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Grassroots AI Nonprofit Delivers Virtual Workshop to 30,000 Viewers Amidst Pandemic

- *In its mission to improve AI literacy, workshop participation enables A.I. For Anyone to boost its reach by 50x.*
- *With Mark Cuban's support, the workshop was one of the largest events in Eventbrite history with over 50,000 registrations.*
- *Founders share their personal motivation behind the effort.*

April 27, New York, NY: More than 30,000 attendees joined a virtual workshop led by [A.I. For Anyone](#), a NY-based grassroots nonprofit focused on teaching students and educators the fundamentals of artificial intelligence (AI). While parents and kids continue to shelter-in-place, the workshop drew accolades as a unique opportunity to expose learners of all ages to AI and coding.

"You guys inspired my 9yo daughter to learn more about AI and coding," [tweeted](#) a parent who attended.

Founded in 2018 by Haroon Choudery, Hamza Choudery, and Mac McMahon, the organization was formed in response to the tension they saw between the opportunities and threats created by emerging technologies. For Haroon and Hamza Choudery, brothers, this tension is deeply personal, as is the value of education.

"Hamza and I immigrated from Pakistan when we were children and saw our parents toil in blue-collar professions our whole lives. The conditions we grew up in weren't always stable, but one thing remained constant in our household: an unwavering emphasis on education. With the endless support of our parents, we worked hard to become first-generation graduates and find success in our careers. However, we noticed a stark knowledge gap between the underserved communities we grew up in and more privileged communities we're now a part of, particularly around automation technologies. Hamza, Mac, and I set out to democratize AI education so everyone has a voice in the discussions shaping the future of the technology," says Haroon, Executive Director.

The executive leadership team at A.I. For Anyone is composed solely of passionate volunteers that have full-time obligations outside of the nonprofit. However, this hasn't stopped them from making waves in the space with far less resources than their peers. In 2019 alone, A.I For Anyone delivered their "AI 101" workshop in person to over 1,500 public school students.

When COVID-19 took the world by storm, the team was forced to innovate. Haroon outlined the team's efforts to find a path forward: "The pandemic put a damper on our plans to deliver in-person workshops, but we didn't want to let it stop us from working towards our mission. We decided to reach out to our friends at the Mark Cuban Foundation (MCF) to figure out how we could make the most of the situation. MCF runs boot camps that teach students how to build AI applications, so there was a natural partnership opportunity."

Receiving support from [Mark Cuban himself](#) and [coverage on CNBC](#), the workshop caught on like wildfire. Within a few days of publishing the workshop, there were over 50,000 registrations. Over 30,000 individuals tuned in for the live workshop and it received an overwhelming amount of positive [feedback](#).

Hamza, Director of Operations, says the A.I. For Anyone team looks forward to building on this momentum to continue driving their mission forward. "Our goal is to make sure every individual has a baseline understanding of artificial intelligence and automation technologies, and we're not going to slow down until that mission is complete."

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If you would like more information, contact Haroon Choudery at **(443) 859-4714** or **haroon@aiforanyone.org**

Workshop Testimonials

- "You guys inspired my 9yo daughter to learn more about AI and coding. Thanks and great work to you and your team." [LINK](#)
- "@aiforanyone Thanks for an informative session. My son, an 8th grader, really enjoyed it! Keep up the great work!" [LINK](#)
- "Thanks @mcuban @markubanai and @aiforanyone for a great session tonight. My 12 yr old loved it and got it all!" [LINK](#)
- "Great session and appreciated the opportunity to sit down and share this with my 11yo daughter. We loved it! Can't wait for her to continue learning." [LINK](#)
- "@haroonchoudery @mcuban @aiforanyone kudos to you guys for a great hour presentation! My 9 year old daughter was mesmerized and can't wait to learn more." [LINK](#)
- "Thank you so much for the session. I started for kids but end watching whole session my self too." [LINK](#)
- "Thank You @markcubanai & @aiforanyone - my 16yr, 12yr and 10yr were VERY engaged. It helped that we watched iRobot last week!" [LINK](#)

- “@haroonchoudery @aiforanyone and @mcuban Hi Haroon, fantastic session. You guys inspired my 9yo daughter to learn more about AI and coding. Thanks and great work to you and your team.” [LINK](#)
- “My son attended your great online session on April 15th. He was so enthralled by what he learned he decided he wanted to make AI his focus for his 5th grade Capstone graduation project!” (Email)
- More here: [Social Media Archive](#)

About A.I. For Anyone

AI4A is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that holds free artificial intelligence workshops at schools and organizations throughout the New York City area. Our organization’s mission is to:

- Enable our audience to adapt and prosper in an increasingly automated world, and
- Democratize AI knowledge to allow citizens to shape policy.

We believe that education is the best tool to prepare students for a world with increased human-computer interaction. By providing students with fundamental knowledge of automation technologies, we hope to empower them to have a voice in deciding how they should or shouldn't be adopted.