

Welcome

Real-Life Stories: Building a Comfortable Smart Home

We recommend silencing your Alexa speaker for the presentation.

Feel free to share in the chat where you're joining us from and what you hope to learn from this webinar.

A Free Accessible Webinar from



PENNSYLVANIA
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
FOUNDATION

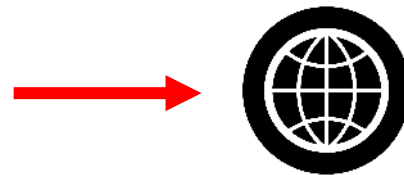
Using Closed Captioning

- To start using CC, click the caption button



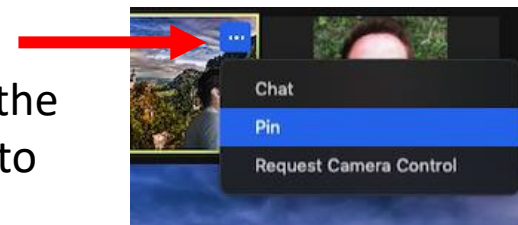
Uso de la interpretación de idiomas

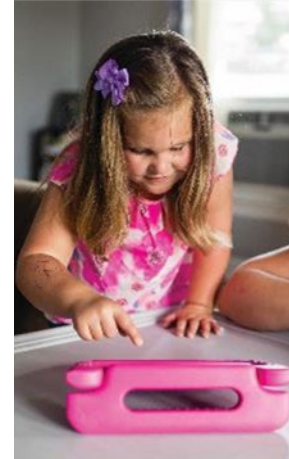
- Hagan clic en el icono de interpretación
- Seleccionen "Spanish"
- Después de seleccionar "español", hagan clic "Mute Original Audio"



Using ASL

- To pin the interpreter, hover over the video of the participant you want to pin and click ...
- From the menu, click Pin.





Real-Life Stories: Building a Comfortable Smart Home



**Brought to you by
Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation**

Agenda

- Introduction to speakers
- About Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation and Funding Resources
- PATF's *Smart Homes Made Simple: Your Guide to Smart Home Technology*
- Suria and Kirby
- Questions and Answers

Wendy Davis

Director of Marketing and Outreach, Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation



Suriana Nordin



Suriana Nordin graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with an accounting degree and is currently practicing as a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) with a public accounting firm.

After she received a spinal cord injury (SCI) and living with quadriplegia, she continued working in the same role but on a part-time basis. Her husband and she created a company called Sunkirb Ideas that provides consultation with respect to setting up smart homes for people with special needs.

Kirby Smith



Kirby Smith is the founder and President of SunKirb Ideas, LLC. His wife and partner in the business is Suriana Nordin. Before starting SunKirb Ideas, LLC, he was the Senior Vice President of Information Technology for PRWT Services, Inc.

In July of 2014, his wife, Suriana, was injured and became a quadriplegic. He found the technology being offered to improve her life was outdated, expensive, and very limited due to customizations. They solved those issues, and in July of 2015 formed a company to bring these solutions to an underserved population.

Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF)

- Statewide, non-profit organization, based in King of Prussia, PA
- Majority of the Board and staff are individuals with disabilities and/or have immediate family members with disabilities.
- Certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)
- PA's designated Alternative Financing Program for Assistive Technology (AFP)
- Federal program originally authorized under the 21st Century Assistive Technology Act
- PATF helps people find funding for assistive technology and provides financial education resources developed for people with disabilities.

Alternative Finance Programs for AT

- PATF is one of 42 AFPs and state financing entities in the U.S. and territories.
- Scan the QR code to find your state's AFP.



PATF helps Pennsylvanians of all:

- + AGES**
- + INCOME LEVELS**
- + DISABILITIES**
- + HEALTH CONDITIONS**
- + COMMUNITIES**
- + CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS**

What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

Any device or service that can help a person with a disability or older adult do the things they want to do. AT makes it possible for people to live independently, go to work and school, communicate, play, and be active in their communities. There is no definitive list of what is AT.

Examples: generator, air conditioner, bathroom modification, adapted sports equipment...



Funding Your Assistive Technology: A Guide to Funding Resources in Pennsylvania



Discover more than 65 funding resources

Learn about public and private funding for AT

Funding for AT under Waivers

Comparison of PA ABLE and Special Needs Trusts



Available in print and accessible PDF

Also available in Spanish

PATF Financial Loans for Assistive Technology

(temporary change due to funding interruptions)

Mini-Loan Program

- \$100 to \$2,000
- 0% interest and no fees
- Hearing aids
- Apple Watch
- Smart Home Technology

Low-Interest Loan Program

- \$2,001 and above
- 3.75% interest and no fees
- Home Modifications
- Adapted Vehicles

Cents and Sensibility: A Guide to Money Management



8th edition released June 2024

Meets Pennsylvania's personal finance high school graduation requirement

Companion website: StudyMoney.us

Educator companion manual and slides available for



Available in print and accessible PDF download

Also available in Spanish

Smart Homes Made Simple: Your Guide to Smart Home Technology

Explore how generic smart home technology can help with daily activities

Includes a self-assessment tool to guide you in identifying how smart home technology can help

Available in print and accessible PDF download

Also available in Spanish

Companion website:

SmartHomesMadeSimple.org



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About Kirby and Suria

The husband-and-wife team of Kirby Smith and Suria Nordin started SunKirb Ideas, LLC after Suria was injured in an accident while on vacation July 2014, resulting in her living with quadriplegia.

To learn more, go to:

<https://youtu.be/ekQSQjFMy4M>

Why start a company?

During Suria's recovery from surgery, realizing the extent of her injuries, Kirby and Suria were faced with having to renovate their home to accommodate Suria's disability. There was no single source to help with technology that could help them in their home. They decided to provide that service to others.



We were faced with many new challenges?

Year 1 we had to contend with:

- Aids
- Caregivers
- Physical barriers
- Structural barriers in the house
- Loss of privacy and environmental control
- Loss of independence

While the challenges were the same our experiences were different

Suria's early smart home



Kirby's concerns

- Loss of privacy and security
- Living with Suria's aids and caregivers
- A sense of separation (it felt like two homes)
- Cooking and meals were different
- People displace his personal objects
- How to comfortably be



We were early adopters

To meet many of the new challenges we faced we adopted new technologies and used them to assist with:

- Lights
- Temperature control
- Controlling the front door
- Entertainment
- Safety and security
- Communication
- Hubs that connected everything



Voice Control became essential with the release of Amazon Echo

- In 2014 Amazon released the first Echo
- Introduction to Automation, Integration, Routines (AIR)
- Managing and controlling the devices required understanding of:
 1. Wi-Fi and other radio signals
 2. Hubs
 3. Phones/iPads
 4. Apps
 5. Security



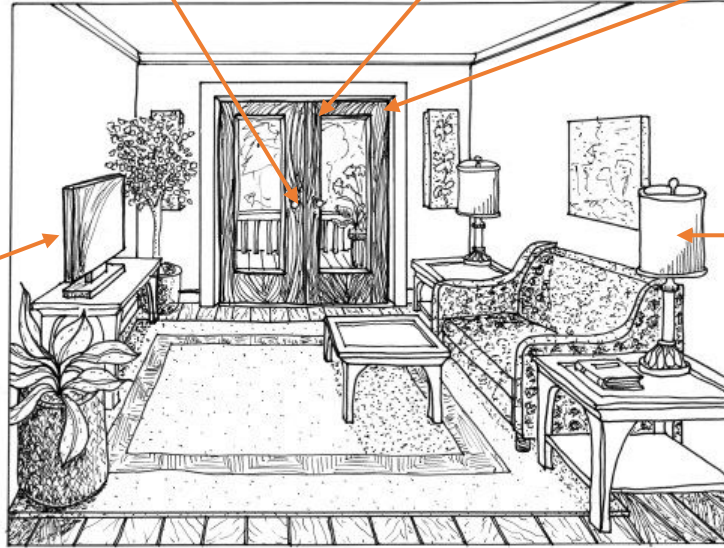
All the parts that make a smart home

A.I.R.

- **Automation** – Individual household products are automated, such as light switches, light bulbs, vacuum cleaners, or door locks.
- **Integration** – Using Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and other radio signals, devices communicate and are most likely linked to a cloud service and controlled using a smart phone or pad.
- **Routines** – These are “smart” functions you can set based on “If this happens then do this”. This is what we think of as **smart home**. For example, if the front door opens, turn on the entryway light for 15 minutes and then turn off the light. Or, if the front door opens after midnight, turn all the lights on in the house to alert the household.

**Voice and
smartphone control
of your home**

**Modern consumer products applied as
adapted technology**



We decided early to save money to change our home





Planning and Designing

What changed over the ten years

Everything has connectivity, smart functions and easy integration

- **Apps** – Easier to use and work together
- **Far fewer hubs** – Various things like an Echo can serve as a hub
- **Touch controls** – Suria is able to control the appliances
- **Appliances** – Everything from the oven, cooktop, cooking vent, heating, faucets, shades and other things are connected and safer.
- **Security** – For example, sensors are integrated now
- **Routines** – Devices could create their own routines
- **Lighting** – Lights are functional and decorative
- **AI** – Artificial Intelligence has become very important to us



Big changes



The kitchen was central
- Hide, blend, or highlight the tech



While loaded with tech, we built a cook's kitchen



Suria's workspace



Any Questions?

PATF depends on public and private funding

If you would like to support PATF's work, follow the link in the chat or scan the QR code to donate to PATF.



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