



Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers Help to Expand the YMWIC Robotics and 3D Printing Labs

Our featured volunteers this month both assisted YMWIC in getting up and running at our Cheyney University Headquarters. The first, Markus Kanter (at right), an Honor Student in the 9th grade at Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy, is quite a bundle of energy! Markus and our Mr. Roberts had a chance meeting at the Micro Center Technology Store in the checkout line. Mr. Roberts is always promoting YMWIC and our Mission and mentioned to Markus that the equipment he was purchasing was for YMWIC Scholars. That led to a conversation about Markus' study in STEM subjects and love of technology. During our interview, I learned that Markus has created several personal projects using 3D printing and is very interested in 3D building for production, laser engraving, and using it to create objects that solve everyday problems.



Markus and his father Gregg contacted Mr. Roberts and agreed that Markus could lend his technological expertise in setting up the 3D printers at YMWIC Headquarters. Thanks to the generosity of a grant from Exelon, along with The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, YMWIC purchased two Snapmaker A350 3-in-1 3D Printers, which have detachable modules to convert between 3D printing, a CNC carver, and a laser engraver. Markus calibrated these printers. In addition, he worked on setting up our two MakerBot Replicator 2X 3D printers, and our LulzBot Mini 3D Printer.



Markus Kanter at the Snapmaker 3D Printer.

Markus is a self-motivated young man who believes that students should be curious and inquisitive and to advocate for themselves if they see an opportunity to make their education better. He says, "You only get one opportunity at education, so make the most of it." He also believes that students should have balance in their lives, taking time to de-compress and refresh themselves by doing things they enjoy so that they can be better able to learn. In addition to his school work, Markus has taken on jobs in videography, production and event lighting for his school's play, and enjoys playing video games to unwind.

We would also like to thank Bill Jackson, a long-time YMWIC volunteer and supporter, who helped to configure the Robotics Lab at our Cheyney Headquarters.



Volunteer Bill Jackson at the Botball Competition Table in the YMWIC Robotics Lab.

Volunteer Spotlight

He assembled our Botball Competition Table, which is an 8'x 8' table covered in intricate moving parts used for training and practicing during the year and for the Botball Robotics Competition in May.

The table design changes every year. Fortunately for the Robotics Team, Bill was able to assemble the entire table enabling members of the Robotics Team to get started designing and programming the robots for the Botball Competition.

We thank Markus and Bill for their service, support, and making time in their busy schedules for YMWIC!