The Patterson Foundation (TPF) created its Digital Access for All (DA4A) initiative to explore, educate, and engage sectors working to enhance access to technology that connects people in ways that foster inclusion and well-being.

Computers Remain Out of Reach for Millions — Computer Recycling

Like today’s cars and appliances, computers are made with planned obsolescence, and refurbished devices are often the only economically viable option for many people who need a computing device.

Refurbished computers are received, inspected, repaired, and redistributed. This cycle generally means a computer will take six months to be placed in a new owner’s hands.

Computer refurbishers depend on businesses and the general public for a steady supply of computers. Office moves, company mergers, and the start of fiscal years are typically when corporations refresh their computers. However, companies frequently do not resell or recycle their unwanted

Digital Navigators Connect Onsite

In March 2022, Digital Navigators from Women's Resource Center, part of the first cohort of The Patterson Foundation's Digital Navigator Program, hosted second cohort agencies from Easterseals SWFL and Goodwill SWFL onsite to learn and grow their digital navigation initiatives together. It was also the first time I met face-to-face with Digital Navigators I trained virtually in 2021 and 2022!

In May 2022, we set time aside once again to connect at Goodwill SWFL’s Community Resource Center location in Ft. Myers. This time, we expanded on our work by including this location as a learning lab for Digital Navigators to practice "on the fly" outreach skills with Goodwill's patrons.
computers for different reasons.

So how can businesses and the general public do better to ensure computers have the chance at another life with people who desperately need them?

**Discover How**

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**Build, Code, Go!**

On May 7, 2022, [#BuildCodeGo](#BuildCodeGo) created the space for five families to bring home a new computer they built together and connected it to an affordable (and in some cases, free!) home broadband connection. For each of these hardworking, appreciative families, it was a chance to glimpse through a window of new opportunities for every family member.

In all, about 20 people learned new tech vocabulary, experienced the inner workings of a personal computer, understood how code makes music, art, and educational games, and made the connection between productivity tools and their daily lives. Computers and the internet have a multiplier effect. Where some see sticker shock, others see an investment in education, workforce development, health and wellness, civic engagement, economic mobility, and prosperity.

Now, the students in these five households have a computer they can use in and out of the classroom so they will not fall behind their peers.

Before practicing our cold pitch skills with shoppers, we gathered at Goodwill's public computer lab to tackle the team's recent challenges when trying to complete applications for affordable internet. Talking through particular enrollment situations face-to-face is a rare opportunity, and we were thrilled to strategize and create workarounds. No two digital navigation applications are ever the same, so this time to talk through and role play was valuable.

**Meet Our New DA4A Team Member, Deb Sakellarios**

Deb Sakellarios works as a managing director at the Robin Hood Foundation, New York’s largest poverty-fighting organization. Over its 25 year history, Robin Hood has distributed more than $1.25 billion to hundreds of New York City-based soup kitchens, homeless shelters, schools, job training programs, and other vital services that give New York’s neediest citizens the tools they need to build better lives for themselves and their families.

In this role, Deb leads the capacity-building team to diagnose and develop solutions to the management needs of grant recipients, sets priorities for the implementation of these projects, and conducts successful interventions.
wealthier peers. And who knows? Perhaps the next disruptive innovator’s curiosity was awakened that afternoon at #BuildCodeGo.

Prior to joining Robin Hood, she served as senior campus strategic services associate at Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life. There, she worked on board...

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**Meet Our New DA4A Team Member, Lauren Turner**

Lauren was born and raised in Sarasota, FL. After graduating from high school, Lauren went to Vanderbilt University, where she double majored in Human and Organizational Development and Vocal Performance, earning her Bachelor of Science degree. Knowing she wanted to begin her career in the nonprofit arts arena, she obtained a Master of Arts in Arts Administration with a concentration in development at Savannah College of Art & Design in Atlanta. Before coming to The Patterson Foundation, Lauren worked for many years as the Manager of Individual Giving at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and most recently as a Development Officer in the Advancement Department at Ringling College of Art and Design.

Her main interests and hobbies include anything musical -- opera, broadway, playing piano and guitar. She’s passionate about giving back to the community and building meaningful relationships.

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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.

@ThePattersonFdn

#DigitalAccessforAll