



Apparo

Impact Magazine

Winter 2021



APPARO'S STORY

We believe that technology and passion can change the world.

Every year, Apparo engages with nonprofits in the greater Charlotte area, delivering technology education, training, and projects that allow them to do good in our community. While we normally serve more than 100 nonprofits a year, ***we have served nearly 50 in the past three months alone*** as we have increased our service to support the nonprofit community during the pandemic.

Apparo matched Project Scientist to a volunteer team from Deloitte who guided them through an app selection and implementation process. One year later, the positive impact of the work is being realized. Even during a time when Project Scientist wasn't able to hold all their camp programs, they were able to rely on more trustworthy data.



Project Scientist



Project Scientist is a nonprofit that delivers curriculum opportunities to girls and women in STEM majors and careers. [READ MORE](#)



Community Impact Project Highlights



Click on project descriptions at bottom for more information.
[View nonprofits in need of volunteer teams here.](#)

Apparo's Community Impact Projects partner a nonprofit in need of a technology solution with a corporate volunteer to address that need. [Learn more.](#)



[1. Restore Global + Volunteers from Jabian and a Sponsorship from Bank of America](#)

[2. Feeding Charlotte + Volunteers from AAA Carolinas](#)

[3. Alexander Youth Network + Volunteers from Slalom](#)

[4. Charlotte Rescue Mission + Volunteers from Rodgers Builders and a Sponsorship from Piedmont Natural Gas](#)

[5. Dottie Rose Foundation + Volunteers from Bank of America](#)

13

Projects Currently in Progress

43

Volunteers Currently Engaged

16

Corporate Partners Currently Engaged

Nonprofit Education Highlights



Apparo's technology-focused educational offerings for nonprofits include Nonprofit Bytes+Insights (signature forums), TechShops (hands-on trainings) and IT Coaching (one-on-one tutoring). With the current crisis at hand, we've pivoted our educational offerings to be remote. This includes a new monthly webinar series, "Navigating the Current", as well as opportunities to provide virtual IT Coaching through Microsoft Teams and Zoom meetings. We've also added highly relevant content to our [Resources Page](#).

Over the past 3 months

34

Nonprofits Served

31.5

Volunteer Hours

\$26,700

Value Delivered



Apparo's new Navigating the Current monthly webinar series continues to feature important, pressing topics. Up next in our queue for February 25th is *The Vaccines are Ready, Are You? Establishing Your Office's COVID-19 Vaccination Policy*. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

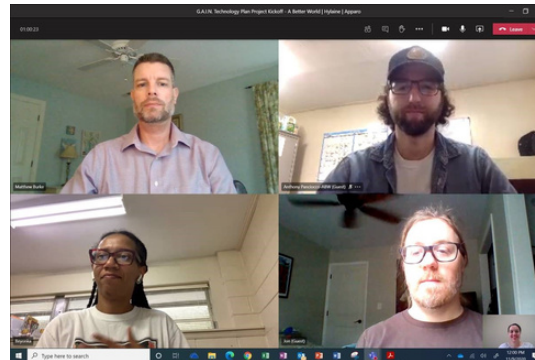
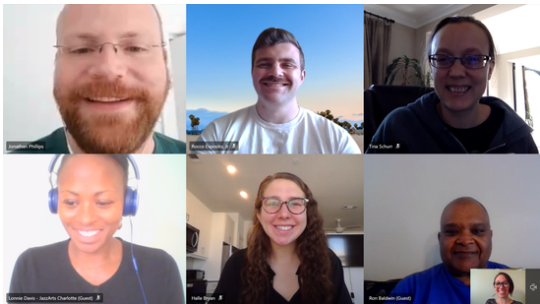
Some Nonprofit Partners Receiving Training & Support:

- **Charlotte Rescue Mission** - Following their Community Impact Project, Charlotte Rescue Mission had other needs that could be fulfilled through our IT Coaching services. Apparo and a volunteer from C5 Insight worked with the organization to migrate them over to OneDrive in a way that worked best for the systems they already have in place.
- **Dress for Success** - Through IT Coaching, Dress for Success has been equipped with better resources to utilize Microsoft Office Suite within their organization.
- **The Humane Society of Charlotte** - Apparo supported The Humane Society of Charlotte during their organization-wide SharePoint migration that was necessary to help their organization function optimally, especially during virtual times.

G.A.I.N - Powered by Lowe's



Our two-year nonprofit accelerator drives **Growth, Agility, and Innovation** for **Nonprofits**. G.A.I.N. equips nonprofits with modern technology to overcome challenges that limit them from reaching their full potential. We're helping ensure infinitely more Charlotte success stories by bolstering the capabilities of area nonprofits with \$200,000+ of value in each hardware, software, implementation, training and support. [Learn more about our program and inaugural G.A.I.N. cohort.](#)



- A Better World**
- Carolina Raptor Center**
- JazzArts Charlotte**
- Memory & Movement**
- Runningworks**
- S.T.A.R.S. Math & English Academy**
- Shepherd's Center of Charlotte**
- The Independence Fund**
- Young Black Leadership Alliance**
- Youth Development Initiatives**

Tech Therapy Highlights

(Photo right) Women Initiating and Nurturing Growth through Scholarships (WINGS) is a program for non-traditional female students facing economic challenges. This life-changing program helps them improve their circumstances through education in Charlotte-area universities. Apparo's Tech Therapy program has helped ensure academic success and economic mobility for the Scholars since 2014 by providing laptop sourcing, set up, and training. [SEE OUR WORK IN ACTION.](#)



Our Tech Therapists provide our nonprofit clients with expertise to identify resources and solutions for their technology needs.

Additional Nonprofits receiving Tech Therapy

- **Samaritan's Feet** - Through Tech Therapy, Apparo was able to match Samaritan's Feet to volunteers from Triaxiom to provide recommendations for improving the security of their website. [READ MORE.](#)
- **Hope House Foundation** - Following their Community Impact Project, Hope House Foundation found they needed additional support in a social media strategy. Through Tech Therapy, Apparo was able to match the organization to a volunteer from Duke Energy to establish a social media plan.

Over the past 3 months

27

Nonprofits
Served

47

Engagements



We love seeing how our nonprofit partners transform after we collaborate! Here are a few success stories.



zabs place

ZABS Place needed help in replacing their paper-based employee training system. Apparo matched them to a volunteer team from Centric Consulting, who assessed ZABS needs and conducted research in order to recommend a system that will be able to deliver on their goals. We checked back in a year later and learned the system and positive impact have been sustained. Rochel (ZABS leadership), shared, "looking back we are head and shoulders above where we were a year and a half ago, with our piles and piles of paper from which we couldn't glean any information. Lifetick has been a huge step, a game changer for us." Some specific benefits ZABS place have experienced are improved training, improved reading skills, and increased computer literacy.

[READ MORE](#)



After Habitat Charlotte came to Apparo for help in addressing a significant data transition in their organization, we matched them to a volunteer team from Charlotte Pipe and Foundry to ensure a seamless data migration process. This project helped prove the organization is well positioned for growth going forward. Nine months later, we checked back in and learned that they now have accurate data with no issues. Sara Thompson, Communications & Program Development Manager, explained, "We're using the database almost every day and it's working just as it should. The data is accurate and there are no issues. The project reinforced the knowledge and skills I learned in the classroom and I'm able to avoid going to an external vendor for support some of the time."

[READ MORE](#)



Loaves & Fishes needed help working effectively in the cloud. Apparo and volunteers from SoftwareONE supported them with a Community Impact Project and, while volunteers from Novant Health have continued to support them far beyond Apparo's IT Coaching. These projects enabled Loaves & Fishes to successfully work remotely and fulfill the higher needs of their clients. Paige Stryker, Information Technology Officer at Loaves & Fishes, explained, "We would not have been able to do it without Apparo and Novant. We would be using email and working much less efficiently. Apparo is that bridge between the nonprofit world and the tech world, filling that critical need. Apparo has a growth mindset that provides us with the guidance we need to move our organization forward" [READ MORE](#)

Volunteer Spotlights



Elisa Martin began her journey as an Apparo supporter in 2011 by becoming a regular at our corporate events. From there, her involvement in Apparo has grown drastically by helping us secure sponsorships, prioritizing Apparo as she was busy establishing her new firm, and hosting multiple events for Apparo raising over \$30,000 total.

"The reason for my passion and commitment to Apparo is the ability to multiply community impact through the power of technology. Owning a technology and consulting firm, coupled with over 15 years in the technology space, gives me a rich understanding of the power of technology solutions to propel businesses and missions forward. Apparo not only delivers invaluable technology solutions that truly enable, but also allows me to feel connected to impacting so many different nonprofit missions across our community through their unique value delivery. There are countless stories, from so many non-profit leaders, that demonstrate how Apparo has helped accelerate their mission, and most importantly, helped uplift countless individuals in need across our community." [READ MORE](#)



Heidi Knowles has been an advocate for Apparo since 2014 when she became a regular at our corporate events. In 2019, Heidi became a critical player for Apparo when she joined our Sponsorship committee and ensured we were enabled to fulfill our mission in the community. Most recently, Heidi co-hosted an Apparo friend- & fundraiser, raising over \$9,000 for Apparo.

"When I first learned about Apparo 6 years ago, I could not wait to get involved. I respected the power of Apparo and their ability to connect sales professionals with technology executives through sponsoring their exclusive events, in order to create meaningful relationships.

However, my focus shifted to the philanthropic aspect, shortly after I co-hosted an Apparo fundraiser and met some of the nonprofit organizations Apparo supports. I witnessed first hand the impact they have on changing lives in Charlotte with technology. I cannot think of a better way to spend my time and effort than helping Apparo with their mission." [READ MORE](#)

Nonprofits Served October 2020 - January 2021



Our nonprofit clients represent a broad service range and work tirelessly to break the cycle of poverty in the greater Charlotte area.

A Better World

Alexander Youth Network

Assistance League Charlotte

Brave Step

C.W. Williams Community Health

Center

Carolina Raptor Center

Carolina Youth Coalition

Center for Community Transitions

Charlotte Pride

Charlotte Rescue Mission

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing

Partnership

Clean Air Carolina

Community Building Initiative

Crisis Assistance Ministry

Fashion and Compassion

First Gen Success

Hinds' Feet Farm

Hope Haven

Hope House Foundation

Humane Society of Charlotte

JazzArts

Joe Martin ALS Foundation

Loaves & Fishes

Memory & Movement Charlotte

Mental Health America of Central

Carolinas

Mind Body Baby

MPN Cancer Connection

Parkinson Association of the
Carolinas

Project Life Movement

Promising Pages

Read Charlotte

Restore Global

RunningWorks

S.T.A.R.S. Math & English Academy

Samaritan's Feet

Shadow Vet

The Boost Pad

The Echo Foundation

The Independence Fund

The Learning Collaborative

The Paula Takacs Foundation for
Sarcoma Research

Thompson Child & Family Focus

Veterans Bridge Home

WAYFINDERS

Women Executives

1283.5

Volunteer Hours

\$305,025

Total Value Delivered

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Congratulations to our 2021 TechExec and TechEntrepreneur Community Impact Award Winners

TechExec Award Winner

Elizabeth Austin, CIO/EVP at Curvature and

TechEntrepreneur Award Winner

Todd Buelow, Principal & Founder at Dualboot Partners

Continue the Impact



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Did you know?

Times Square NYE confetti is made of dreams and wishes from the New York "Wishing Wall" where people write their hopes, dreams, and wishes for the year.

If this fun fact makes you feel warm and fuzzy inside, now you know how YOU make US feel.

Thank you for supporting the sustainability and growth of the greater Charlotte area's nonprofits.

You are making quite the impact!

