

**FREE
GEEK**

ANNUAL REPORT

20
21



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**FREE
GEEK**

OUR MAIN GOAL

**INCLUDING EVERYONE IN
OUR DIGITAL FUTURE.**

FREE GEEK IS A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION WITH A MISSION TO

**SUSTAINABLY REUSE TECHNOLOGY,
ENABLE DIGITAL ACCESS, AND
PROVIDE EDUCATION TO CREATE A
COMMUNITY THAT EMPOWERS PEOPLE
TO REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL.
INCLUDING EVERYONE IN OUR DIGITAL
FUTURE.**

DIGITAL INCLUSION

Introduction

Our Programs

27% of Americans do not own a computer. And one out of ten families do not have internet at home. This lack of access is sharply stratified along lines of income, race, age and education. Low-income families, immigrants, seniors and children are digitally under-connected, many with mobile-only internet access, which often isn't enough. Free Geek started in order to provide digital access to all, and so came about our Digital Inclusion Programs.



731

We dispersed 731 computers to local K-12 students in 2021 through our Plug Into Portland program.

Plug Into Portland



DIGITAL INCLUSION

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH PROJECT LEDO

In 2021, we began a partnership with Project Ledo, an organization run by Executive Director Fidel Ferrer empowering BIPOC students to become S.T.E.M. leaders. this partnership helps us provide computers to Project Ledo students across Portland. In December of 2021, Fidel joined the Free Geek Board of Directors!

A statement from Fidel Ferrer:

"When I arrived in this country, I obtained my very first computer through Free Geek. This computer gave me the possibility to learn English, apply for jobs, and communicate with my family back home. Coming from a third world country with a lack of resources, I never imagined that I would own a computer and have access to technology. Free Geek did that for me! Now I am paying it forward. I am proud to announce that my organization Project LEDO and Free Geek are partnering to provide free computers for our BIPOC students. At our hearts this partnership will provide technology, will enable digital access and will provide education to empower our students to realize their potential in STEM."



DIGITAL INCLUSION



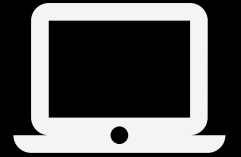
51

We provided devices in partnership with 51 organizations, mutual aid partners, and schools in 2021.

Our Partnerships

Organizational Grants

Our Organizational Grants team was able to provide 179 devices to nonprofits in need of technology to execute their community work.



179

Organizations Served via Organizational Grants:

4D Recovery, AARP Tax-Aide, Cascade Community Radio, College Possible, COLUMBIA DANCE, Community of Hope, Cultivate Initiatives, Do Good Multnomah, Franklin High School, Frederick & John Ravin Post 134, American Legion, Free on the Outside, Girls Count, Green Lents, Grupo Capoeira Angola of Mid Cascadia Nonprofit for Sports and Social Achievement, Guidance 2 Greatness, HART Community Center Inc, Leisure Hour Jr. Golf Program-Bridge to Success, Modoc Broadcasting Corporation, Musicians In Solidarity, Nomenus (Wolf Creek Sanctuary), Painted Sky Center for the Arts, Peninsula Area Public Access, Personal Telco Project, Pigmice FRC 2733 (Cleveland High School), Play Frontier, Safe Dogs By The New River, SE Portland Tool Library, Soulflags Art Lit Community Center, ST Group Inc/Silver Years Adult Day Care, The Portland Gray Panthers, The Raven Corps, Tinkerverse DBA Tinker Camp, Transcending Hope Recovery Homes



DIGITAL INCLUSION

Community Grants

Our Community Grants team was able to provide 139 devices to nonprofits serving communities in need of technology.



139



315

Gift a Geekbox

Our Gift a Geekbox Program team was able to provide 315 devices to adults impacted by the digital divide.

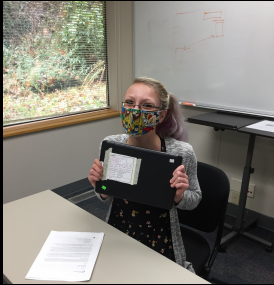
Welcome to Computers

Our Welcome to Computers team was able to provide 69 devices to people referred by their employers to receive educational training & devices.



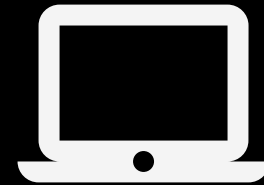
69

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SNAP

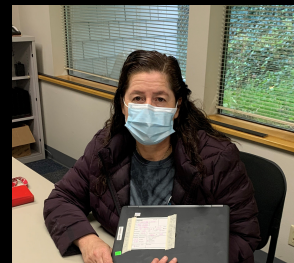


Affordable Tech Program & SNAP

Our Affordable Technology Program's partnership with SNAP provided us the opportunity to give over 1000 computers to adults in need of their own personal devices.



1000+

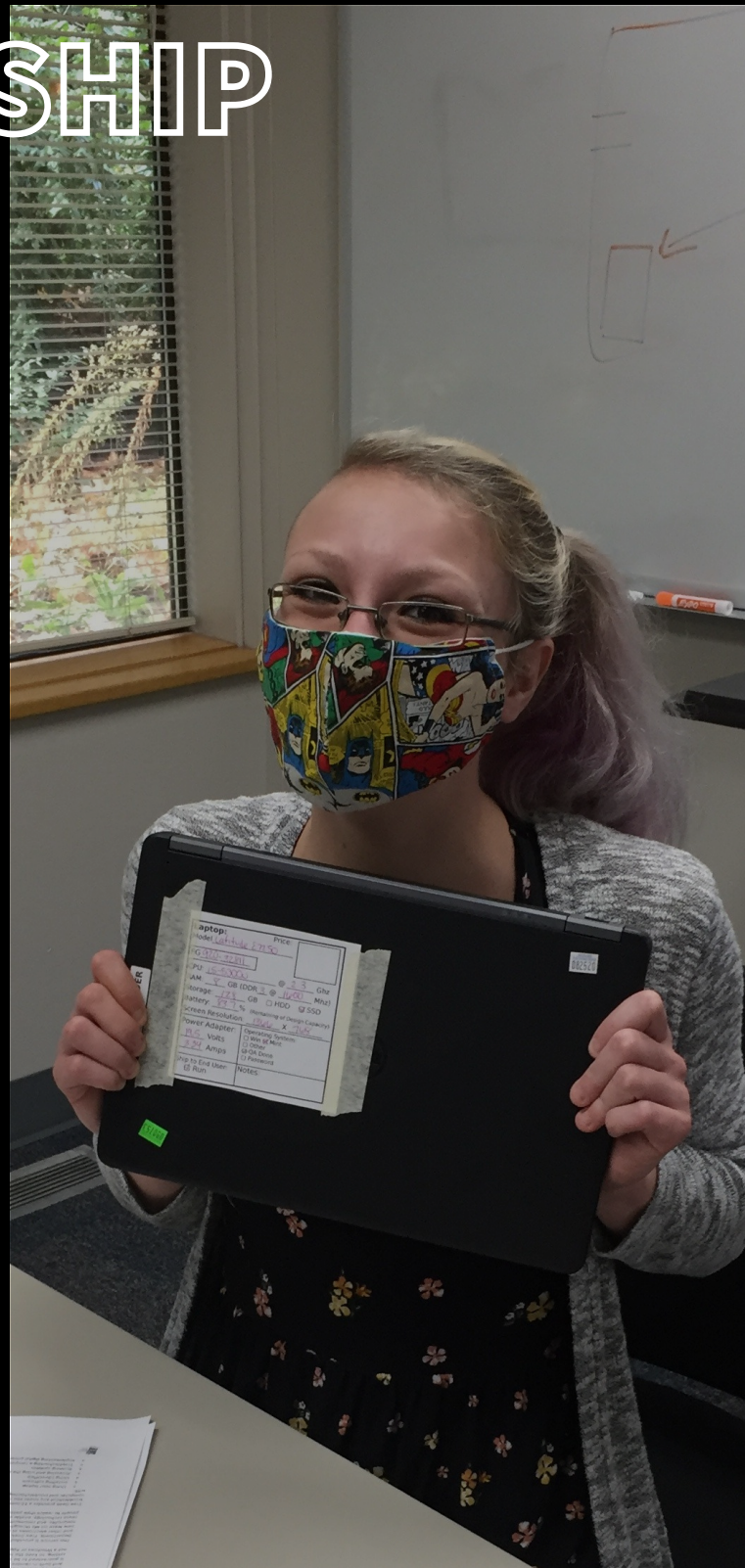


OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SNAP

MEET JASMINE, SNAP RECIPIENT

Jasmine is a single mom, living in Arlington. Arlington didn't have much to offer as far as work, so all she could find was work at a gas station. Jasmine didn't see a future for her with her job, so she decided to enroll full time for the winter term at Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) in the nursing program.

When her classes shifted online during the pandemic, Jasmine did not have a way of connecting to her online classes. Her college advisor knew her situation and thought she would be a great candidate for the SNAP/Free Geek partnership and referred her. Jasmine now has a way to connect to her classes online and is on her way to achieving her goals of eventually becoming a Labor and Delivery Nurse and providing herself and her son with a better future, thanks to her Free Geek laptop!





DIGITAL INCLUSION

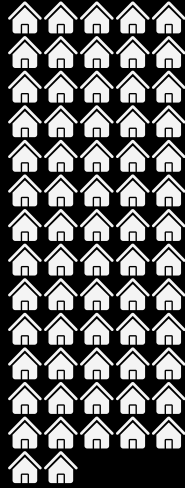
MEET ANTHONY, SNAP RECIPIENT

"Without a computer, you can't really function these days." - Anthony, SNAP/Free Geek Partnership Recipient

Anthony received a computer from us through our membership with SNAP. Prior to receiving a computer, Anthony was using his cell phone for job searching and resume building and as a single father enrolled in school, he didn't have the time to go to the library to use a computer on a limited timeframe and schedule. Anthony cites learning Excel, taking tax preparation classes through H&R Block, and serving his community as his primary reasons for wanting a computer of his own. His goals with his new laptop are to take online classes and certificate programs that will help him in the future in managing his own business.

DIGITAL INCLUSION

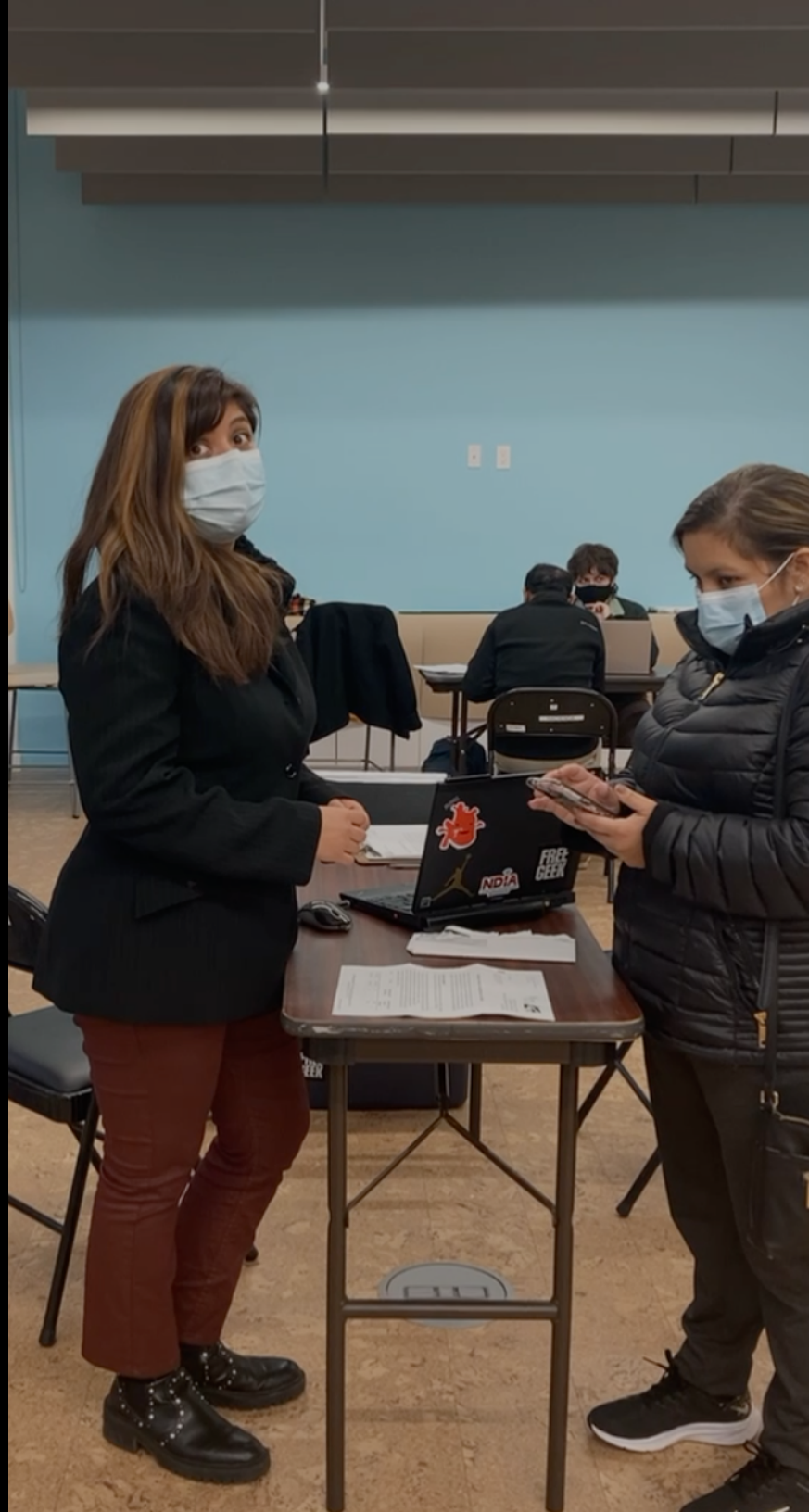
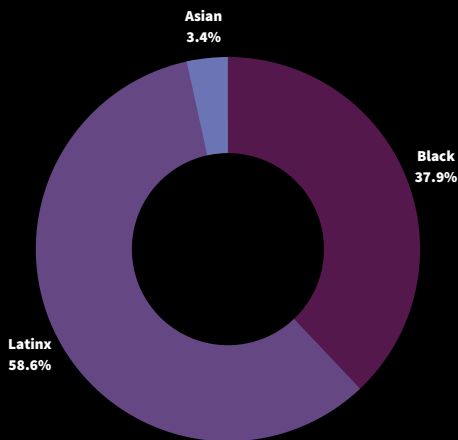
Our Digital Navigators were able to help 67 households (241 people) sign up for the Emergency Broadband Benefit, an FCC program that provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households, saving a total of \$20,100 on internet billing.



Of these 67 families, 58.6% identified as Latinx, 37.9% identified as Black, and 3.4% identified as Asian.

EBB Programming

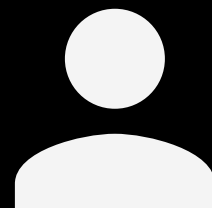
EBB Demographics





DIGITAL INCLUSION EDUCATION

We produced over 15 videos and webinars with over 16,000 people getting help connecting to Wi-Fi on Linux Mint.



16,000

E-WASTE RECYCLING



1,071,497

Lbs Recycled

In 2021, we were able to recycle 1,071,497 lbs of e-waste from landfills.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Your Kindness

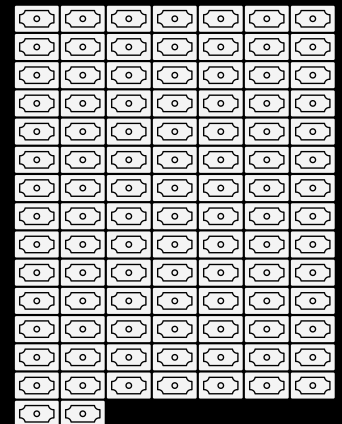
\$212,341

Through the kindness of Free Geek donors in 2021, we were able to raise \$212,341 to provide computers to Portland Metro area community members in need.

The Bridge

68

Our monthly giving program, The Bridge, grew to 68 members in 2021.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



1139 hours

Volunteering

Despite the ongoing complications of COVID-19, our community participated in over 1,000 hours of volunteering for our organization, safely through our COVID-19 procedures!

NEW FACES

OUR NEW DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Meet our new Development Manager, Dwindell Feeley!



Dwindell Feeley Development Manager

“Technology is in everyone’s future. I want to improve the lives of as many people as possible in a truly meaningful way.”

A first-generation American who was born in New York to Haitian immigrants and adopted out of foster care, Dwindell is a lifelong advocate for marginalized communities. He began his professional career as a project intern at Big Brothers Big Sisters in Rockland County, NY, and was promoted first to Project Manager and then to Program Manager before being recruited to move to Portland and work with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Columbia Northwest. He has a B.A. in Communications from SUNY Plattsburgh with a concentration in Digital Media Production and a minor in Business Administration. He has run his own digital media company, Dwins Designs, and has extensive experience as a community advocate for marginalized populations; while in New York, he created a program for at-risk youth called Start One More Something, supervised the Rockland County Court Ordered Visitation Program from 2017-2019 to create safe visitation for families going through custody battles, participated in local committees such as the AFFCNY (Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York) Advisory Board, and was featured in media appearances for his advocacy work, speaking at press events at both the New York State Capitol Building and the Rockland County Legislative Chambers.

Following the national unrest last year after the murder of George Floyd, Dwindell launched his own grassroots community nonprofit, #LoveYourBlackCommunity, which has raised \$50,000 to serve over 175 Black Portlanders by offering direct assistance, education, and resources like school supplies and community Free Fridges providing food for low-income neighbors. After distributing 30 Chromebooks to Black youth through #LYBC and witnessing firsthand the impact of the digital divide’s racial disparities, Dwindell came to Free Geek as Development Manager in September 2021, bringing not only his experience in creating and managing his own independent community organization but also his passion for using technology to help people realize their potential.



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

You've just read through a long list of impressive numbers and statistics that made up 2021 for Free Geek. The numbers tell an important story and to everyone reading them, they mean something different. Some of you will have received a computer from Free Geek this year, others will have volunteered to help us collect tech or get it into the hands of someone who needed it, others contributed financially or in the form of tech to make it all possible. These numbers are the way that we show you each year that your support and partnership makes a difference.

Each one of these statistics represents a story; a life changing experience of receiving a computer or a piece of technology that found another opportunity for life. When you read this report, I hope you see those stories too. What enters our doors as a used piece of technology is given new life and becomes a vital tool to someone in need, it may go to a hopeful student who will be the first in their family to make it through college or maybe to a single mother who is attending nursing school. I hope you're able to see in those stories and statistics just what great work you make possible here at Free Geek.

Thank you to each of you who have given your time, resources and partnership in closing the digital divide in our community. Reading these stories I hope you find hope and solace in what you've done to make our world a better place one story and statistic at a time. Our staff work tirelessly each day to meet the needs of our community and your support is the lifeblood that keeps us going. We couldn't do it without you.

Hilary Shohoney
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR