



Background

Senior Tech Connect began as a heartfelt community service project, born from a unique combination of personal experiences and the desire to make a difference. Angeline Suarez, the co-founder, reflects on the origins of the initiative with a deep sense of purpose. It all started when her father passed away from Alzheimer's disease. As a volunteer community educator with the Alzheimer's Association, she gained valuable insights into the importance of maintaining brain health through daily stimulation.

At the same time, her 14-year-old son Nick was becoming a tech support go-to for his grandmothers, who often struggled with navigating their devices. This sparked the idea for a summer project that combined her son's budding tech skills and Angie's commitment to community service. These threads came together when a Miami Beach senior center welcomed their idea with open arms.

Initially, Angie and Nick volunteered weekly, teaching seniors how to navigate the digital world. The response was overwhelming—by the end of the year, they had worked with over 800 students across Miami-Dade County. This passion project grew into something much bigger when, in 2023, Angie's business partner, Cole Samaroo, joined the effort.

Cole, a Marine Corps veteran, had his own personal connection to the mission. After his grandfather passed away from Parkinson's disease in 2022, he witnessed his grandmother's struggle with managing technology on her own. Searching for a solution, Cole discovered Angie and Nicholas through a local news clip. Inspired by their work, he reached out, and together they transformed Senior Tech Connect into more than just a business—it's a mission to bridge the digital divide for older adults.

Solution:

Angeline introduced me to the Florida SBDC at FIU under the Business Growth and Acceleration Program (BizGap). The BizGap project in FL-27 is funded by a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Focused on providing hyperlocal consulting, training, and outreach to small businesses in targeted communities and commercial corridors. Through their center, we were able to get assistance with business strategy, financial management, marketing, and HR just to name a few. Between the consulting between their specialized team members to their training, they have been instrumental to the growth for the past year.

As a result, some key milestones have been accomplished. We were able to establish, close and sustain large contracts with companies like Humana in South Florida, which have massive footprints. So, for Angie and me, to see this and to be able to feel like we are a real company that is supporting real clients is really rewarding. And we owe a lot of that growth to the BizGap program.

From the owner

Some advice to fellow entrepreneurs. "Do what you love, as our success stems from understanding the challenges our students face and continuously refining our approach based on their feedback. In other words, "Start with the problem, not the solution. That's how you deliver real value."

Over the past year, we have taught more than 5,500 students across South Florida and Southern California. We are now expanding our offerings with virtual resources, AI-driven coaching, and online training tools to reach even more seniors.

From the heartfelt thank-you notes of their students to the measurable difference they make every day; Angie, Cole, and their team show what's possible when passion meets purpose. Our

story is a testament to the power of starting small, staying committed, and always putting people first.

As we continue to grow, our impact will undoubtedly inspire other entrepreneurs to pursue meaningful work that changes lives.

Business Owners Names: Angeline Suarez & Cole Samaroo

Company Name: Senior Tech Connect

Location: Miami FL