grandkids,” she says. “And since then, we’ve had a great response.”

The Office on Aging is also implementing other initiatives to educate their clients about technology. Once a year, the Office partners with Carson-Newman College to conduct classes on computer skills for the senior citizens. Every senior citizen has a student tutor to guide them through the class. In addition to this, a local high school service learning class recently came in and taught the seniors how to use their cell phones. And while programs such as these have been going on for the past ten years, Joan says they are only recently starting to really catch on.

“Computer skills are becoming more and more important,” she says. “We have younger seniors coming into our centers now who are interested in technology. The trend is growing. We’ve had to change our entire focus.”

About TN 95:

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