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The Right Click News

May 2015

austinfree.net



Empowerment Through Technology

Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Friend,



May is a month of new beginnings and graduations at Austin Free-Net.

We are excited to announce that we were selected as a participant for Google Fiber's first-ever Digital Inclusion Fellowship. Through the Fellowship program, we'll collaborate with Google

Fiber and the Nonprofit Technology Network (NTEN) to create programs that will bring us a step closer to bridging the digital divide in Austin. Learn more about this dynamic community partnership below.

Next, we want to congratulate our recent group of Tech Starter students that completed the program at the beginning of the month. It is exciting to hear how digital literacy is opening new worlds for them. Read some of the comments from the students below.

We are also proud to announce that Austin Pathways has awarded us a new two-year Tech Starters grant to continue working with residents with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA). This new program will start this summer.

Thank you for your continued support of digital inclusion and the work we do at Austin Free-Net.

Sincerely,
Juanita Budd

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GED and IT Testing

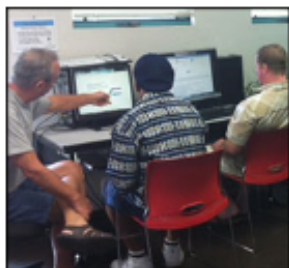
AFN Grateful for Volunteers



We love our volunteers! During national Volunteer Week, April 22 – 26, our volunteer Manager Nancy Green visited all of our Neighborhood Center computer labs and greeted our volunteers with a smile, hug and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Since the beginning of the year, AFN volunteers have donated more than 1,563 hours of service. They are helping people fill out online applications, write professional resumes, find

AFN Selected for Google Fiber's New Digital Inclusion Fellowship



For many reasons, access to the Internet is important to people here in Austin. It can help students complete their homework, allow families to find the right health clinic and connect seniors with their loved ones. Still, many people don't have access to the web. Studies have shown that oftentimes people aren't online because they don't have the skills to use a computer or they don't understand how the Internet can help in their daily lives.

For these reasons we're thrilled to announce our part in the first-ever Digital Inclusion Fellowship in partnership with Google Fiber. Starting today, we're calling for applications to become a fellow with our organization. Our fellow will work on enhancing digital literacy trainings, developing broadband adoption programs for metro Austin, and launching a train-the-trainer model to increase the number of digital literacy trainers.

Read more about the [Digital Inclusion Fellowship](#)



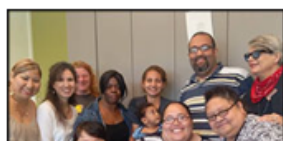
Keeping Austin Employed

Mark your calendar—June 5, 2015. Austin Free-Net is excited to co-host the second Employ & Empower Job Fair at St. David's Episcopal Church. The inaugural event in November 2014 was such a great success that we are working to make this year's event bigger.

The goal of the Job Fair is to provide targeted job readiness training and employment resources for the homeless population in Austin.

Read more about the [2015 Employ & Empower Job Fair](#)

Connecting Families to Opportunity



At the beginning of the year, AFN launched the Tech Starters program, a six week course to help HACA residents gain computer knowledge to empower their lives and the

applications, write professional resumes, find resources for family members and help with AFN events. We want to thank them for helping empower people in their community through technology.

Join our [volunteer team](#).

BGCA and AFN Connect Parents



Josefa is not our typical parent student. She has experience using some computer programs and knows how to monitor her son's activities on the Internet. When she signed up for our class at the Boys and Girls Club at Walnut Creek Middle School, her goal was simple. She wanted to improve her computer skills.

Read more about Josefa and the [BGCA program](#)

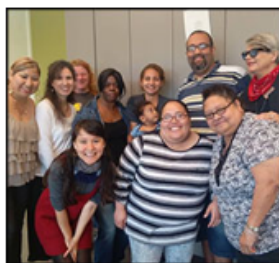
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Connecting Families to Opportunity



At the beginning of the year, AFN launched the Tech Starters program, a six week course to help HACA residents gain computer knowledge to empower their lives and the people around them. Thanks to grant funding from Austin Pathways thirty-seven residents have graduated from this new program. Judging from the responses from

students, the program is connecting families to opportunity.

"I have learned some new google programs that are free to use, and I love them. I was promoted to help out in class. I thank Austin Free-Net for their hard work and dedication on helping out."—Ernesto Resto, Jr.

"Copy and paste helped me communicate with my daughter about her grades. I am now able to copy and paste what assignments she is missing into a Facebook message to her."—Toni

"I have enjoyed this class and I feel very confident in using my knowledge in the outside world."—Caroline Rowry

Read more about [AFN Connecting Families](#)

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