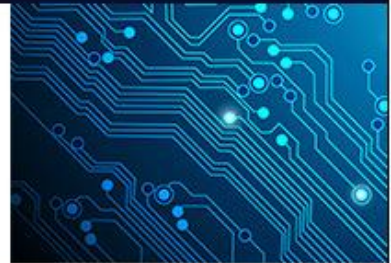


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## Empowerment Through Technology

Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Friend,



October officially marks the beginning of our program year and we are already off to a great start. At the beginning of the month, we received exciting news. Austin Free-Net was awarded a new grant to help veterans in our community get back to work.

Working in partnership with Front Steps, Austin Goodwill, Salvation Army Austin and Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), we will help change the lives of people who have sacrificed so much for our community. Our skilled Trainers will teach these vets computer basics and help them to search for work online, write resumes and cover letters, update their office computer skills and find resources for education. We are excited about the bright future for our veterans!

At Austin Free-Net we're committed to teaching Austin's residents how to use computers and access the Internet so they can support their families, become employed and self-sufficient. With your [support](#) of digital inclusion we can continue to do this.

Sincerely,  
Juanita Budd

[Donate](#)  
[Volunteer](#)  
[Training](#)

### AFN Client Learns Latest Technology to Preserve Memories



James, a regular Austin Free-Net client, needed a digital place to store all his important documents. Already a recipient of a flash drive, during our Flash Drive-A-Thon in February, James visited the DeWitty Center computer lab interested in learning about storing documents on Google Drive, a popular cloud storage service. Our trainer showed James how to use this latest technology to store documents, photos, videos, and

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Thank You Refresh Austin



At the end of September, Refresh Austin raised \$1,000 for Austin Free-Net at their Fall Bash, an annual fun networking event. Refresh Austin is a community of web professionals

whose mission is to put a new spin on the creative, technical and professional culture of web development.

Austin Free-Net executive director, Juanita Budd spoke at this year's event held at Recess Arcade Bar in downtown Austin.

"It was great to meet a group of young professionals from the technology industry excited about supporting digital inclusion in the community and possibly volunteering their skills with Austin Free-Net. We are looking forward to working with members in the future," remarked Ms. Budd. Thank you again, Refresh Austin and event sponsors Help.com and Retailmenot!

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Do you need a CompTIA or Microsoft Certification Test?

Austin Free-Net is now an authorized Pearson Vue testing center for the GED and IT professional certifications. Starting November 2, AFN will provide computer based testing exams in our main computer lab at the DeWitty Center.

Pearson Vue is a global commercial testing company with test centers in 175 countries. The Austin Free-Net Test Center will have access to more than 50 IT Certification tests including C++, Cisco Systems and EMC. We will also be the first Pearson Vue testing site in east Austin.

We are excited about the opportunity to provide our clients digital access to resources that will benefit their future career. You can get started today by [registering for a test](#) on the Pearson Vue web site. If you would like more information about our testing service, please contact us at 512-236-8225.

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Digital Divide News:

Demographics and the Digital Divide

more online. James can now rest assured that a digital copy of a signed photo from his recent visit to the Texas State Capital, along with several other vital documents, is backed up on the cloud.

Support more students like James by making a [donation](#) to AFN or [volunteering](#) today.

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### Eight Days for Housing Coming Soon



Starting October 22, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin will open the waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher program (Section 8) for future residents.

As a community partner site, Austin Free-Net will provide Internet access and assistance with the online application process at five locations in Austin, October 22 - 29.

Please direct applicants to our computer lab at the DeWitty Center, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. or any of our other locations listed on our web site's [HACA Housing information page](#).

Digital Divide News:

Demographics and the Digital Divide

*According to research from Pew Internet, 72% of Hispanic adults own a desktop/laptop computer compared to 80% of White adults. 22% of Hispanic and Black adults do not use the Internet compared to 13% of White adults. —Pew Internet, 2012*

The racial disparity amongst computer users and possible solutions for the digital divide, were two current issues discussed at a recent public forum hosted by The Texas Tribune at the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Austin Free-Net executive director, Juanita Budd participated in the web broadcasted panel discussion with guest speakers Mark Strama, head of Google Fiber in Austin, State Rep. Larry Gonzales and Don Shirley, executive director of Connected Texas. The event was the first of a three part series about how technology is transforming Texas. You can [watch the full panel discussion](#), Demographics and the Digital Divide on The Texas Tribune's website.



Evan Smith, the Tribune's CEO and editor-in-chief moderated the panel discussion with AFN guest speaker Juanita Budd.

AFN Helps Connect Teens to Technology



More than 80 enthusiastic teenagers, gave up their Saturday morning to attend a special technology training event sponsored Google, the City of Austin Youth & Family Services Office and Austin Free-Net. During the half

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### AFN Helps Connect Teens to Technology



More than 80 enthusiastic teenagers, gave up their Saturday morning to attend a special technology training event sponsored Google, the City of Austin Youth & Family Services Office and Austin Free-Net. During the half day event, the students worked in groups and developed a marketing plan to connect organizations in Austin to technology. Austin Free-Net provided 40 laptop computers for the students to access the Internet and develop Power Point marketing presentations.

#### **Empowerment Through Technology**

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