



## Oshkosh Seniors Center Receives \$10,000 AT&T Contribution to Support Older Adults Impacted by the Digital Divide

*AT&T Contribution Will Help Center Offer New Courses for Older Adults Through the 'Connect Through Tech' Program*

**OSHKOSH, Wis., June 6, 2023** – The Oshkosh Seniors Center will offer new training courses this year for older adults impacted by the digital divide through its “Connect Through Tech” program, thanks to a \$10,000 AT&T contribution.

With this contribution, the Oshkosh Seniors Center plans to provide additional classes this year hosted by experts on topics of interest to older adults, including hearing aid technology, smart homes, automotive technology, and voice activation technologies.

“Our mission is to help enrich the quality of life for adults 50 and over, and a big part of that is connecting them to the technology that powers our society,” said Jean Wollerman, Senior Services Manager for the Oshkosh Seniors Center. “With this funding from AT&T, we are excited to offer new classes for our older adults that will help them overcome digital divide barriers and access emerging technologies that can better their lives.”

Since May 2020, the “Connect Through Tech” program has provided personalized technology training for adults 50 and older. In addition to personal instruction, monthly classes are offered to explore emerging technologies and digital opportunities that can improve the quality of life for older adults.

Over 575 older adults have participated in the program so far, and the Oshkosh Seniors Center hopes the new classes and AT&T funding will help attract at least 125 new individuals from the Winnebago County area.

“Older adults are the demographic least likely to be online due to a variety of factors, from cost to access to low confidence,” said Paul Weirtz, State President of AT&T Wisconsin. “But we know technology can make life more convenient, safe, and connected to loved ones for our

older adults. We are proud to provide this AT&T contribution to help the Oshkosh Seniors Center bridge that digital divide for individuals who could benefit the most.”

The Pew Research Center found that older adults were the least likely demographic to be online in 2021 by a wide margin. Age was found to be a greater predictor of access than race, socioeconomic group, education level or geographic location. In the United States, 25% of adults over 65 reported not using the internet at all in a 2021 study.<sup>1</sup> Only 65% of this age group reported having broadband at home<sup>2</sup>, and their smartphone use (61%) was lower than any other demographic.<sup>3</sup>

The mission of the Oshkosh Seniors Center is to work to enrich the quality of life for adults aged 50 and older, including offering classes and trainings to bridge that digital divide. To learn more, please visit: <https://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/seniorservices/>.

In 2021, AT&T made a 3-year, [\\$2 billion](#) commitment to help bridge the digital divide nationwide through affordable broadband offers for both consumers and education institutions, as well as high quality educational resources and community investment through [AT&T Connected Learning](#), a program to connect students to skills, resources, and opportunities for success in school and in life. AT&T is committed to connecting more Americans to reliable, high-quality internet in several ways, including expanding and upgrading our network and [participating in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#).

### **About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T**

We’re committed to advancing education, creating opportunities, strengthening communities, and improving lives. As part of our companywide \$2 billion commitment from 2021- 2023 to address the digital divide, we launched AT&T Connected Learning to invest in connectivity and technology, digital literacy, and education solutions to help today’s learners succeed inside and outside of the classroom. Since 2008 we’ve committed to programs that help millions of students across all 50 states and around the world, particularly those in underserved communities.

### **For more information, contact:**

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1. Pew Research Center, [7% of Americans don’t use the internet. Who are they?](#)

2. Pew Research Center, [Broadband use over time](#)

3. Pew Research Center, [Mobile Fact Sheet](#)