

A Brief History of SeniorNet at FSL, L.I.

SeniorNet: Technology Portal for Older Adults

Founded in 1986, SeniorNet grew out of a research project funded by the Markle Foundation to determine how computers and telecommunications could enhance the lives of older adults. Since that time, SeniorNet has grown into an independent, international, volunteer-based nonprofit organization that is one of the world's leading technology educators of adults 50+.

SeniorNet was established with the purpose of forming volunteer-based teaching communities (Learning Centers) that would employ a proven “Seniors Teaching Seniors” training model to educate older adults in the use of digital technologies to enhance their lives and enable them to more readily share their knowledge and wisdom. With Learning Centers around the world that have educated millions of seniors, SeniorNet has become the acknowledged technology portal for older adults. More recently SeniorNet Learning Centers began providing computer education to veterans, the underserved, disabled, and those with impairments. Today SeniorNet:



- Supports 25 locally operated Learning Centers in the U.S. from its headquarters in Fort Myers Florida and has international affiliates in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, China, Sweden, Nepal, South Korea.
- Creates and publishes a variety of instructional aids plus an extensive curriculum of over 150 beginning to advanced technology courses used by thousands of its Learning Center volunteer instructors around the world.
- Maintains a website at www.seniornet.org that supports a dynamic community of older adults interested in exploring the uses of computer and communication technologies to enrich their lives. Currently this website

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receives over 2 million hits per month.

- Offers discounts to members on computer-related and other products and services.
- Holds regional conferences.
- Collaborates in research on older adults and technology.
- Has an active Board of Directors who provide support and guidance to the President and CEO. The Board of Directors:
 - Maintains the by-laws by which the organization operates
 - Is involved in fundraising and community outreach
 - Members are recruited throughout the United States and around the world. Current members are from Long Island, New York, the Bronx and Brooklyn, Florida, Washington, DC and South Korea.
 - Business is conducted four times a year by teleconference calls and annual meetings at different locations as a two-day conference.

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In 1999, the Family Service League of Long Island (www.fsl-li.org), recruited a handful of volunteers to start a SeniorNet Learning Center that has since garnered numerous awards and grown into a powerhouse in the field of educating adults aged 50+ in the latest computer skills and today's sophisticated tech gadgets. With its mission to build a community of technologically capable seniors who are empowered to share their knowledge and wisdom with others, the 100+ volunteers at SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. (SeniorNet, LI) offer a diverse curriculum that include courses in the use of computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Over the years its army of volunteers have trained literally thousands of students (12,000+) at its Huntington Learning Center, in mobile classrooms and at library seminars. In addition, SeniorNet, LI expanded its mission (beyond that of other SeniorNet Learning Centers) to include community development/outreach and protection of the environment

In April 2001 SeniorNet, LI volunteers initiated a unique computer-refurbishing project. The objectives were to help protect the environment by refurbishing old donated computers for further use by not-for-profit organizations and needy individuals who would not ordinarily be able to afford computers. Since the start of the project through 2015, nearly 9,000 donated computers were recycled. Giving this idea a new twist, SeniorNet, LI is currently helping students convert their old slow laptops into speedy Chromebook-like computers.

Over the years SeniorNet, LI has received support from:

- The Family Service League as site sponsor
- The national **grid** Foundation
- The Cindi and Slomo Silvian Foundation
- The Pamela and Richard Rubinstein Foundation
- The Huntington Town Board
- Exxon Mobile Community Volunteer grant
- Bank of America Community Volunteer grant

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- JP Morgan Community Volunteer grant
- SeniorNet National
- State and County fund when available
- In kind donations by Friends Academy
- In kind donations by Cinema Arts Centre

Today SeniorNet, LI:

- Maintains a modern state of the art computer lab classroom at its headquarters in Huntington NY, which has been in constant use since 1999 with great success.
- Was the first SeniorNet Learning Center to establish a fully equipped mobile classroom to reach older adults who were unable to travel to its computer lab. SeniorNet, LI now has three mobile classrooms that volunteers painstakingly set up for classes at remote locations only to dismantle and remove when class is over. Since inception in 2010, mobile classroom demand has been incredible. Constrained by resources, SeniorNet, LI has conducted classes at sites such as:
 - Town of Huntington Senior Center
 - Section 8 housing for seniors in Greenlawn and Melville
 - VA Hospital in Northport
 - Senior retirement community in the Town of Brookhaven
 - Senior retirement community in the Town of Smithtown
 - Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Bellport Area
- Helped other Learning Centers establish their own Facebook page via a series of computer video conferences.
- Continues to be professionally run because of the passion of its highly qualified volunteer staff who come from all walks of life and prestigious careers in law, finance, computer technology, medicine, teaching, engineering, etc.

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- Developed a very popular free library seminar program. In 2001, SeniorNet, LI began holding informative monthly seminars for its students. When these free seminars were opened to the general public in 2012, the demand grew to the point of overwhelming the Huntington facility causing the monthly seminars to be relocated to a nearby public library. Since then SeniorNet, LI has given free 90-minute seminars in 33 libraries around Long Island.
- Received numerous awards making SeniorNet, LI the most effective and innovative Learning Center.
 - In 2001, despite SeniorNet, LI's relatively "young" status, the New York State Coalition for the Aging, Inc named it a first place winner of the 2001 Senior Services Achievements Award in the category of "Seniors and Technology". The purpose of the achievement award program is to honor outstanding, innovative and creative senior services that have long-range impact on senior citizen and/or the community.
 - In 2002, SeniorNet, LI Volunteer (Slava Vero) was among the 101 volunteers honored by the Huntington Chamber of Commerce. The office of 18th Legislator District Jon Cooper nominated her for her service to SeniorNet, LI.
 - In 2003, Fred Atkin, SeniorNet, LI Co-Coordinator was among the 101 volunteers honored by the Huntington Chamber of Commerce
 - In 2000, SeniorNet, LI Volunteers Slava Vero and in 2003 Don Weidman were featured in Newsday's "The Everyday Hero" page.
 - In 2004, John and Irene Nordin (Seminar Coordinator and Newsletter editor) were among the 101 volunteers honored by the Huntington Chamber of Commerce.



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- In 2005, the KeySpan/SeniorNet, LI Computer Refurbishing Project was honored by the Huntington Chamber of Commerce. All 9 volunteers were featured among the 101 Volunteers of the year.
- In 2007, SeniorNet, LI received the SeniorNet Chairman Inaugural Award in Excellence.
- In 2008, SeniorNet, LI was awarded SeniorNet's Exemplary Center Award.
- Also in 2008, Slava Vero of SeniorNet, LI was honored by the Huntington Town Board at the seventh Annual Women's Networking Day and Awards Ceremony.
- In 2009, SeniorNet, LI received SeniorNet's Best Practices and Ideas Award.
- In 2010, SeniorNet National honored SeniorNet, LI as the number one Learning Center in Excellence
- In 2014 and again in 2016, SeniorNet, LI was a winner of the prestigious SeniorNet curriculum contest
- SeniorNet, LI was recognized by the Huntington Town Board in 2007, 2008 and 2009 with Town Proclamations for contributions to the Huntington Township community.
- SeniorNet, LI has received a Proclamation in Excellence from:
 - ✓ 9th District Assemblyman Andrew P. Raia,
 - ✓ Huntington Town Board and Councilwoman Susan Berland
 - ✓ 18th District Legislator Jon Cooper,
 - ✓ 17th District Legislator Lou D'Amaro,
 - ✓ Presiding Officer William Lindsay
 - ✓ 1st District Assemblyman Marc Alessi.
 - ✓ State Senator Carl Marcellino
 - ✓ County Executive Steve Levy.
 - ✓ 3rd district Legislator Kate Browning
 - ✓ 18th District Legislator William (Doc) Spencer
 - ✓ Congressman Steve Israel

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- SeniorNet, LI was recognized by the Huntington Town Board with several Town Proclamations for contributions to the Huntington community.
- SeniorNet, LI was recognized by the Brookhaven Town supervisor with Proclamations for its contribution to the Brookhaven senior community.

Unique Education Model

SeniorNet's education model is designed to ensure students grasp its slow-taught "bite-sized" lessons by employing a team of caring, ever-present coaches who make sure that no student is left behind. In addition, SeniorNet, LI also provides students with easy to follow step-by-step tutorial manuals for further lesson practice at home plus a Help Desk phone number to assist with problems. At SeniorNet, LI:



- All instructors and coaches are volunteers and at least 50 years old.
- Each student has the use of a modern computer during the entire lesson.
- Classes are small in size so they can be intimate and effectively coached.
- Courses are offered during four semesters each year and usually consist of four or eight weekly classroom sessions while workshops have only one or two sessions. Classroom sessions are held weekdays, during the daytime, and are usually 2½ hours long.
- Students are offered an ever-evolving curriculum of courses and workshops in the use of today's computers, software, internet, smartphones, tablets etc.
- Cost is nominal since everyone involved is a volunteer.

In 2015:

- SeniorNet, LI served more than 6,500 seniors in its Huntington classroom, at Library seminars, Expos and Mobile Classrooms as follows:
 - 980 in the Huntington classroom

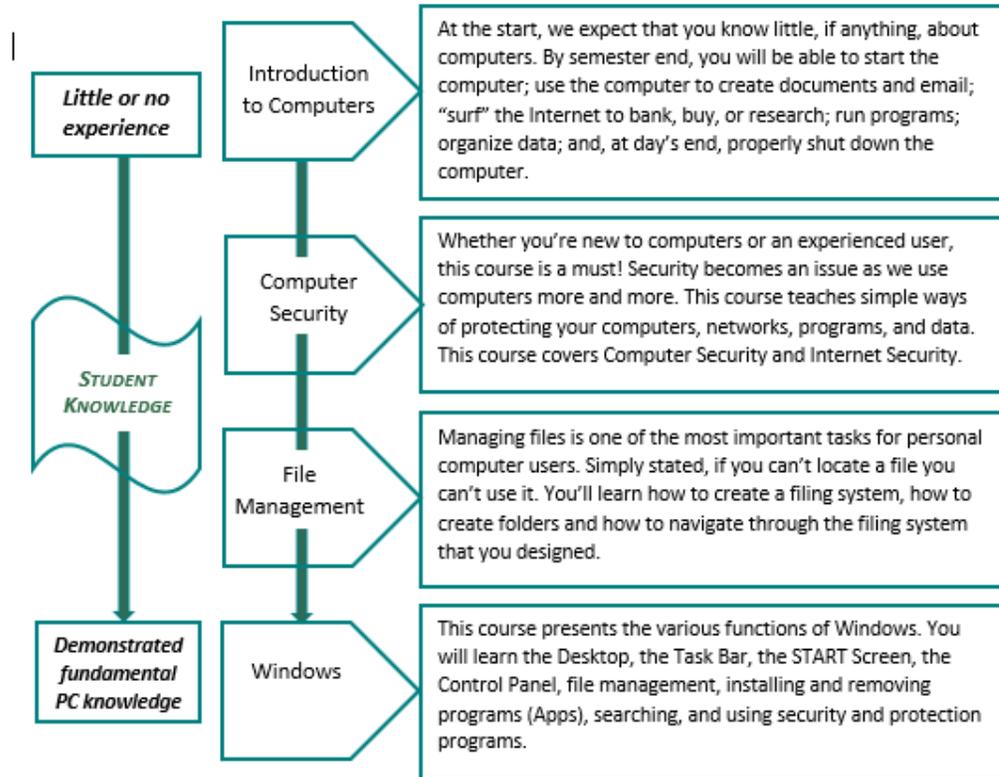
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- 2,520 at free Seminars in 20 libraries
- 2,600 at Expos
- 610 through Mobile Classrooms
- SeniorNet volunteers attended 15 Roadrunner events including the Huntington Fall Festival, Suffolk County Office for the Aging, Representative Lee Zeldin Senior Fairs, Town of Islip Senior's Health Fair, Legislator William Spencer Health Fair, Volunteer Fairs and more. At these events we reached out to more than 2,600 adults 50 and over.
- Other Community Outreach activities:
 - SeniorNet, LI volunteers organized a toy drive for Long Island children.
 - SeniorNet, LI has an ongoing "Intergeneration Project" with High School students who work as summer interns providing computer support, student coaching and other activities. This project has been very well received by seniors and students alike. It proves that the "Generation Gap" can be bridged. The 10th anniversary of the Intergenerational Project was proudly celebrated during the 2015 Annual Meeting with a touching Power Point presentation containing past students' then and now personal testimonials and pictures.

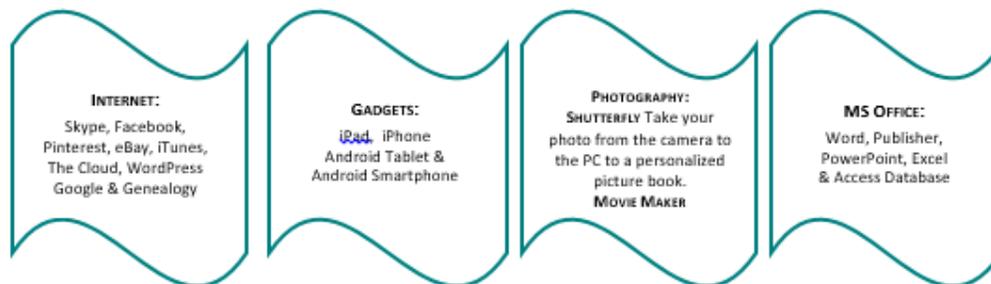


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CURRICULUM ROAD MAP



CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY



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SeniorNet, LI Supports the Community

Mobile Classrooms

We offer computer training at host sites to seniors who cannot travel to our learning center. SeniorNet-trained instructors provide specially designed task-oriented classes requiring no prerequisites. Classes have been conducted at senior centers, VA hospital, and section 8 housing.

Free Seminar Series

Each month SeniorNet volunteers offer free seminars to the general public at libraries across Long Island. These well attended, lively 90-minute seminars cover a wide range of current technology oriented topics.

Intergenerational Project

Since 2005, SeniorNetLI began accepting local high school students as volunteer classroom coaches during their summer vacation. We found that while they help teach us computing, we help teach them patience.

Environmental Protection

Instead of discarding their old laptop computers, The Friends Academy and others often donate them to SeniorNet for refurbishing. These are then given by FSL case managers to needy clients.

Our Students

"I am a student in the beginning digital camera class and love it! Finally, after the class and reading the course book I was able to import the photos from my digital camera to my computer." - Blessings, Carol

"I have participated in numerous SeniorNet courses from computer workings to digital photography. The knowledge, presentation of and by the instructors is remarkable. This is complemented by the enthusiasm of the coaches and the small classes make for a very rewarding and fun experience." - Dorothy

"I always felt SeniorNet was a hidden treasure in our community, and I'm happy to be able to use the services." - Sue