

Accessibility

access

CHANGE

youth

empowerment

innovation

GROWTH

CHANGE

HOPE

Hope

GROWTH

potential

potential

youth

PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP

Microsoft

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Accessibility

- Accessibility makes it easier for anyone to see, hear, and use a computer, and to personalize their computer to meet their own needs and preferences. For many people with impairments, accessibility is what makes computer use possible.
- At Microsoft, our mission and values are to help people and businesses throughout the world to realize their full potential. We consider our mission statement a promise to our customers. We deliver on that promise by striving to create technology that is accessible to everyone—of all ages and abilities.

Accessibility Cont.

Microsoft takes a strategic approach to accessibility by:

- Continuing our longstanding commitment and leadership in accessibility research, awareness, and innovation.
- Making the computer easier to see, hear, and use by building accessibility into Microsoft products .
- Building strong, collaborative relationships with a wide range of technology partners and organizations to raise awareness of the importance of accessibility in meeting the technology needs of people with disabilities.

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QASA Partnership

- To this end, Microsoft has partnered with the Quadriplegic and Paraplegic Association of South Africa(QASA) to set up Accessibility Centres within the QASA Self Help Centres.
- The Quadriplegic and Paraplegic Association(QASA) implements and runs projects that promote independence for people with physical disabilities, QASA's activities include lobbying and advocacy, promotion of economic empowerment, support for disabled entrepreneurs, skills development for people with disabilities, awareness raising campaigns on issues affecting people with disabilities.

QASA Accessibility Centres



Bridging the "skills gap"& securing employment for persons with disabilities in KwaZulu-Natal (Pinetown) and Gauteng North (Pretoria)

- These centres provide Provides computer skills to persons with disabilities in KZN and Gauteng South
- Provide learners with a professional CVs and job interview techniques
- CVs are promoted to businesses and recruitment agencies.



Statistics – Gauteng North

Bridging the "skills gap"& securing employment for persons with disabilities in Gauteng North

- Opened during June 2009
- Provides computer skills to persons with physical disabilities in Tswane area
- Provides learners with a professional CVs and job interview techniques
- 320 persons trained in Microsoft products
- 28 persons with disabilities received full time employment

Statistics - KZN

- Provides computer skills to persons with disabilities in KZN and Gauteng South
- Provides learners with a professional CVs and job interview techniques
- CVs are promoted to businesses and recruitment agencies
- 48 secured permanent employment



eDeaf become a Microsoft IT Academy

- eDeaf is the first Microsoft IT Academy in the world focused on the differently-abled community
- The deaf are among the most marginalised communities in South Africa, with an estimated 65-70% unemployment rate
- Part of eDeaf's work is to drive awareness of the need.
- eDeaf drive international certification via the Microsoft IT Academy programme in order to provide opportunities for meaningful employment opportunities to the deaf amongst the public, corporate South Africa and Government.

Don Mattera School uses technology in teaching

- Don Mattera School for the intellectually impaired, aim to give young people the life skills they will need to make their way in the world.
- Through a partnership with Microsoft, VastraTech and Dell, the school was able to deploy and integrate technologies such as interactive whiteboards and computers to enhance teaching and learning.
- By using technology to aid in the delivery of a new teaching and learning models, the school believes they will allow intellectually impaired children to be more self directed and more self paced in the way that they get their education. It enables different learning styles to be catered for offering a better opportunity for achieving outcomes.



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Conclusion

Microsoft collaborates with a wide range of organizations to raise awareness of the importance of accessibility in meeting the technology needs of people with disabilities

Technical partnerships and cooperation are the keys to ensuring the widest availability of accessible technologies. We work with assistive technology companies around the world to ensure that hundreds of accessible technology products are available for use on the Microsoft platform

Testimony

Khanyisile Zulu: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the love and care that you have shown me and other people living with disabilities. It is an honour for me to have this chance to believe that I am capable of something, I am so thankful and I wish you all the success in everything you are doing for disabled people. I am so grateful that now I am working and I hope this is the start of big things in my life and thank you for opening doors for me

