WinstonNet

2019-2020
Year End Report

Vision & Strategy

Digital Equity is our Vision

WinstonNet is dedicated to ensuring that all individuals in Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy, which are necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, healthcare, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

Digital Inclusion is our Strategy

WinstonNet collaborates with many organizations in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County to provide Digital Inclusion (DI) programs in our community. With grant funding, community partners, and volunteers we provide a variety of technology programs focused on:

1. Providing digital literacy training / refurbished computers for participants
2. Offering internet-enabled devices and public WiFi in our 29 computer labs
3. Promoting affordable and robust home broadband Internet service
4. Providing access to quality technical support
5. Giving access to online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation, and collaboration.

FY2019 – 2020 Revenue

Memberships	$90,000.00
Grant Funded Programs ($235K for Lab Upgrade Project)	$310,000.00
TOTAL	$400,000.00

Board of Directors
FY 2020– 2021

Chairman Tom Kureczka, *CoWS*

Vice Chairman Gary Koontz, *Forsyth County*

Secretary Chris Pearce, *Forsyth Tech*

Treasurer Kris Kelley, *Salem College*

Past Chairman Kevin Sherrill, **WSFCS**

Directors
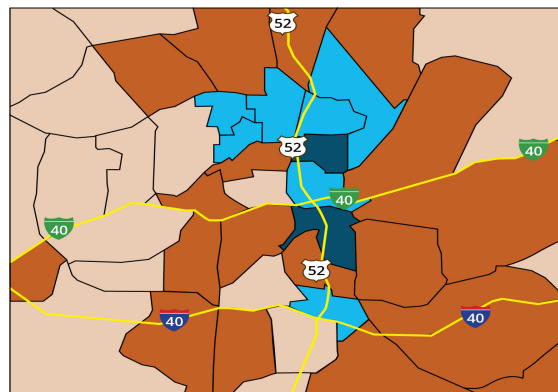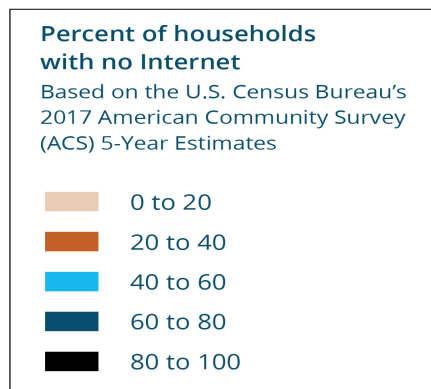
John Boehme, *WFUHS*

Adam Carlson, *WFU*

Jim DeCristo, *UNCSA*

Mur Muchane, *WFU*

Mary Wymbs, *WSSU*

Executive Director Lynda Goff

The Digital **Divide**

Percent of households with no Internet

Based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

- 0 to 20
- 20 to 40
- 40 to 60
- 60 to 80
- 80 to 100

Programs

DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING

United Way Place Matters Grant
NETT (Neighborhoods Empowered Through Technology)
$73,000

WinstonNet completed the fourth year of the United Way NETT grant in partnership with Forsyth Tech and Forsyth County Public Library. This year, 103 unemployed / underemployed, low-income participants graduated from a 30hr basic computer/employment skills course through Forsyth Tech's HRD Program. Each student purchased a refurbished laptop computer for $20 with a 1-year warranty. The Library provided digital literacy classes for over 500 residents through FCPL Computer Training Bridge. Classes included basic skills, job readiness, resumes and STEM sessions.

COVID-19 CHALLENGES

In March, with COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines in place, we closed down all in-person training programs and all computer lab facilities. We quickly shifted classes to an on line format using Zoom. As we move into the new fiscal year we are prepared to provide on line trainings as needed and distribute laptops in the NETT program. Many of our lab locations will be used for WSFCS students as Community Learning Centers to provide support to K12 students/families as all classes go on line for at least the first 9 weeks of the school year.

GEEK A THON

Wells Fargo Grant
$5,000

Kramden Institute (Refurbisher) and WinstonNet partnered with Wells Fargo for the third year. This three-day event includes 150+ Wells Fargo employees refurbishing over 250 desktop computers in two days. On the third day, 125 Title 1 school students and their families attend a short training session and receive their computers. Information is provided to families on affordable Internet subscription programs for SNAP recipients.
(The 2020 Geek-a-Thon is canceled due to COVID-19)

COMMUNITY TECH NIGHT

Inmar & Allegacy Credit Union
Volunteers

Since 2015, Inmar and Allegacy Credit Union "tech guru" volunteers have provided free tech support to the community at two locations. Each quarter, about 35–40 people attend this event and bring their devices (cell phones, tablets, computers, etc.) to get them repaired, have viruses/malware removed, and get advice and / or short training sessions during this 2-hour event. These events were canceled due to COVID.

Computer Lab Upgrade

Lab Computers / Wifi
$235,000

WinstonNet completed a major upgrade in our 25 computers labs this year that included 175 Chrome-box workstations with webcams and high-speed Meraki WiFi routers at all locations. This project allowed us to replace the 10-year old equipment we had in our labs and provide increased security and privacy for these public computers. A Microsoft grant ($5K) for Azure Cloud Services has given us improved reporting capabilities, security, utility and management functionality. Specialty Labs are scheduled for next year.

A Success Story

When Donna Daniel expressed interest in the United Way Funded NETT Program, she never thought it be just what she needed to propel her towards achieving several of her goals. Donna registered for the NETT - Computer Purchase Program with three goals in mind. To increase her computer skills, improve her overall health and find employment.

To achieve any of these goals Donna knew she would need to make a serious commitment to succeed. Health problems limited Donna's mobility and job search methods so it was important to have a laptop computer to conduct her job search from home. Successful completion of the 5-week course provided her the opportunity to purchase a low cost laptop and a certificate of completion for the class.

Upon graduating in October 2019 Donna moved to her next goal and successfully lost 110 pounds which gave her a tremendous boost of confidence to continue moving forward. Donna's final goal was achieved when she was hired at the Kernersville Family YWCA as a certified Water Aerobics instructor and office administrator.

Donna is still on the move and currently working towards becoming a 1st time homeowner

Targets for Next Year 2020–2021

Infrastructure - Specialty Labs
This year we are exploring different opportunities for specialized equipment to enhance the client's experience in our labs and to meet the future needs of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County residents.

Digital Equity /Broadband Plan for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
This year WinstonNet members and community organizations will work together on a plan to address the issues of Digital Equity and Broadband service in our community.