

Stories of Change

We listen...

Virtual Gratitude -- Using technology for the greater good in partnership with Upward Scholars

“It’s been rewarding... the best feeling in the world”, says Valerie, who volunteers as an English tutor for recent immigrants from Mexico through **Upward Scholars**. She retired 10 years ago and currently volunteers over Zoom, a skill she has learnt recently. Valerie says she is grateful to have the opportunity to watch her student become a professional interior designer as she listens about her college classes during their one on one Zoom conversation sessions.

It was only when she signed up with AnewVista, a digital platform that empowers its members through knowledge and resources, that she got her first volunteering opportunity. Anewvista introduced her to Zoom, navigated her through its multiple features, and provided her with the technical skills and confidence to continue participating in her community. In fact, she has enjoyed her experience so much that she has encouraged others in her community to volunteer.

Just over a year ago, Valerie found most technologies intimidating. Her recreation center had recently closed due to covid and she was eager to find a way to continue participating in and contributing to her community. Even after covid ends, Valerie says, she will continue with AnewVista for all the invaluable knowledge and resources they provide. She has had some distressing experiences with online scammers and pressing faulty links and feels that AnewVista is one of the few things she can rely on to help her securely navigate the internet.

“Anewvista has opened up a whole new world for me” says Valerie. Aside from helping her stay safe online, Anewvista has enabled her to utilize the internet for a number of activities in her daily life: streaming services, online shopping, online banking, virtual volunteering, to name just a few. While AnewVista aims to simplify the lives of its members like Valerie, it also strives to improve the lives of the people around them.

By Sharad Parulekar(High School Student) and Shalini Gupta