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## Digital Access for All

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.

### Suncoast Digital Inclusion Month by Karen Stewart



The Patterson Foundation's [Digital Access for All](#) (DA4A) initiative celebrates Suncoast Digital Inclusion Month (SDIM) in October 2023. Collaborating with Digital Navigator Program agencies, The GAP, Aspirations To Actions, [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) engagers, and others, a series of digital inclusion events are being implemented to raise awareness of the digital divide and help increase internet, devices, and digital skills adoption in Charlotte, Desoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. Suncoast Digital Inclusion Month is supported by the DA4A and TPF team, including Kellie Alexander, Avery Crews Prado de Lima, Andrew Spector, and Stacy Sternberg.

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### Pathways Forward: Learnings and Takeaways in Digital Access

We're excited to share "Pathways Forward: Learnings and Takeaways in Digital Access," a National Philanthropy Scan report written as a follow-up to a series of eight Funder-to-Funder Workshops The Patterson Foundation co-hosted with the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading from October 2022 – June 2023.

The report summarizes each workshop and highlights takeaways. Emerging themes include the value of creating space for learning, sharing, and connecting around digital access; the importance of multi-sector and multi-organization collaboration; the role of systems-level and long-term approaches, including policy and advocacy as well as ecosystem building; strategic use of data and measurement; and the intersections between digital access and other key issue areas like healthcare and education.

[Read the Report](#)

[The Gap Update](#)

## Mapping the Future of Digital Access: Takeaways from Florida's Broadband Summit by Alexa Carr



**"Over 50% of Florida children in poverty live in 15% of Florida zip codes. Access to the internet is the number one correlation with childhood policy."**

Kyle Baltuch from the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation shared these statistics at the 2023 Florida Broadband Summit to highlight the necessity of digital access. The room was filled with Florida policymakers, nonprofit leaders who work in digital access spaces, and broadband providers—all of the people who could help truly get digital access to everyone in Florida. Dive into the four themes she noticed during the conference: the importance of contextualizing mapping, the necessity of intertwining cybersecurity training into digital access initiatives, a broader understanding of digital access as it applies to the entire workforce, and the importance of community collaboration in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) rollout.

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## An Essential Element of Digital Access: Having the Right Device by Kellie Alexander



To optimize and amplify impact, The Patterson Foundation (TPF) has initiated The Gap to close the ACP eligibility and enrollment gap in the Suncoast to ensure those eligible for ACP are taking advantage of it.

This month's Gap report shares how the team continues to grow and evolve, with Aileen Peña and Kelli Karen Smith assuming administrative roles related to event coordination, management, and outreach. ACP Engagers shared helpful tips during our monthly support meeting, including collaboration, flexibility, and resourcefulness. Lastly, we're in the process of training five ACP Engagers to become digital navigators in October.

## The Gap Monthly Report

## October's Devices Drive for the Sarasota Technology Users Group (STUG) by Avery Crews Prado De Lima



Here in the Suncoast Region, October is Suncoast Digital Inclusion Month, and we plan to celebrate all 31 days!

This year, the DA4A team is holding a Devices Drive for the Sarasota Technology Users Group's (STUG) Refurb Project in October. STUG is a



Kellie Alexander's first job in high school was summer tech help with the technology team at her school. While she didn't know much, as they still had dial-up internet at home, she told herself it had to be better than washing school buses. Her public school had just purchased Chromebooks, and the tech team was tasked with setting up each device with administrative features, firewall protection, and other necessary items. For the next few summers, she fixed computer bugs, ensured Chromebook updates, and cycled old devices with new ones. Reflecting, she realizes how grateful she was to have received that opportunity and how fast the device landscape evolved. [Kellie's blog emphasizes the importance of people having a device to connect to the rest of the world, the news, their jobs, and their education.](#)

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501(c)(3) nonprofit that refurbishes the tech equipment for placement in areas of need.

In a recent visit with STUG, Mike Hutchinson shared that since 2004, more than 20,000 computers have been refurbished and donated to community members needing devices. STUG accepts computers, monitors, tablets, and peripherals (hard drives, CD/DVD readers/writers, and other computer items) on the Windows or Apple platforms. These devices are then refurbished, repurposed for parts to repair other devices, or sold for scrap to fund the mission of STUG.

You can participate in this donation drive for STUG in many ways! If you have any questions, [please email TPF Fellow Avery Crews Prado de Lima.](#)

[Discover Drop-Off Locations](#)

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](mailto:digitalaccess@thepattersonfoundation.org) to be considered.

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