



Tech Exchange



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# **A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP**



#### MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ULISES ZATARAIN

When I look back on the past year at Tech Exchange, I feel an overwhelming sense of pride in how deeply we've impacted the communities we serve. It's been a time of strategic growth, and it's exciting to see how far we've come! Thanks to our supporters, partners, Board, volunteers, and staff, Tech Exchange was able to bridge the digital divide for thousands of families in 2023-24.

Of course, no year is without its challenges. Scaling up our services to meet growing community needs, especially in new regions, was no easy feat. Our rapid geographic expansion frequently required coordination with complex government bureaucracies. At other times, our staff faced difficulties in establishing new locations for classes and events beyond our Oakland home.

We overcame these obstacles through our team's dedicated efforts and our community's involvement. Increasingly strong relationships with libraries, and other anchor institutions, were essential to our efforts. The resilience to pivot in the face of challenges was also crucial. Our achievements were astounding: we trained over 600 adults in basic computer skills and connected over 10,000 families in six Bay Area counties with devices and tech support! I'm particularly proud of our growing internship program, which empowered dozens of local youth with life-changing STEM career skills this year. Our social enterprise partner solutions also made remarkable impact, providing thousands of devices at discounted prices to schools, nonprofits, and other organizations across the region. This effort has not only contributed to Tech Exchange's revenue, but has also built on our sustainability mission to reuse and repurpose high quality devices.

Looking to the future, we aim to serve even more students and interns, provide greater access to affordable technology, and continue leading the charge toward digital equity across the Bay Area. With your continued support, we look forward to an impactful year ahead as we build on this momentum.

Thank you for being an integral part of our mission.

Ulises Zatarain, Executive Director



Supporters, partners and friends gathered for Tech Exchange's 29th Anniversary Celebration at Oakstop in February, 2024. Guests included (L to R) Sunne Wright McPeak (California Emerging Technology Fund) Previous Tech Exchange Executive Director Seth Hubbert, Patricia Wells (Oakland Housing Authority), Former Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, Tech Exchange Founding Director, Bruce Buckelew, Sandra Ernst (Oakland Promise), Trevor Parham (Oakstop), a young attendee, and Tech Exchange Executive Director Ulises Zatarain.

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### THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

In 2023-24, the pandemic's digital inclusion crisis response waned, but the community's need for computers, digital skills, and internet access continued. The elimination of federal credits like the Affordable Connectivity Program made it more difficult for low-income households to access home internet service. In addition, schools and community based organizations struggled to keep pace with program changes for device distribution to students and families.

Although progress has been made toward closing the digital divide, tens of thousands of Bay Area families are still left behind. One in five low-income families still lack access to a computer in their home, with a similar gap for home internet access\*. What's more, many individuals who do have computers and internet access still face language barriers to gaining essential digital skills and tech support.

Source: Public Policy Institute of California

# **OUR MISSION**

For nearly thirty years, Tech Exchange has been committed to serving our community and advancing digital equity. Founded in West Oakland in 1995, Tech Exchange is a Bay Area leader in the effort to close the digital divide. Our mission is to ensure that all families have a computer, internet access, and the technology skills necessary to improve and enhance their lives. We are dedicated to building a diverse community of digitally proficient Bay Area residents who have full access to engage online in education, employment, health, financial, and civic services. Tech Exchange envisions a digitally connected Bay Area where everyone has the technology resources they need to thrive.

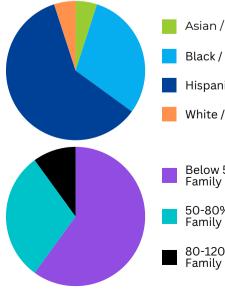
Tech Exchange prioritizes underserved communities and closes the digital divide for individuals and families who qualify as low income. 90% of the participants we serve are eligible for programs such as School Nutrition Free/ Reduced Price Meals. CalFresh, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and/or are residents in Subsidized Affordable Housing in the Bay Area.

"Having a computer that has not been working has impacted me greatly. I have my own small business and without the use of my computer I am not able to continue my work...today I left Tech Exchange extremely happy because not only were they able to provide me with a new computer for me to continue my work, but the staff is exceptional, kind, and supportive. Thank you for so much love in serving the community."

- MARÍA, TECHUB VISITOR

SANTA CLARA

### DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED





White / Other = 5%

Below 50% of Area Median Family Income = 60%

50-80% of Area Median Family Income = 30%

80-120% of Area Median Family Income = 10%



Pilot Projects and Emerging Partnerships

New Outreach Region

# **DEVICES AND WAREHOUSE**

Electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the world. Each day, Americans discard hundreds of thousands of computers, most of which are still viable for use. At the same time, nearly a quarter of homes in the U.S. lack a computer or tablet of any kind. This disconnect is especially pronounced in the Bay Area, primarily affecting low income households in communities of color.

#### Tech Exchange has a solution.

In 2023-24, our team continued our nearly 30 year operation to collect used devices from Bay Area partners, refurbish them alongside our interns, and give the old computers new life in the hands of the students and families we serve.

### **HOW IT WORKS** Our team picks up batches of old devices from hundreds of local businesses. Viable devices Individuals can drop advance to the off devices at our refurbishing station, TecHub or at where our expert community technicians and trained events. interns conduct diagnostic tests and perform necessary upgrades. Our staff loads and transports equipment to our warehouse Unusable for sorting. equipment is responsibly recycled.

# 12,554 devices collected 70+ tons of e-waste diverted in 2023-24!

After the hardware has been updated, the operating system is securely wiped utilizing a three-pass process, and new operating systems are installed.

> Once devices receive a thorough physical cleaning, they are cataloged and prepared for shipment. All devices include a one-year warranty and tech support.

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6.

In the past year, this sustainable approach brought 6,742 high-quality devices to our community. Tech Exchange distributed devices through our digital skills classes, at our TecHub, through nonprofit partners, and through our social enterprise.



# **DIGITAL SKILLS CLASSES**

In 2023, Tech Exchange re-energized our digital skills program, which had been paused during the pandemic. Our first sets of new class attendees, in Oakland and San José, completed the course in the spring.

In 2024, we ramped up efforts even more, expanding our digital inclusion footprint to serve six counties. In 2023-24, Tech Exchange brought our free multilingual classes to 642 Bay Area adults at libraries, schools, career centers, and other community organizations. Congratulations to our 2023-24 graduates!

#### Attendees learned how to

- set up an email account
- manage documents
- use video meeting platforms
- navigate safely online

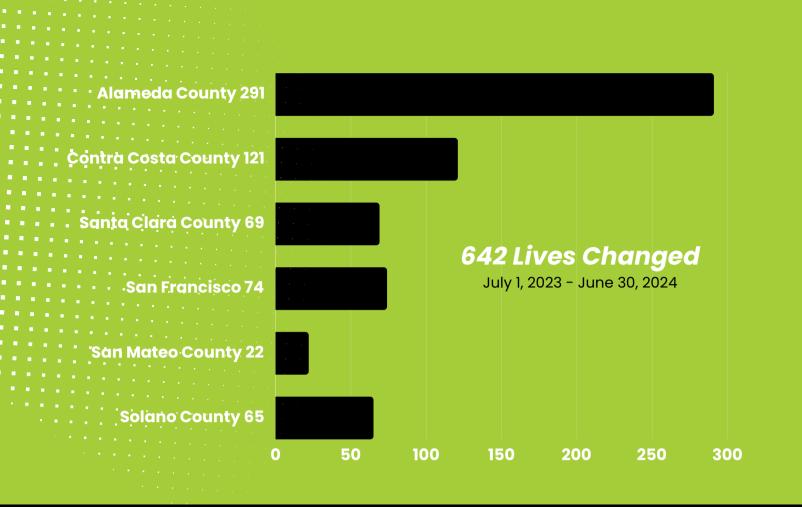
#### All graduates received

- a Tech Exchange refurbished laptop
- 1-year warranty & free tech support
- a certificate of completion

"Thank you so much for the class. I was definitely inexperienced and unlearned, and I learned a lot in the class, just some basics, how to do some things I really need to do. So thank you from a senior citizen in the community! I have really appreciated it and I appreciate having a computer that I'll be able to use."

> TECH EXCHANGE DIGITAL SKILLS COURSE GRADUATE







### **45** Digital Skills Training Cohorts

### **360** Hours of Instruction

642 Adults Received 8 Hours of Learning & a Laptop

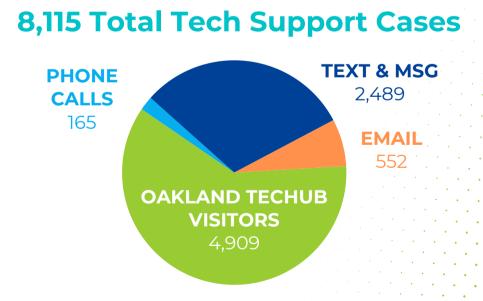
Funding for this project has been provided in part through a grant by the Broadband Adoption Account of the California Advanced Services Fund, a program administered by the California Public Utilities Commission, the Contra Costa Innovation Fund, and other donors. Joby

for a

# **TECHUB AND TECH SUPPORT**

Tech Exchange's TecHub is the only brick-and-mortar location in our region dedicated to providing computers and free digital resources to our community. Located in the heart of the Fruitvale district, the TecHub provided multilingual tech support and other services to over 4,909 visitors during the year. Many were Oakland students and their families, with a growing number of older adults dropping in.





Funding for these projects has been provided in part through a grant by the Broadband Adoption Account of the California Advanced Services Fund, a program administered by the California Public Utilities Commission, as well as #OaklandUndivided and other donors.

"A lady came in on Saturday about two weeks ago. She forgot her password on her computer. I helped her reset it and created a new email for her. She asked about the charge and I told her no charge and she just got very emotional. She was crying and said, "At least let me give you a hug". She told me no one had helped her, and her kids are in LA and they're busy all the time. It was quite the moment."

**TecHub Manager Kemish Rosales** 





**40** TecHub Computer Class Meetings

Community members also visited the TecHub to shop for Tech Exchange's high-quality refurbished computers. The TecHub's retail space upgraded during the year to showcase our affordable laptops, tablets. and other devices. Excitement was especially high at our St. Patrick's Day Sale March 15. Over 75 visitors dropped by to celebrate our green technology, purchase a device, and enter drawings for free prizes. Additional inventory was brought in after we sold out of our initial stock in the morning, and the event was a huge success!



### OAKLAND TECHUB HOURS AND SERVICES Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Broadband access
- Free computer classes
- Tech support

- Device purchase and pickup
- Guidance enrolling in affordable internet service

## INTERNS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Promoting workforce development in under-resourced communities has been at the heart of Tech Exchange's digital equity mission since our inception. This longstanding commitment to developing tech career pathways for local youth continued to grow in 2023-24. Thirty-three interns completed the program during the year, compared to eight the previous year at the end of the pandemic.

Tech Exchange leveraged partnerships with Civicorps, Alameda County StopWaste, MetWest High School, Lao Family Community Development, Success Centers, Jewish Vocational Service, and Oakland Unified School District to place paid interns at our warehouse, our Oakland TecHub, and in other roles. Our team loved working alongside these bright young people!

All interns received valuable on-the-job training and perks like TechTalks with employees at local tech companies. As a refinement, in 2023-24, the program's curriculum was re-aligned to prepare interns to take a professional technical certification exam, with exam fees sponsored by Tech Exchange.

Over the years, Tech Exchange has trained over 350 interns and proudly hired several as part of our professional team.

"Tech Exchange has allowed me to gain real-life experiences. Since [my internship], I have been able to work hands-on with real data and make an impact in my community."

> Ashley Pablo 23-24 Data and Salesforce Intern

# 33 Interns9,441 Intern hours

Tech Exchange collaborated with partners to provide workforce development for youth like these interns from MetWest High School in Oakland.

# 2023-2024 INTERNS

A new device is

Edgar Alvarez Joshua Avalos Mario Benitez Jamaru Burton Gilmour Castillo Alfeu Clements Derek Dieu Ryan Doe Kevin Dollar Myles Douglas Jeremiah Eugenio Evelyn McLeod Akira Humphrey Alex Longuele Luis Miramontes Lopez Destiny Luong Mariyana Goodley Guillermo Martinez Alexis McMurrian Zacharia Nasser Ashley Pablo Muluk Ollin Leon Perley Chyu Yawai Phyo Noel Pulgarin Adrian Ramos Axcel Ramos Mario Hernandez Salgado Kaleb Strong Lin Tsai Jonathan Vazquez Jose Vigil Alejandro Villalbazo Jeremy Zamora

Funding for this project has been provided in part through grants from Alameda County StopWaste, Sustainable Grantmaking Partners Fund, the Miranda Lux Foundation, and other donors.

# 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

### 100+ Community Events Attended



In the South Bay, our Fall 2023 Back To School Laptop Drive with Meriwest Credit Union and Wild 94.9 collected used computers and gave away devices at a Sunnyvale event. Tech Exchange later distributed 25 refurbished laptops to San José youth at MACLA's Teen Tech Center.

> 6,742 Devices Distributed

Tech Exchange got into the holiday spirit at the 15th Annual Fruitvale Posada in December. Our team connected with Oaklanders at the beloved community event, distributing free computers and sharing resources.



# **2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS**

### 642 Digital Skills Learners



### 75+ Program and Advocacy Partners

"The day before graduation, we surprised 25 seniors with the [Tech Exchange] laptops. To say that they were thrilled would be an understatement. They gasped, looked around in disbelief and then a few started crying...These graduates head to college this fall and having these devices makes a big impact. All of them said they wouldn't have been able to get a computer on their own and were extremely grateful for the amazing gift."

**Trine Gallegos, Antioch High School** 



Tech Exchange continued to advocate for digital equity throughout the year. Working with partners like and California #OaklandUndivided Emerging Technology Fund. our leadership offered expert insight about the digital divide in Sacramento and at regional conferences in Oakland, San Francisco. and San José.

# **GOALS AND FINANCIALS**

Tech Exchange is committed to closing the digital divide, now and in the future. In the year ahead, we will...

- Hire additional multilingual instructors and tech support staff to work directly with community members
- Expand our workforce development program to offer more internships and certification tracks
- Strengthen partnerships with schools, libraries, and other community organizations to provide consistent digital inclusion services in six Bay Area counties
- Develop our volunteer program, and recruit new members to our Board of Directors.

We hope you will join us on our digital equity mission!

In FY23-24, Tech Exchange operated with a budget of \$2,940,581. The year began in July 2023 under the fiscal sponsorship of Oakland Public Education Fund and shifted by October 2023 to incorporate as a fully independent nonprofit. Please contact us if you have questions or to request a full financial statement.



### INCOME

37% Government Funding
23% Social Enterprise Sales
21% Foundations & Corporations
13% Contracted Services
6% Individual Donors & Other



### **EXPENSE**

44% Programs - Salaries35% Programs - Other10% Fundraising13% Admin & Overhead

Certificate

# **TECH EXCHANGE TEAM**

Tech Exchange is proud of our dedicated and diverse team. In 2023-24, our staff worked together to grow our organization and meet the digital inclusion needs of our community in six counties. Our staff members, interns, and volunteers reside in the San Francisco Bay Area and are passionately committed to serving our community. Thank you, Tech Exchange team, for your remarkable accomplishments this year!

#### 2023-24 STAFF -

Maybellyne Alferez-Sanchez Samuel Martinez Aristondo Kevin Davenport Claudia Garcia Betty Ha Corey Hadaway Julian Hicks Amy Himes Nakisha Holcombe Dan Huynh

- Jonathan Vazquez Infante Chun Yin Lee Enrique Martinez Henry D. Martinez Jrae Mason Mayra Miranda Ashley Pablo Kemish Quintero Rosales Crecencio Ramirez Esteban Rodriguez
- Amerika Roman Linda Roman Oscar Rosales Chieo Saeteurn Taki Taki Vy Truong Michael Vanevery Johnnie Williams Nicholas Wong Ulises Zatarain

#### 2023-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Best, East Bay Broadband Consortium Christine Fernandez Brocato, CommonSpirit Health Will DeVries, Google Cynthia Mackey (Chair), Winning Strategies

#### **TECH EXCHANGE FOUNDER**

Bruce Buckelew



# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Tech Exchange acknowledges our major partners, equipment donors, and funders, who work side-by-side with our team to close the digital divide in the Bay Area.



### **EQUIPMENT DONORS**



East Bay





GAP



San Iose





AC Transit · Acalanes Union High School District · Alameda County Alameda Free Library · Alameda Health System · Aleph Incorporated · AppDirect Associated Lighting Representatives · Atomwise · AUHSD Tech Department Automation Anywhere · Brava Home, Inc. · Sam Burd · Caliber: Beta Academy Caliber: ChangeMakers Academy · California Emerging Technology Fund California Health Care Foundation · Certified Employment Group · Chapter 510 Inc City of Alameda · City of Oakland · City of San José · ClosingTheDivide CMG Financial · Code For America · Colligo Systems LLC · Copper CRM, Inc. Crocker Highlands Elementary  $\cdot$  E2 Consulting  $\cdot$  Engineers, Inc. East Bay Regional Park District · Eastside Arts Alliance San Francisco Planning Department · San José Public Library · Sequoia Simpson Strong-Tie · Social Security Administration · Society of Women Coders Socio Fabrica  $\cdot$  Sonic  $\cdot$  Eli Slim Movers and Hauling  $\cdot$  Family Paths, Inc Family Support Services · Favarger Consulting · Foundation Building Material First 5 Alameda County · Foundation for a College Education · Gap Inc. Gateway Public Schools · GCI · Golden Gate Recreation Center Guidewire  $\cdot$  H&L Partners  $\cdot$  Habitat for Humanity East Bay Harbor House Ministries • Head-Royce School • Heap • Sam Howels IMS Consulting and Expert Services • Institutional Venture Partners (IVP) • Intel International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 21 Intuitive Surgical • Invictus Academy of Richmond • Ketchum • kW Engineering, Inc. L.N. Curtis & Sons, Inc. • Lam Research • Laney College • Lighthouse Charter Splunk · Studylog Systems, Inc · Summit Building Services · SWA Group Synapse Financial Technologies • The Exploratorium • thesecondopinion Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center · Lighthouse Community Public Schools LLHS Tech · Local Language · LTF Excelsior "Casa de Apoyo" Resource Hub Amotz Maimon • Meriwest Credit Union • Mettler-Toledo Rainin, LLC Miramonte High School • Moelis • MTC Bay Area • MV CodeUp Northeastern University · Oakland · Housing Authority · Oakland Public Library Oakland School for the Arts • #OaklandUndivided • Oakland Unified School District Pacific Center for Human Growth • Pacific Workers • PC Professional Inc Perforce Software • Pivot Bio • Port of Oakland • Prospect Sierra • Qualia R3 Studios Landscape Architects · Raymond J. Fisher Middle School · Ripple Labs Saint Mary's College High School • Saint Mary's College of California San Francisco AIDS Foundation • Tilden Preparatory School • Vercel West Contra Costa Unified School District · Wetherby Asset Management World Computer Exchange • WRNS Studio • WSP USA, Inc.

# **SUPPORTERS**

Tech Exchange's refurbished computers, digital skills classes, and tech support programs are made possible by generous donations from individuals, private foundations, corporations and local businesses, and government funders. Every gift changes lives for the students and families we serve.

"Receiving a free laptop is a massive blessing for me as a former foster youth ...who has faced numerous challenges and obstacles throughout my life. Having a reliable laptop enables me to access online course materials, complete assignments, and communicate with professors and classmates more efficiently.

[This laptop] provides me with the necessary tools to succeed academically and reach my goals, despite the hardships I have faced. I am grateful for any support that can help me on my educational journey, and receiving a free laptop is a game-changer for me as I transition to a new chapter in my life at SFSU. Thank you Tech Exchange!"

Mariela, High School Graduate Class of 2024

### 2023-24 DONORS

### \$100,000+

Broadband Adoption Account of the California Advanced Services Fund, a program administered by the California Public Utilities Commission

Contra Costa County Innovation Fund  $\,\cdot\,$  #OaklandUndivided

### \$10,000-\$99,999

AT&T/ AT&T Foundation · California Emerging Technologies Fund · Firedoll Foundation KLA-Tencor Foundation · Miranda Lux Foundation · San José Public Library Foundation Solano County Department of Information Technology · StopWaste Mark & Susan Stutzman · Sustainable Grantmaking Partners Fund

### \$1,000-\$9,999

AppDirect · Linda & Edward Best · Alex Cox · Digitunity · Arti Garg · Google · Intel Foundation Cynthia Mackey · David Ordal · Shelby Solomon · Birrel Walsh

### \$250-\$999

Jonathan Adams • Postoria Aguirre • Daniel Ahlquist • Apple Inc Christine Fernandez Brocato • Norm & Jo Budman • Will DeVries & Joyce Wu Naomi Ginsberg • Matt Gainsborough • Hamilton Zanze Real Estate Investments Hewlett Packard Enterprises Foundation • Donna Medeiros • Ross Stores Foundation Matt & Lauren Ruhstaller • Bryn Smith • Claire & Craig Wildman • Philip G. Williams • Ulises Zatarian

### Up to \$249

Amin Amat · Lee Aurich · Elaina Briant · David Caven · Kathleen Ciaccio · Patricia Clark Aaron Clements · Elizabeth Redman Cleveland · Pamela Covington · Roy Crisman Emily Cronbach · Albert Davis · Cinthia Diaz · R.P. Eachus · Kathy Emam Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco · Anastasia Ferratti · Megan Frantz · Al Glenn Carol Haberberger · Stayce Harris · Karen Preacely Hicks · Amy Himes & George S. Gemette Albert Hong · ImmersivEdge Advisors · Intel Involved · Lisa Johns · Clennita Justice Lam Research · Roberta Lang · Robert Latham · Monty Lee · Alberta Maged · Betty Marvin Terri O'Connor · Amy Palke · Margaret Petersen · Aristoteles Pritsopoulos · Deborah Ramirez Lynn Reddrick · Eric Reed · Jo Anne Rhodes · Donna Robinson · Paul Rohrbach · Marcus Rooney Lydia Ropp · Salesforce · Susan Schacher · Deborah Schwager · Nadine Scott · Sylvia Smith Peter Straus · Zachary Struyk · Michael Thompson · Sarah Threlfall · Kyle Tom · Michael Wenzler

Tech Exchange is deeply grateful to the above donors for their generosity in 2023-2024. If you have questions about your donation, or if would like to make a change to your listing, please email community@techexchange.org. Thank you!

# **GET INVOLVED: HOW TO PLUG IN**



You or your employer can make a big impact by donating retired devices to fuel our refurbishment process. If you are affiliated with a company that periodically replaces its computers, get connected with Tech Exchange! We can solve your e-waste problem and help your corporation meet its sustainability goals while closing the digital divide.

Learn more at **techexchange.org/equipmentdonations**, or schedule a pickup of 20+ devices at pickup.techexchange.org. Got just a few laptops? Individuals can drop off items at our TecHub or make arrangements with our staff. Your old computers will get a new life in the hands of the Bay Area individuals who need them most.

As part of our e-waste diversion effort, Tech Exchange regularly refurbishes equipment that is not suitable for our digital inclusion programs. Nonprofits and community members can purchase devices through our social enterprise on our <u>eBay site</u> or by contacting us directly. All proceeds support Tech Exchange's refurbishment and digital inclusion efforts. Email <u>devices@techexchange.org</u> to talk more about donating or purchasing devices.

# VOLUNTEER



Join Tech Exchange's growing corps of volunteers! We're seeking communityminded individuals and groups who want to make a difference. A variety of ongoing done-in-a-day opportunities and are available at our Oakland TecHub, our warehouse, and at classes and events throughout the Bay Area. In addition, volunteers can serve in remote positions, supporting our outreach and admin efforts. Tech Exchange also seeks candidates for service on our volunteer Board of Directors and Committees.

> Learn more at techexchange.org/volunteer, or email us at volunteer@techexchange.org.

### **DONATE OR SPONSOR**

As a community-based organization, we rely on financial support from individuals, private foundations, local business and corporations, and government funders. Donations and sponsorships in all amounts are greatly appreciated, and make it possible for Tech Exchange to bring our refurbished devices and multilingual tech services to Bay Area families.

Tech Exchange's individual donors teamed up with volunteers from Google to install a new teen computer lab at the Mayfair Community Center in San José.



You can make a tax-deductible gift at <u>techexchange.org/donate</u>, or mail your check to PO Box 27422, Oakland, CA, 94602. Questions? Please email us at <u>community@techexchange.org</u>.



### **CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME.**

CONNECT www.techexchange.org • (510) 866-2260 SERVICES support@techexchange.org VOLUNTEER volunteer@techexchange.org DONATE OR PARTNER community@techexchange.org

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