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.

**Sarasota County Libraries Receive Funding to Conduct Digital Literacy Trainings**

By Heather Gorman, Digital Services Supervisor at Sarasota County Government

Sarasota County Libraries is among over 160 public libraries nationwide awarded funding by the Public Library Association (PLA) to conduct digital literacy workshops using DigitalLearn.org resources. The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive, supported by AT&T, supports libraries of all sizes to conduct digital literacy training in their communities and help close the digital divide.

Heather Gorman, Digital Services Supervisor, stated, “the grant funds will be used to help purchase a set of devices to teach digital literacy classes to patrons using PLA’s DigitalLearn.org site. Staff is very excited to host workshops and one-on-

**Hurricane Ian Emphasizes the Importance of Digital Access**

By Cheri Coryea

Just 30 miles south of Sarasota, Hurricane Ian decided to turn a perfectly beautiful part of the Gulf Coast of Florida into a path of destruction that leaves us doubting Mother Nature’s real meaning. Days after Hurricane winds died down, the wrath and surge of water devastated communities in our region like North Port, Port Charlotte, Myakka City, and Arcadia.

Prior to the Hurricane, residents used everyday technology like cell phones, computers, tablets, and big-screen televisions to stay connected and follow the storm projections. Connectivity helps you to prepare for the upcoming weather emergency, follow the storm’s path through newscasts, and communicate with your family, friends, and coworkers. Thinking about those who don’t have connectivity on a regular day brings me back to the importance of stable, reliable connectivity. Below, our DA4A team shares their experiences...
one sessions on cyber security, email basics, tablet how-to's, and more! To learn more about signing up for classes, please call us at 941-861-1110 or visit us online at scgov.net/library.

"The mission of libraries has always been about equitable access to information, literacy, learning, and culture. In the age of COVID-19, this mission has only become vital as libraries have played a critical role in keeping communities connected and online," said PLA President Maria McCauley. "A 2020 PLA survey found that about 88% of public libraries provide some form of digital literacy support, but only 42% offer formal classes. Staffing and funding were the top barriers to providing technology training. AT&T’s investment with PLA and public libraries nationwide will boost access to digital literacy skills for the most vulnerable in our communities."

PLA’s free training site, DigitalLearn.org, helps community members build skills and confidence using technology. Sarasota County Libraries will help patrons utilize these resources in an upcoming in-person workshop at select locations throughout the coming months. More details will be announced on scgov.net/library soon.

Cheri Coryea Presents at the Indiana Philanthropic Conference (Sept. 26 - Sept. 29)

Fall is a beautiful reminder of the change in the midwest, and DA4A was honored to present "More Than Money, Digital Access for All Beyond the Check" as a change agent in the world of philanthropy at the Indiana Philanthropic Alliance in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over 200 funders, mainly consisting of foundations of all shapes and sizes throughout Indiana, gathered around access and connectivity during Hurricane Ian and how they managed to regain their connectivity.

Connecting, Collaborating, & Strengthening at The Veterans Resource Fair

By Todd Hughes, Goodwill Manasota’s Veteran Services Program Manager

On Friday, November 4th, at Goodwill Manasota’s Veteran Services, The Patterson Foundation, in partnership with Goodwill Manasota and Sarasota Technology User Group (STUG), offered onsite assistance to eligible veterans and survivors. Attendees received help enrolling in the Affordable Connectivity Program from Digital Navigators, IT support for their devices from Sarasota County Government personnel, devices from STUG, and additional assistance from other agencies. Read Todd’s blog to learn more about the event

DA4A’s special thanks to Deb Sakellarios and Kellie Alexander for taking the lead in planning the Veterans Connect event; Todd Hughes and his team for assisting with the registration and serving as our main contact at Goodwill Manasota Veterans Services; Jake Strawn and his team from Sarasota County Government for providing IT support; and for our Digital Navigators — Anthony Gagliano supervising his team Samuel Melchor, Benjamin Vanderneck, and Angel
for the first in-person conference in two years. The four-day conference didn’t disappoint. It was a reminder that innovation fuels dynamic opportunities and that philanthropy can bring value that stretches beyond the money.

The Patterson Foundation’s National Philanthropy Scan Workshop #2: Multi-Sector Collaborations in Digital Access -- Nobody Said It Would Be Easy

On Monday, December 5, 2022 (12:30p-1:45p EST), DA4A will host its next Multi-Sector Collaborations in Digital Access workshop. A couple of years ago, a group of visionary leaders in Palm Beach County, Florida, came together to find shared aspirations and forge a path forward in confronting the challenges of Digital Access and Inclusion in their region. They recognized the overwhelming need for access and connectivity to high-speed internet in the county and began to ponder what was possible. As there is great power in a strategic partnership, they united to address the challenge of building infrastructure to connect residents of the county who lacked connectivity to high-speed internet.

The Palm Beach Digital Inclusion Initiative is an undertaking that is both ambitious and quite remarkable. At the national level, it’s rare to find such large collaborations spanning all sectors (for-profit, nonprofit, and government) addressing Digital Access and Inclusion needs on a unified front. The challenge typically lies in getting buy-in from the many organizations, agencies, and funders to embark on such a sizeable philanthropic endeavor.

Our next Funder Workshop will feature the following leaders from The Palm Beach Digital Inclusion Initiative who are raising the bar in what’s possible:

- Randy Scheid, Chief Strategy Officer, Quantum Foundation
- Judith Fletcher, Grants Manager, The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation
- James S. Gavrilos, President and CEO, Education Foundation of Palm Beach County
- Windley (CareerSource Suncoast), Brent Giangregorio (Women’s Resource Center), and Lucero Guzman (UnidosNow); and the full DA4A team for their support and expertise in planning, supporting, and executing DA4A’s second enrollment event.

Impact of Digital Inclusion on Communities: Young Adults By Maribel Martinez
Does it seem like kids today have a keen intuition about technology? Are they born knowing what to do with a computer? In the second installment of this blog series, The Impact of Digital Inclusion on Communities, Maribel Martinez explores the experiences of young people from disadvantaged communities in the context of digital inclusion, how those early opportunities shape future education and work prospects, and how today’s labor market expectations may influence mobility and wealth for generations to come.
Join us for one of two Keynotes in DeSoto County and Sarasota County. After the keynote, stay to receive a signed copy of his books “Stepping Forward” and “Unleashed.”

Register Here

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

The [ACP](https://www.fcc.gov/acp) provides a discount of $30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to $100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than $10 and less than $50 toward the purchase price. See the table below for ACP enrollment state and local data. County information is updated quarterly. Find additional ACP enrollment data [here](https://www.fcc.gov/states).

**ACP Enrollment and Claims Tracker**

| Total Enrolled Households Nationally (As of November. 7, 2022) | 14,796,405 (†16.43%; Previously 12,708,795 on 7.4.22) |
| Total Households in Florida (As of November. 7, 2022) | 1,060,922 (†18.04%; Previously 898,754 on 7.4.22) |
| Total Subscribers in Charlotte County (As of October 1, 2022) | 4,044 (†3.83%; Previously 3,895 on September 1, 2022) |
| Total Subscribers in DeSoto County (As of October 1, 2022) | 973 (†5.88%; Previously 919 on September 1, 2022) |
| Total Subscribers in Manatee County (As of October 1, 2022) | 17,620 (†3.78%; Previously 16,979 on September 1, 2022) |
| Total Subscribers in Sarasota County (As of October 1, 2022) | 7,301 (†4.87%; Previously 6,962 on September 1, 2022) |
| Total Subscribers in Suncoast (As of October 1, 2022) | 29,938 (†4.11%; Previously 28,755 on September 1, 2022) |

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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