The Patterson Foundation created its Digital Access for All initiative to explore, educate, and engage sectors working to enhance access to technology that connects people in ways that foster inclusion and well-being.

**Beyond The Blog Podcast: Digital Access for All with Cheri Coryea**

In this podcast, Cheri Coryea, interviewed by Alexa Carr, provides a brief overview of The Patterson Foundation’s Digital Access for All initiative. This podcast touches on the three essential elements of digital access: connectivity, devices, and skills and support training. This podcast also shares ways listeners can learn more and become more engaged with the DA4A initiative. [Listen or watch the podcast here.](#)

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**The GAP**

**Suncoast Remake Learning Days**

April 20–May 4, 2024
To optimize and amplify impact, The Patterson Foundation supports efforts to close The Gap—the unfortunate gap between individuals and families connected to affordable internet, devices (desktop, laptop, tablet), and digital skills training and those who are not. The February/March issue of The Gap Report shares exciting updates on DA4A’s enrollment event during Study Away week and updates on ACP’s window.

Read more here.

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**ACP Consumer Survey**

In December 2023, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) surveyed Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) recipients to enhance their understanding of the program's impact and how its end may impact access to broadband services. Survey respondents were also allowed to submit written responses to our questions about how losing ACP support would impact them.

- Many said they would "take money from other bills" or "cut other basic expenses," like food or gas, if "their monthly internet bill were $30 higher." Many other respondents said they would "go without" the internet or have to "drop the service."
- Over two-thirds of survey respondents (68%) reported they had inconsistent or no internet service prior to ACP. The majority of this group cited affordability as the reason for having inconsistent or no service (80%).
- More than three-quarters (77%) of the survey respondents say losing their ACP benefit would disrupt their service by making them change their plan or drop internet service entirely.

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From Saturday, April 20, 2024, through Saturday, May 4, 2024, Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties will have a free regional learning festival. Join us and celebrate the joy of adults and children learning side by side, all while embracing curiosity and wonder!

Click here to view over 300 events, their dates and times, and to plan which events you will attend this year!

On mobile, click here to download the app.

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**National Philanthropy Scan Share Recap**

From October 2022 to June 2023, The Patterson Foundation (TPF) and The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading co-hosted a series of eight virtual funder-to-funder workshops to connect and share digital learning. Three hundred forty-three people attended, representing 32 states. TPF published a report in September 2023, “Pathways Forward: Learnings and Takeaways in Digital Access,” sharing key takeaways from those workshops. Read the report here.

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DeSoto County’s Communications Survey
Note: The ACP stopped accepting new applications and enrollments on February 7, 2024. April 2024 is the last fully funded month of the program.

Digital Access Hosts an Enrollment Event During Study Away Week (March 11 to March 15, 2024)

Through a collaboration with The Patterson Foundation and Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, "TPF Immersive Impact: Through Engagement and Consulting" provides undergraduate and graduate students attending Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy a professional growth opportunity using The Patterson Foundation's initiatives. This semester-long course culminates with a weeklong spring Study Away experience at The Patterson Foundation in Sarasota, Florida. IU Students Aimee Tapeceria, Ericia Henry, Kimberly Hestermann, and Olivia Covington were assigned to work with Digital Access for All. As consultants for the week, they provided strategic expertise and enhanced DA4A’s goals, especially related to The Gap. On Monday, March 11th, DA4A hosted an enrollment event, and digital navigators who had completed TPF’s Digital Navigator Program offered onsite assistance to eligible individuals and families.

The Patterson Foundation (TPF) and MagnifyGood conducted the DeSoto County Communications Survey from February through March. The survey aimed to answer the following questions: 1) Where do DeSoto County residents find information about their community? 2) Does age make any difference? 3) Does language make any difference? 4) How easy is it to find information?

Separate versions of the survey were produced in English and Spanish. A total of 337 respondents were included in the results: 284 from the English version and 53 from the Spanish. One key finding from the survey is that the top three sources for finding information in DeSoto are Facebook (62%), Shopping Guides (45%), and Church (37%). Review a PowerPoint of all the survey results here. Results will be used to inform how TPF communicates with DeSoto residents and identify ways for communications to be strengthened in DeSoto County.

Meeting a Suncoast Digital Navigator: Brent Giangregorio

Brent Giangregorio has been involved with the Digital Navigator Program since the Women's
**Henry's blog here**, the newest member of TPF's Fellows Program, about her Study Away experience.

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**Digital Navigator Cyber Security Training (Hosted by Goodwill Charlotte County)**

In May, Suncoast Digital Navigators will work on obtaining their Cisco Cybersecurity 101 certificates in a session facilitated by The Patterson Foundation Digital Navigator Program consultant Maribel Martinez. “Thanks to support from The Patterson Foundation and to our host, Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, we are excited to gather in person to support the continued professional growth of digital navigators, especially since internet and computer safety are so important for new adopters of technology as well as for those with limited digital literacy skills,” said Martinez. In addition to this in-person session, Suncoast Digital Navigators can also take the free course on their own. “Not everyone is comfortable learning online, but for those who are, we have made that option available. Combined with future graduates of the in-person session, we hope to soon celebrate new Cisco-certified Digital Navigators in the region,” added Martinez.

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Do you have a resource or idea to share with the community? Is there a national, regional, or local effort you'd like us to know about or feature in future publications? Contact DA4A at digitalaccess@thepattersonfoundation.org to be considered. 

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The Women's Resource Center volunteered to form part of the pilot in 2021. Read on to follow his career growth and the impacts of digital navigation at his nonprofit.

The Women's Resource Center joined The Patterson Foundation's Digital Navigator Pilot Program in 2021. High demand for affordable internet, devices, and computer training necessitated recruiting and upskilling more digital navigators, which I facilitated as our Client Services Coordinator.

After being promoted to Client Services Manager, we shifted to providing 1:1 computer tutoring. This enhanced clients’ confidence in technology and enabled them to take advantage of technology-driven programming to improve their wellbeing. Our wrap-around services proved invaluable as clients sought ways to become more self-sufficient.

Now as Director of Client Services, the results we've achieved are impressive, with 88% of clients reporting goal progress. As the program evolves, efforts continue to provide affordable internet access, computing devices, and digital literacy skills training. Over 500 digital navigator sessions have been conducted, with 92% of participants reporting they've obtained the necessary tools and resources they needed and 94% expressing satisfaction with the program.