BridgingApps Launches Free Mobile Device Guide for Special Needs on Udemy

HOUSTON (Sept. 25, 2015) -- The BridgingApps program of Easter Seals Greater Houston, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has launched an introductory course on Udemy, the global marketplace for online education, this week. BridgingApps is a community of parents, therapists, teachers, and people with disabilities who share information on how to use mobile devices such as the iPad and Android devices with people who have special needs. This interactive course, *Getting Started with Mobile Devices for Special Needs: Accessories and Safety*, is offered free of charge and is the first in a planned series of online learning from BridgingApps.

Cristen Reat, a founder of BridgingApps and parent of a son with Down syndrome, has seen first-hand the power of mobile technology for engaging, motivating and allowing her son to independently control an educational tool in astonishing ways. With one in five people in the world with a disability, low cost commercially available mobile devices have allowed people with disabilities to communicate, make faster progress in therapies, be active members of their health care teams and become more independent.

However, there is a learning curve with using new technologies and getting started can be overwhelming. BridgingApps received a $2,500 Social Innovation Grant from Udemy to design a basic course for those interested in setting up a mobile device to be effective for an individual with special needs. Many do not realize that a specific case, keyboard overlay, or wheelchair mount may make the difference between an individual using a device effectively or giving up in frustration. The goal of the course is to empower people with disabilities and their support teams to learn about options for preparing and protecting mobile devices by being informed of appropriate accessories for a user with special needs.

The interactive course contains high-quality instructional videos featuring expert information, lists of available products on the market and resources to help set up a device for the unique needs of an individual child or adult.

“On our mission to help anyone learn anything, we’re thrilled to support BridgingApps’ work to provide essential resources for individuals with disabilities to reach their highest potentials,” said Meg Evans, manager of social innovation at Udemy. “We welcome this course as a powerful example of organizations utilizing Udemy’s Social Innovation program to extend their reach and create positive change.”

For more information about Easter Seals Houston and its BridgingApps program visit [www.eastersealshouston.org](http://www.eastersealshouston.org) or [www.bridgingapps.org](http://www.bridgingapps.org).

**About Easter Seals Greater Houston**

Easter Seals Greater Houston, Inc. is a non-profit corporation established to provide comprehensive services to individuals of all ages with all types of disabilities. For more information, visit [www.eastersealshouston.org](http://www.eastersealshouston.org).

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About BridgingApps
BridgingApps, a program of Easter Seals Houston, provides the access, education, and resources needed to effectively use mobile, touch-based devices to help people with disabilities communicate, exceed educational goals, and reach their fullest potential. BridgingApps includes a website, app reviews by therapists and special education teachers, a custom app search engine, assistive technology labs, monthly in person meetings in Houston, Fort Worth, Rio Grande Valley and Austin, and training options for parents, organizations and schools. For more information, visit www.bridgingapps.org.

Web: www.bridgingapps.org | Twitter: @BridgingApps | Facebook: www.facebook.com/BridgingApps

About Udemy
Udemy is an online education marketplace with over 8 million students. Our course content and instructor community are constantly growing, with more than 32,000 courses taught by 18,000 instructors. Students have the ability to learn as they go and succeed on their own terms, while instructors have a way to share their knowledge with the world. For companies, Udemy offers a subscription to our best business courses as well as an easy-to-use platform to create proprietary courses. Founded in 2010, Udemy is privately owned and funded by the Stripes Group, Norwest Venture Partners, Insight Venture Partners, Lightbank, MHS Capital, and Learn Capital, among others. Udemy is headquartered in San Francisco and has offices in Dublin, Ireland, and Ankara, Turkey.

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