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

Bridging the Digital Divide with Strong Partnerships

By Lori Gentile, Women's Resource Center

When The Patterson Foundation invited the Women's Resource Center to participate in the Digital Navigator Program, we jumped at the chance. The program supports two critical priorities for WRC, helping to close the digital divide and building partnerships to best support women and families in our community.

The Digital Navigator Program trains local organizations to connect asset-limited families and individuals with opportunities to obtain digital

Ever-Evolving DA4A recognizes Jake Hartvigsen and a New Team Member!

When DA4A began its exploration phase in June 2020, we looked for talented team members who excelled in engaging our region. Jake Hartvigsen brought creative elements and the ability to craft messaging that multiple audiences could understand. He leaves us in a few short weeks to begin his new chapter as the Associate Director of Marketing for WEDU, the PBS station in our region. We are excited to watch him work his magic alongside Cookie Monster, Elmo, and Big Bird, and we know DA4A will have a partner in the community. As we wish Jake the best, DA4A welcomes Michael Zimmerman to the team!

Michael Zimmerman joined The Patterson Foundation as its fifth fellow in September 2021. Hailing from Brooklyn, NY, Michael brings a
connectivity, devices, skills, and support. Through a series of trainings, implementation meetings, and knowledge-sharing sessions with other nonprofits, consultants help participants embed the responsibilities of the digital navigator into the organization’s daily work and culture.

Robust understanding of innovative philanthropy earned through his extensive academic and professional career. Michael earned his Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with foci in Latin America and the Middle East from Elon University. Fluent in Spanish, Michael began his career in the for-profit sector, endeavoring to Panama for his first role out of undergrad. Three years into his role, Michael quickly realized his passion for philanthropy and subsequently moved his career to the nonprofit sector.

Michael is thrilled to be working alongside colleagues inspired by new and innovative models of philanthropy that seek to address our community’s most pressing concerns. Learn more about Michael [here](#).

Join Michael on Twitter: [@MichaelJZim](#)

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Bridging the Digital Divide with Strong Partnerships

October 4–8 marked the sixth annual celebration of National Digital Inclusion Week, and the DA4A team did its part to help raise awareness about the importance of digital equity and access in various meaningful and fun ways.

NEW! Video Guide to the Digital Access Services Matrix

This quick video guide shows how organizations and agencies can navigate the new Digital Access Services Matrix. The Digital Access Services Matrix is a resource tool designed by and created for nonprofit organizations, schools, libraries, and other human service providers along Florida’s Suncoast. Using the Digital Access Services Matrix, organizations can identify digital access resources and potential partners to help them meet their constituents’ needs.
Throughout the week, members of our team were busy tweeting and sharing information in English and Spanish about low-cost internet options, bridging the digital divide for students and older adults, how to find affordable digital devices, and where to go for the digital skills and literacy training needed to thrive in today’s world.

We even partnered with our colleagues at The Patterson Foundation to hold an entertaining contest where people shared photos of their favorite digital devices, both past and present (see photo). Remember the Walkman?

View our Wakelet with highlights from the week [here](#).

See how others around the country celebrated by viewing the NDIA blog [here](#).

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**Resource Library Spotlight: Planning a Community Broadband Roadmap: A Toolkit for Local and Tribal Governments by The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)**

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is an agency advising the president on telecommunications and information policy issues. NTIA’s BroadbandUSA team provides advice, resources, and tools on broadband adoption and expansion. This publication offers local and tribal governments guidance to create a Community Broadband Roadmap through six key steps. You can read this resource [here](#).

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**Easily Examine Digital Divide Data Today!**

What are internet and computer adoption rates for different income strata in your community? The Digital Navigator Pilot Program offers a tool to easily examine digital divide data today.

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**Digital Navigator Pilot Program Wraps, Insights to Come!**

The first cohort of the Digital Navigator Program sponsored by The...
community? The U.S. Census provides free online tools to understand the digital divide at the national, state, county, and zip code levels. To begin, follow these steps:

1. Visit [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/).
2. Click on “Advanced Search” beneath the search box.
3. Enter “S2801” in the Table ID box, then scroll down.
4. To find the internet adoption rates in Sarasota county, click “Geography,” then select “County” from the Geography column, and select “Florida” from the Within (State) column.
5. A fourth column will open. Choose “Sarasota County” or use the magnifying glass. Click the SEARCH button at the bottom of the page. Table S2801 appears on a new page!

Patterson Foundation has wrapped! After 12 weeks of implementation with eight Digital Navigators from [Goodwill Manasota](https://www.goodwillmanasota.org), [UnidosNow](https://www.unidosnow.org), and [Women’s Resource Center](https://www.womensresourcecenter.org), the Digital Access for All team is excited to announce that it will be sharing pilot data and insights in December.

What does digital navigator training entail? What are the biggest challenges to starting a digital navigation program? Will digital navigation really make a difference?

Digital navigation is a fast-growing job function with a valuable set of skills in today’s world, so don’t miss this opportunity to learn more. Stay tuned for valuable insights into these and other key takeaways.

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**Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Enrollment**

It’s not too late to register for the Emergency Broadband Benefit! Eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or by visiting [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://getemergencybroadband.org).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Enrollment Weekly Nationally (as of October 10, 2021)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Households</strong></td>
<td>7,368,368 (15.41%↑)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Florida</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Households</td>
<td>497,089 (15.82%↑)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Charlotte County</strong></td>
<td>2,319 (16.07%↑)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DeSoto County</strong></td>
<td>656 (16.93%↑)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Manatee County</strong></td>
<td>8,498 (14.17%↑)</td>
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</table>
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