DIGITUNITY®

Digital Equity &
People with Disabilities

Technology connects people with disabilities to the world by building skills, confidence, and connection with others. It is one of the most powerful tools to make it possible to live independently.

THE FACTS

- People with disabilities in the U.S. are less than half as likely as their non-disabled counterparts to own a computer.
- 26% of people in the U.S. have some type of disability.
- People with disabilities are employed at less than 1/3 - 1/2 of the rate of those without disabilities.
- There are nearly 7 million students with disabilities, representing 14% of K-12 students in the U.S.
- Students with a learning disability are three times more likely to drop out of school.

> "For people without disabilities, technology makes things easier. For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible."
>
> - MARY PAT RADABAUGH, NATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

01 Technology is one of the most powerful tools to make it possible to live independently. Providing individuals with disabilities access to technology promotes inclusion and builds life skills.

02 Assistive technology allows people with disabilities to overcome challenges in the classroom and daily life. Specialized assistive technologies like screen reading software, magnification devices, augmentative communication devices aid people with disabilities with verbal communication. Telecommunication relay devices have been used to promote independence and participation.

03 Rapid advances in technology lead to new tools that help people with disabilities thrive in the workplace. An inclusive approach to design is reimagining work environments to the benefit of people with abilities as well.

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SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- [Donate your used technology.](#) Donations may be tax deductible. They can be directed to organizations serving people with disabilities.

- Spread the word about organizations that offer free or low-cost computers, tablets, and other accessories and serve people with disabilities. Some have online stores. Many offer community events for people with disabilities.

- Volunteer with an organization to help individuals with disabilities get access to and use technology so they can receive assistive technology, obtain employment, and overcome barriers that may affect their school or work experience.

One Computer Provides Hope

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DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY NETWORK

These are some organizations serving people with disabilities in Digitunity's nonprofit network working to eliminate the technology gap. For more information about these organizations and others like them, please visit our website.

Alabama
- The Arc of Fayette, Lamar, Marengo, and Jackson Counties

Arkansas
- Conway County Center for Exceptional Children

Arizona
- ACHIEVE Enterprise Services

California
- ACT for Mental Health
- CCS Medical Therapy Unit
- Community Integration Services, Inc.
- Orange County Deaf Advocacy Center
- Support for Families of Children with Disabilities
- The ARC Taft
- UCP: SD Assistive Technology Center
- UCP: Ability Now Bay Area
- Via Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
- Vista Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Colorado
- A Child's Song
- Blue Star Recyclers
- Center for Disabilities
- Southwest Center for Independence

Connecticut
- Bridge House, Inc.
- CT Mental Health Center
- DDS (North Central Region)
- Laurel House
- M.H.A.C. Independence Center
- The Kennedy Center

Delaware
- All The Difference
- Change of Heart Foundation

District of Columbia
- ALS Association - DC/MD/VA Chapter

PC: 2019 Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

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Florida
- Adaptive Technology Solutions
- Angels Reach Academy for Divergent Learners
- BASCA, Inc.
- Coalition for Independent Living
- Disability Achievement Center
- Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida
- Gulf Coast School for Autism
- MacDonald Training Outreach Center
- The Arc of the Glades
- The Arc of Putnam County
- The M.O.R.G.A.N Project

Georgia
- Georgia Options
- Hope Haven of Northeast Georgia
- Working Concepts

Idaho
- Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Illinois
- ATEN-Assistive Technology Exchange Network
- Awareness of Technology for the Elderly, Disabled, & Youth, Inc.
- Barbara Olson Center of Hope
- Center for Sight & Hearing
- Horizons for the Blind
- Little City Mission
- Midwest Brain Injury Clubhouse
- North Center for Handicapped Children
- Second Chance Beyond Vision Loss
- Sertoma Center
- St. Coletta's of Illinois
- Synapse House
- UCP: Center for Disability Services

Indiana
- Easter Seal Crossroads
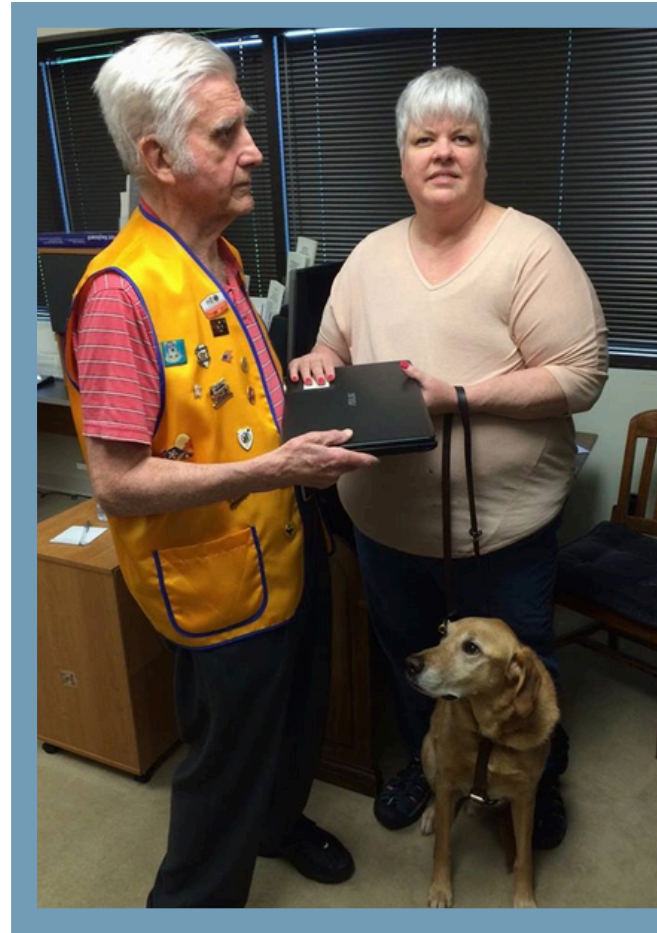- Tradewinds Services

Iowa
- New Horizons Adult Day Center

Kansas
- Inclusion Connections

Louisiana
- LATAN

"Technology can connect people who are blind with the world through building skills, confidence, and connection with others."

Computers for the Blind, TX

Maine
- PSL Services

Maryland
- ALS Association
- Athelas Institute .
- Bay Community Support Services, Inc.
- Belvedere Assisted Living, Inc.
- Maryland Department of Disabilities
- National Children's Center
- Rockville Cottage
- The Arc of Frederick County

Massachusetts
- ARC: EMARC
- Arc of Massachusetts
- Carroll Center for the Blind
- Eliot Community Human Services
- The Children's Center for Communication

Michigan
- Arkay Incorporated
- New Gateways

Minnesota
- Ability Building Center
- Goodwill Easter Seals
- State of MN Rehab Services
- The Phoenix Residence

Missouri
- Adaptive Technology
- ArtsTech
- Community Support Services
- Nova Center
- Special Neighbors

Nebraska
- Duet Foundation

Nevada
- Disability Resources
- Nevada Blind Children's Foundation

New Jersey
- Abilities of Northwest Jersey
- Allegro School
- Alternatives, Inc. - Bridges To Employment
- ARC of Camden County
- Bethel Ridge Corporation

- Community Psychiatric Institute
- The Arc of Monmouth
- The Bridge

New Mexico
- Pathways Academy

New York
- Coalition of Institutionalized Aged & Disabled
- Fountain House, Inc.
- Friends & Families Muscular Disorders Foundation
- Handicapped Children's Association
- Lexington Vocational Services Center, Inc.
- Lifestyles for the Disabled
- Metropolitan Development Center
- Person Centered Care Services
- Resource Center for Independent Living
- Suffolk Independent Living Organization
- The Bridge, Inc.
- UCP: TRAID at Utica
- WNY Independent Living, Inc.
- YAI Network

North Carolina
- Compass Greensboro
- Disability Partners
- IFB Solutions Foundation (A Brighter Path Foundation)
- NC Assistive Technology Program
- NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Ohio
- Assistive Technology of Ohio
- Goodwill Industries of South Central Ohio, Inc.
- Roads to Recovery
- Special Olympics Ohio
- The Arc of Greater Cleveland
- Toward Independence, Inc.
- UCP of Greater Cleveland

Oklahoma
- F7 Work Activity Center

Oregon
- Exceed Enterprise, Inc.
- Northwest Down Syndrome Association

Pennsylvania
- Baker Industries
- Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh
- Erie Homes for Children & Adults, Inc.
- PA Treatment & Healing
- Reagan's Journey
- The Arc of Chester County
- United Cerebral Palsy of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.

Rhode Island
- Refocus

South Carolina
- Pickens County Board of Disabilities/Special Needs
- Touch The Future, Inc.

South Dakota
- Education & Integration Services
- New Horizons

Tennessee
- Breakthrough Corporation
- East Tennessee Technology Access Center, Inc.
- Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc.
- Project A.F.F.I.R.M. C/O Cumberland Mental Health
- Rochelle Center
- Signal Centers Assistive Technology Services
- STAR Center
- TTAP: Tennessee Technology Access Project
- The Arc Mid-South

Texas
- The Arc of the Capital Area
- Computers for the Blind
- Edward Pierce Center for Autism
- Emma's Education Center
- Friends of Down Syndrome
- Hope for Trisomy 13 & 18
- Knowbility
- The Monarch School

Utah
- Advantage Services, Inc.

Vermont
- Another Way, Inc.

Virginia
- Arc of Northern Shenandoah Valley
- Blue Ridge Independent Living Center
- Disabled Veterans Committee on Housing
- Mountain House Psychosocial Rehabilitation Clubhouse
- PRS, Inc. Falls Church
- Resources for Independent Living Inc.
- Reston Drop-In Center, Inc.
- Voice of the Blue Ridge

Washington
- Alpha Supported Living Services
- ESD 112 (Specialized Student Services)
- PAVE
- The Camelot Society

West Virginia
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Blue Ridge Chapter
- SW Resources

Wisconsin
- Independence First Computer Recycling Program
- La Crosse Mental Health Connections Inc.

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About Digitunity

Digitunity's mission is to ensure everyone who needs a computer has one, along with robust internet connectivity and digital skills.

We do this at scale by aligning and connecting multiple organizations and resources needed to help people thrive in our connected society today and in the future.

Digitunity's work has advanced digital inclusion since the 1980s, connecting donors of technology with organizations serving marginalized people in need.

You can also reach us by phone at (203) 863-9100 or send mail to:

Digitunity

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North Conway, NH 03860-5267

Resources & Citations

1 Computer and Internet Use among People with Disabilities.
2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
3 Bureau of Labor Statistics
4 National Center for Education Statistics
5 National Center for Learning Disabilities
6 Nat'l Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders
7 Administration for Community Living

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DIGITUNITY.ORG