

Ilene Morris-Sambur

Thank you very much for the opportunity to be here. I want to share with you what I have finally found as my dream and my passion. First, a quick overview of the past 25 years of my career as a turn around consultant for financially distressed companies. I would work as an interim CEO or CFO and help companies increase their profits. Through a series of events, very fortunately, I was able figure out that there were so many individuals with disabilities, and I was also unaware that there was so much talents out there.

We currently have a Telework pilot program in Walter Reed Hospital and our intentions are to duplicate this to all military hospitals because what we have found is that during rehabilitation, if disabled veterans have something to allow them to be productive and feel worth while, then they can continue this when they return home as a transition or for long term. We have found it to be extremely successful. Joining us today is a resident of the hospital and he is helping to educate people like himself about what Telework means for his family.

Telework is a solution. I was also very fortunate to meet the CEO and the President of an organization called TELCOA, the Telework Coalition, and this is Chuck's feelings and mine, and we feel very strongly that work is something one does, not a place one goes. We see the future as bringing work to the people, not the people to work, and with the assistance of the technology, these can be deployed to the people. Millions of individuals with disabilities are unemployed, and our experience demonstrates that these workers are more dedicated, focused, productive and serious about their work performance.

With a very strongly involvement in the future of the world out-source and Communication Opportunities for individuals with disability. What we do is we go into companies and identify Telework opportunities that will help increase the company's profits and productivity. What we provide is supervised Telework training, placement and mentoring for individuals with disabilities to work in their homes. So we are looking at those individuals who have special needs; they don't have a choice and can't work outside their homes. We also try to focus on abilities, not disabilities. We are proud to

announce the participation of our case study in the United Nations Global Initiative for Inclusive Technology.

Now I think we are going to see Todd's story. He worked for Cora for almost a year now. Todd has never heard my voice. We communicate through instant messaging. I have never met a young man as personable, bright and the attitude is outstanding. I met Todd in the University where they have a vocational rehabilitation program, and I would like to focus on Todd's thoughts and feelings because it is very important to share them with you. This is Todd's perspective on outsource. With companies trying to cut corners and find a way in order to increase revenue, out-sourcing is becoming more common in the workforce. More and more companies are out-sourcing jobs like Telework accounting, data entering, web design, and research, all to be done by persons with disabilities from home because of the advances of technology and the Internet.

Types of assistive technologies are voice recognition software, alternative keyboard, electronic pointing devices, sit and touch systems, wands and sticks, etc. Training can be done by means of the internet, email or instant messaging and even from computer to computer online calling, which makes it possible to introduce a better quality of life because these disabled people are otherwise shut off from the world. The internet can change that by bringing the outside world to the people by working from home and interacting with co-workers and the family and makes it a better quality of life.

Todd is there and he is going to communicate through instant message with us. That is how we communicate when Todd works. There are different types of work that Todd can do, one being internet research without data entry, which he excels at. Anyone who stays with us stays with us long. With the mentoring, say we have an older individual, he mentors two or three others on-line through instant messaging. If they have a bad day, just give them five minutes; you give them your support, and they will have their focus back on the job. The same thing with a disabled person, we have 24/7 mental health counselors who are on-line now. They help these people by giving them advice because a

lot of people are living in rural communities where they can't get help. So putting these whole processes together has been amazing to watch.

You can start reading what Todd is going to discuss. Some of the things I asked Todd, "because of the Internet, how was your life changed?" This was his response, "play games, listen to music, watch TV and videos, buy and sell on E-bay, know my favorite sports games, MySpace web page, play fantasy football and baseball, watch DVD and other collectors, email, contact relative, friends and co-workers, on-line education, employment opportunities, shopping on-line, read my local newspaper online, information research and, participate in on-line quiz."

Todd Arnold: Good morning Ilene and everybody, in attendance there in New York, I appreciate the opportunity to tell my story and help others in this situation.

Ilene Morris-Sambur: Todd can you tell us about your life where you're from? He does not have the audio.

Todd Arnold: My name is Todd Arnold and I live in Black Creek, Wisconsin. I have a muscle disease called Spinal Muscular Atrophy. I am totally bed ridden. I have no movement in my arms, and most of the things I need to do have to be done by other people.

Ilene Morris-Sambur: What are some of the programs that he's currently using?

Pauley Tedoff: Please describe some of the programs.

Todd Arnold: The technology that I am using right now is the Dell Inspiron 8200 laptop computer with wireless broadband internet access.

Pauley Tedoff: Could you please tell us some more about the kind of work that you do. What is your job, your position, your responsibilities? In particular, how has the internet helped you and changed your life?

Ilene Morris-Sambur: Todd, I believe, is communicating by speaking very softly into a microphone which is enough input for the computer to transmit messages to us; however, if we would try to hear it through this computer or through a phone it would probably be a bit too soft for us to hear. He is ventilator dependent, completely bed ridden, and he usually doesn't stop talking.

Todd Arnold: I do medical billing and for Coraworks. I have been working on the database data entry and some accounting.

Ilene Morris-Sambur: What was previously written was that "without the internet and use of technology I use, working from my home with the impossible. I have a whole new life. I feel my life has a purpose again, not to mention all the other things the internet has to offer. I keep in touch with my friends and family, which was difficult to do before the internet. My best friend from high school lives California his little girl calls me Uncle Todd when she sees me on my web cam. It's a blessing for me."

Pauley Tedoff: Thank you very much Todd for your time and for showing us how you felt about successfully work from home.