

# TECHNOLOGY AND ELDERLY THAT CAN'T FOLLOW

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RUOBIN LUO


SERVICE-LEARNING EXPERIENCE



# ABOUT ORGANIZATION – ABCD

ABCD is the shortest distance between two points — from where you are to where you want to be. Discover the tools and resources you need to move from poverty to stability and from stability to success.


[Full Program Index »](#)



ABCD ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

ABCD Community Membership Card

178 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111

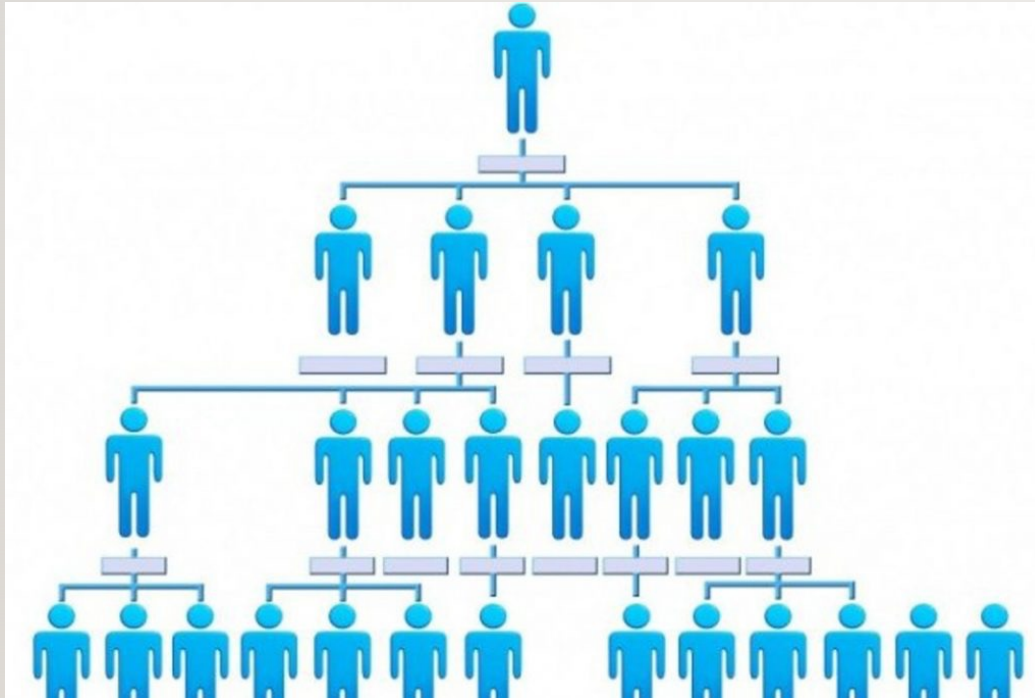


- CAREER TRAINING
- CHILDREN
- EDUCATION
- ELDERS
- ENERGY
- ESSENTIALS
- FINANCIAL
- FOOD
- HEALTH

- Action for Boston Community Development Initiative (ABCD), an anti-poverty, community development and human services organization.
- ABCD has many different programs, including helping with career training, helping education, helping children and helping the elderly.

# ABOUT ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

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- Board members of ABCD comes from three different groups of people, including members from the local private sector, public sectors and low-income community.
- The President/CEO of ABCD named John J. Drew is in charge of leading the organization and reporting to the ABCD board of Directors.
- The funding of ABCD comes from government agencies, foundations, community organizations and individual donors.



# ABOUT MY PROGRAM

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- I joined one of the ABCD's program called foster grandparents. The program aims to help the children who face extraordinary challenges, such as poverty, learning disabilities and homelessness.
- This program's volunteer population is primarily older adults over the age of 55 who live in and around Boston area.
- However, unlike other volunteers, I don't work with children who are experiencing difficulties. Instead, I serve the older volunteers themselves.

# WHAT I DO

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- The beginning of the spread of Covid-19, ABCD had discontinued face-to-face activities and had switched to launch online activities.
- However, the volunteers were not familiar with electronics and had no way to continue their work online.
- The group of volunteers I was working with were mostly Chinese immigrants who were not familiar with the common communication apps used in the United States, such as Zoom.
- My job was to teach them how to use the iPad and the various apps commonly used on the iPad.

# HOW I HELP

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- In every meeting, I repeat the basic operation of the iPad and the commonly used apps to help them strengthen their impression of the iPad.
- I create two tutorial documents with same contents, but difference language. One in Chinese, and one in English.
- Chinese one is to remind people who I serve what I teach in case they need it.
- English one is to help other people who speak different first language in ABCD.

# THE PROBLEM THAT I ENCOUNTERED

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- The elderly are not familiar with modern technology like iPad.
- Technology in modern society is advancing rapidly. Many things are being rapidly invented and eliminated at the same time.
- At special times like Covid-19, seniors are cut off from most of their social lives because they can't leave the house and they didn't know how to use modern technology and software to find new ways of entertainment.



# MY EXPERIENCE

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- Teaching the elderly is the same as teaching children. Patience is very important.
  - I need to repeat the content over and over again to reinforce their memory.
  - Great experience, I love to talk to older people
- In today's society, most of the social activities and entertainment are reached through electronic devices.
  - Unfortunately, many seniors are not able to enjoy this kind of the entertainment.



# CONCLUSION

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- As we enjoy the process of technological advancement, we should also pay more attention to those who cannot keep up with it.
- In this case, teaching seniors to use electronic devices to meet their social needs is certainly very important. As I mentioned earlier, the needs of the elderly need to be taken into account.