

WiRED International





What does WiRED do?

WiRED International brings free computer-based medical and health education to underserved communities around the world. Educating a sufficient number of people about healthy practices and signs, symptoms, diagnoses and likely treatments of common illnesses can elevate the health of an entire community. WiRED believes that providing peer-reviewed, evidence-based educational training tools will enable community members to take responsibility for and contribute to their own health.

How is WiRED's mission unique?

Saving lives during a community epidemic is a heroic mission. *Preparing* communities through education can head off health problems and yield lifetime benefits. This is WiRED's quiet, life-saving mission.

What about WiRED's bang for the buck?

The World Health Organization estimates that for \$58 per person per year millions of deaths could be prevented and the lifespans of millions of people could be increased. WiRED's price tag to train a person about health on a wide range of conditions is less than a penny — under a small administrative overhead of around 5%. With more than 400 health education courses, and the number growing, WiRED's digital Health Learning Center is unique. All courses are free to use online and to download on laptops, tablets and smartphones. No other organization or institution offers such a wide variety of cost-free, professionally prepared interactive health education material targeted to people in remote areas with limited communications infrastructure.

What is the secret of WiRED's success?

WiRED sustains its operations and continues to grow because of its adaptability and its recruitment of talented volunteers. WiRED spends around 95% of its funds directly on programs. WiRED operates through the generosity of individuals and small foundations; most of WiRED's staff are volunteers.





WiRED's History

Gary Selnow, Ph.D., a San Francisco State University professor, founded WiRED in 1997 while on a Fulbright Fellowship as a visiting professor at the University of Zagreb in Vukovar, Croatia, soon after the war ended between Serbia and Croatia.

According to Dr. Selnow, "When I saw in Vukovar how technology could make a difference in the lives of isolated people, I thought we might form an organization to extend the idea of technology-based education in low-resource regions. By 1999, we focused our efforts on medicine and health training. We couldn't have known it in 1997, but over the next two decades, as WiRED took shape and ran programs in underserved regions, we would engage with millions of people isolated by war, poverty, politics and geography."

Today WiRED International, now a global presence across continents, brings medical and health education to low-resource communities. WiRED fine tunes cutting-edge technology to develop training programs that have led to:

- ◆ Bringing WiRED's e-library to remote Amazon villages and supplying the technology to operate community health training programs. WiRED also provides portable, electronic medical records systems in the Peruvian Amazon
- ◆ Producing a rheumatic heart disease (RHD) animation to accompany the creation of WiRED's RHD Training Series
- ◆ Bringing WiRED's health training programs in Spanish to medical students and nurses in Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador
- ◆ Working with WiRED-Armenia to bring health training programs on such topics as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, dental hygiene and smoking cessation
- ◆ Using computers to train health workers, students and community members in Kenya by computer on diseases such as HIV/AIDS so that they can return to their communities and teach others about health.

Expands HIV/AIDS training program in Kenya

Increases reconstruction assistance in Bosnia, establishing three Community Health Information Centers

Collaborates with the American Federation of Teachers to bring a Community Education Center to Sierra Leone

Cuts ribbon on first medical training facility at Medical City Center in Baghdad; Launches nine Medical Information Centers elsewhere in Iraq

Opens medical information center in Nairobi

2002

2003



WiRED's Health Learning Center

<http://www.wiredhealthresources.net>

What is it?

WiRED's online Health Learning Center contains more than 400 interactive modules — free to all. This e-library of medical and health training courses enables physicians and nurses, patients, community health workers and people in low-resource areas to address the prevention and treatment of infectious and non-communicable disease worldwide, especially in developing areas.

WiRED has developed an entire series on large health topic areas such as infectious diseases, cancer, diabetes and HIV, as well as Express Modules that give the basics of a subject of urgent interest. WiRED has translated nearly 100 modules into Spanish, French, Mandarin, Portuguese, Arabic, Armenian and other languages.

With these interactive training tools, communities and medical professionals alike can educate themselves through the material released on this website and also distributed on portable media for communities off the grid.

Who develops these tools?

WiRED modules are developed by its team of physicians, medical editors, imagers and technicians along with contributions from many other medical experts. WiRED continually updates the existing material and creates new modules to enhance a rich source of health information.

What are rapid response modules?

WiRED rushes into action to create modules whenever an urgent need arises in areas with little communications infrastructure. For example in response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, WiRED produced the first computer-based, expertly written, peer-reviewed Ebola training modules, which developed into a prevention education program throughout Africa. WiRED is often a first responder in providing education to enable the local population to address the immediate situation and establish an ongoing information and training support presence.





Examples of WiRED's Unique Programs

Community Preparedness for Infectious Disease Outbreaks Project

This interactive project is WiRED's largest ever release of training material. The distinct feature of this project is that, using only two features, a computer program can instantly create a training course to suit the user; that is, it uses the role of the person in the community (for instance a community leader, a medical professional, or a member of the general public) and the name of the disease threatening the population. After a user enters this information, the computer will deliver a four-part course. The Infectious Disease project contains nearly 50 topics, selected because they are cited by the World Health Organization as the most common infections likely to cause an outbreak.

Mother and Child Project

WiRED offers a 24-part educational series titled "Mother and Child Health." This series provides a comprehensive training program to assist families, caregivers, community health workers and others with issues related to the following four topics: Before Pregnancy, During Pregnancy, Labor and Delivery and Becoming a Parent.

The Mother and Child Health series will be used by schools, clinics and hospitals, other NGOs and organizations that help families prepare for a healthy pregnancy, delivery and the early years of childhood up to age five.

Certificate Program

WiRED began a certificate program in Kenya in 2011, which encourages community members to study health modules, and, when they're ready, to take a test on the material. To qualify for a certificate, they must pass each module with an 85% grade or better. Certificates are not offered as accreditation; their purpose is to confirm successful completion of the training modules. More than 300 people have received certificates from this WiRED program so far.

Expands Medical Information Center Program in the former Yugoslavia, opening two new facilities in Bosnia

2007

Opens Medical Information Centers in Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador

2008

Is awarded Public Health Hero Award by UC Berkeley School of Public Health

2009

Expands Telemedicine Network to include five more centers in Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador

2010

Brings medical and health information to underserved and remote communities in the Peruvian Amazon via first use of computer training there

2011



Comments About WiRED

Health education isn't as dramatic as a daring rescue, but it saves countless lives. Prevention is a grand bargain.

— **Gary Selnow, Ph.D., WiRED Director**

WiRED International is a vital humanitarian organization ideally suited with the experience, technological and programmatic skills needed to carry out this work. WiRED was one of the first organizations to assist with information programs in Croatia and Kosovo after the end of hostilities there, and is a brilliant choice to work with the Global Technology Corps of the U.S. Department of State to support the rebuilding of the medical community in Iraq.

— **U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA), Chairman of the United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs**

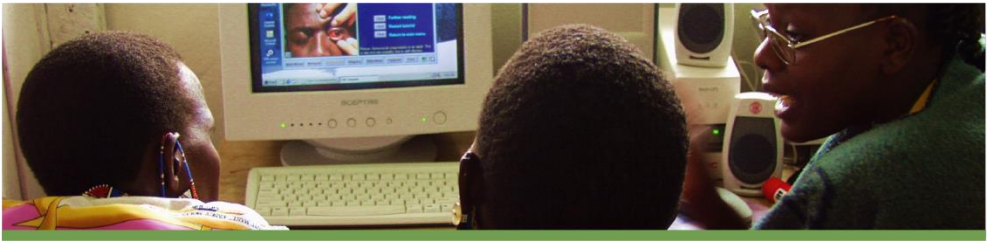
The association of Project Amazonas with Wired International has been highly productive for us. The Spanish-language health modules and the computer and AV equipment provided by WiRED allow us to take health education to where the people are — the isolated river-side communities of the many tributaries of the Amazon. The Wired modules will be a core element of our boat- and land-based rural medical service expeditions, allowing us to effectively integrate education and treatment in the Amazon.

— **Dr. Devon Graham, Director, Project Amazonas**

The ripple effect of information to improve community health is significant. The knowledge people acquire enables them to become participants in their own health care. This means they engage in better behaviors, recognize early signs and symptoms, and understand how to work with health professionals to address illness and disease.

— **Charlotte Ferretti, R.N., Ed.D., WiRED Board Member**





Testimonials From Underserved Communities

WiRED International has given us a very resourceful information center and the Internet site connections to make it possible for us to obtain medical literature that was otherwise out of our reach. Of all the people who promised us “the wonderland,” you are the only one who really delivered us one.

— **Safwan A. Taha, M.D., Basrah, Iraq**

People here in Kenya need WiRED’s support. Please continue educating the public about health and continue visiting schools so that we can stay healthy for upcoming generations. Your work is helping us, and I am proof.

— **Aaron Masiga, Nurse’s Aide, Kisumu, Kenya**

The WiRED information at the Center has helped me to change and also helped me to change the life and belief of other mothers and their children and the community at large.

— **Beatrice A. Omwa, community nutrition assistant, Kisumu, Kenya**

Through WiRED I realized that it is possible to live a positive life after getting infected with HIV virus and it is possible to prevent the child from being infected by the mother.

— **Lavender Amondi, student, Kisumu, Kenya**

Information is no longer a luxury for the rich. I don’t have to Google or blame everything on my superstition. All I have to do is come here. I am in a better position to take care of my family and my unborn child.

— **Brenda Akoth, visitor to the WiRED center in Obunga, Kenya**

I would like to thank WiRED for this program which helped me study so many diseases I didn’t know about that affect our lives. So my fellow teenagers, I urge you to join this program because it will change your life.

— **Merceline Achieng, teenager, Kisumu, Kenya**

Provides Community Health Education e-library modules in remote villages in Tanzania

Releases Zika Rapid Response Module in English, Spanish and Portuguese as cases multiply and suspicions grow about related birth defects

Launches the Community Health Education Initiative in honor of the late U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens

Delivers 10-part Echo training course to cardiologists at world conference in Melbourne, Australia

Provides health education modules to doctors in Haiti

2014

2015



Mission Statement

WiRED International brings vital medical and health education, free of charge, to underserved communities around the world.

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