# General Overview and Application
# for
# Prospective Board Members

DIGITUNITY®

October 2022

Dear digital inclusion supporter,

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Digitunity Board of Directors.

A pioneer in the concept of technology reuse, **National Cristina Foundation** worked to close the digital divide since 1984. Over its existence, the Foundation placed hundreds of thousands of donated, used computers with organizations serving people in need.

Today, the depth and persistence of the digital divide and the urgency of the need has driven us to attack this issue in a bold, new way. We believe everyone who needs a computer should have one, and that device ownership is truly the foundation of digital equity. Landscape research in 2020 identified the need for a comprehensive, nationwide strategy to address device ownership, as no national-level actor was addressing this need. **Digitunity**, a new tax-exempt public charity, was launched by National Cristina Foundation in late 2021 to fill that gap.

We are actively seeking talented, passionate, collaborative, and unshakably optimistic people to join in the oversight and governance of Digitunity, as we leverage our unique position in the landscape to disrupt the technology supply chain and unlock a vast supply of free or low-cost computers for people in need, and work with communities all across the country to devise systems of distribution that most effectively reach marginalized people. This information package presents a general overview of the work, structure, and finances of the organization, as well as a look at where we are now and where we are headed.

If you have questions about the organization or board service in general, please contact me by phone at (603) 475-4232, or via email at scot@digitunity.org.


Sincerely,

Scot Henley
Executive Director

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### What is the Problem?

Millions of people are cut off from opportunities because they don't have a computer. The number is staggering. 36 million Americans do not have a computer at home, and tens of millions of households do not have enough computers to allow for concurrent use by multiple family members. These non-deviced or device-deficient households make up what we call the "technology gap." Folks in these households are often unable to access education, telehealth, and employment. It's not right and we must do better.

### What is Digitunity?

We believe that no one should be left behind from the opportunities that computers, technology access, and training make possible. National Cristina Foundation pioneered the concept of technology reuse in the early 1980s and was the first national nonprofit organization to address the issues of the digital divide. Today, carrying that work forward, Digitunity is working towards systems change, creating lasting pathways to ensure long-term impact. We won't stop until the barriers that limit the opportunity to participate in our digital society have been removed.

## Why Join the Digitunity Board?

- We are an organization with a national footprint, and we are working to solve a big problem via ecosystem-level changes. This is a big, interesting, exciting agenda to be a part of.

- Technology reuse for social good is a noble and unique cause, with very few other organizations in this space. Technology reuse is a triple bottom line win: social, environmental, and financial.

- We are changing lives. Veterans, those with disabilities, underserved and economically disadvantaged communities, hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life have been impacted by our work. And that's just the beginning. There is much more work to be done.

## Current Snapshot

- Strategy: Filling a gap at the national level, Digitunity is leading a national strategy to eliminate the technology gap at scale. Digitunity's current work focuses on a few key areas:
  - Understanding and detailing the components of the technology supply chain, devising an intervention plan, and implementing initial steps; exploring, identifying and engaging alternative modalities for sourcing devices and the full range of additional device-preparation possibilities
  - Securing unrestricted financial support and project grants sufficient to power the organization's work
  - Documenting, designing, and establishing pathways with communities for devices and communication to flow seamlessly from supplier to individuals and create related supports (outreach, partnerships, logistics, etc.)

- - Analyzing the efficacy of existing activities, exploring areas of replicability, and creating plans to scale the work (funding, partners, location, etc.)
  - Actively offering consultative services with organizations and communities to help them identify their needs and available/resources, planning for opportunities, and offering guidance on implementing Digitunity's sustainable device ecosystem methodology.
- <u>Finances</u>: Through its endowment, National Cristina Foundation provides a foundation of annual operating support for Digitunity's work. To become financially sustainable within the next three years, Digitunity is actively working to generate additional financial support from individual, foundation, and corporate sources.
- <u>People</u>: Talented and passionate staff team of 9 FTEs and a Board currently made up of 11 people. We are working to further expand the Board in 2023 to enhance our collective skills and experience, and bolster the staff team with the addition of 2-3 full time positions as well..
- <u>Program</u>: Current Digitunity program includes a web-based computer donation platform, corporate tech donation placement service, and a national network of 1,500 practitioner organizations, including 90 nonprofit computer refurbishers. Thanks to two grants from AT&T totaling $3.7 million, Digitunity is also working to promote AT&T's digital literacy offerings and eliminating the homework gap in 10 U.S. cities. Digitunity is also at the very beginning of a new and potentially meaningful stream of work, advising states, cities, and coalitions on how to establish sustainable device ecosystems.

## Board Duties

- Meetings are conducted via Zoom and take place approximately every 6 weeks.
- All Board members are expected to serve on at least one committee, and meetings are held via Zoom as needed.
- One in-person meeting each year, with reimbursement for travel/associated expenses.
- To review a general overview of the roles and responsibilities of nonprofit boards, visit https://boardsource.org/fundamental-topics-of-nonprofit-board-service/roles-responsibilities/

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Digitunity's Governance Committee, led by Chairman Jeremy Hegle of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, is tasked with recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates for the Board of Directors.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board, please visit the "Our Team" page at Digitunity.org to find the online application. Please complete and submit the application/questionnaire and upload your current resume as well. We will be in touch thereafter to arrange for a time to connect.