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Tech Goes Home and Essex County Community Foundation Partner to Increase Digital Equity in Key Essex County Communities

June 22, 2021, Boston, MA -- Today, Tech Goes Home (TGH) announced a new partnership with Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF) to expand TGH's digital inclusion programming throughout Essex County.

Based in Boston, TGH works with a diverse network of community organizations and instructors to provide individuals and families in need with digital devices, internet connectivity and digital skills training. TGH's programs help ensure that everyone is able to access critical services online, including educational resources, employment opportunities, telehealth and more. ECCF, an organization that inspires philanthropy to strengthen the 34 cities and towns of Essex County, has awarded TGH an initial grant of \$250,000 over three years to expand their work in the key communities of Lynn, Lawrence, Haverhill, Methuen, Peabody, Gloucester and Salem.

With the help of ECCF funding, TGH aims to launch a 50-household pilot beginning in late 2021 and will ultimately serve 800 households within the first three years, while maintaining the flexibility for potential acceleration or expansion based on demand and available resources. As part of the grant, TGH will work with community-based organizations to identify individuals who can become certified TGH instructors and lead programs in their respective communities.

"We are tremendously grateful to ECCF for recognizing the urgency of addressing digital inequity, and for empowering TGH to expand our proven programming to support hundreds of individuals and families across Essex County," said TGH Co-CEO Theodora Hanna. "In Essex County, around the Commonwealth and across the country, digital inequity creates serious barriers to opportunity, particularly for people of color, seniors and those from low-income backgrounds. COVID-19 has only deepened these disparities. We're excited to work alongside ECCF and other community organizations in Essex County to connect people with the tools and skills they need to engage in the digital world."

ECCF's support of TGH is part of [Advancing Digital Equity](#), the foundation's multi-year effort to empower thousands of Essex County residents with the access, tools and learning to fully participate in the digital world.

"Narrowing the digital divide is one of the most powerful steps we can take to expand opportunity for people across Essex County," said ECCF Executive Vice President & COO, Stratton Lloyd. "TGH does incredibly impactful work and ECCF is thrilled to work with them to bring greater visibility to this pressing challenge. With this initial investment, and an intentional

focus on communities with the greatest need, we are confident that we can make a meaningful impact on digital inequity in Essex County and continue to improve quality of life in all of our communities.”

About TGH

Tech Goes Home is a nonprofit dedicated to addressing the digital inequities that pose a significant barrier to opportunity and success for thousands of students, workers, and families in Greater Boston and beyond. Working in partnership with schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations, Tech Goes Home provides curated support - including access to digital devices, network connectivity, and robust training in how to utilize digital resources - to help individuals and families pursue economic mobility, support academic achievement, access critical resources, and engage with their community and loved ones. You can learn more about Tech Goes Home’s work, and ways to become involved, at techgoeshome.org.

About ECCF

The mission of Essex County Community Foundation is to inspire philanthropy that strengthens the communities of Essex County. We do this by managing charitable assets, strengthening and supporting nonprofits and engaging in strategic community leadership. Since 1998, ECCF and its family of 250 charitable funds have granted \$94 million to nonprofits, schools and students in Essex County and beyond. Our ultimate goal is to have 34 thriving cities and towns in Essex County and to improve the quality of life for the region’s nearly 800,000 residents. Learn more at eccf.org.

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