

General Overview and Application for Prospective Board Members



Digitunity, an Initiative of the National Cristina Foundation

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January 2021

Dear friend,

Thank you for your interest in serving on the National Cristina Foundation Board of Directors.

A pioneer in the concept of technology reuse, National Cristina Foundation has been working to close the digital divide since 1984. Over this time, the Foundation has placed hundreds of thousands of used computers with organizations serving people in need. The Foundation is in the midst of a fascinating transformation, and it is an exciting time to be involved.

We believe everyone who needs a computer should have one, and that device ownership is the heart of digital equity. The depth and persistence of the digital divide and the urgency of the need have driven us to attack this issue in a bold, new way. 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** is being launched by the National Cristina Foundation as a new, national-scale effort to fill that gap.

Digitunity is in the process of being incorporated as a separate entity, a 501(c)3 public charity. National Cristina Foundation's current Board of Directors will become the founding Board of Digitunity at the point where it begins operating as a separate entity. The Foundation will serve as a primary source of financial support for Digitunity as the new organization ramps up, and will ultimately be dissolved at a point in the future.

We are actively seeking talented, passionate, collaborative, and unshakably optimistic people to join in the oversight and governance of the National Cristina Foundation, as we work through the evolution into Digitunity and meaningfully advance digital inclusion and device ownership. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scot Henley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

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. 55 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-device 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 can do better.

What is the National Cristina Foundation?

We believe that no one should be left behind from the opportunities that computers, technology access, and training make possible. NCF 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, we are 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 National Cristina Foundation 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, NCF is leading a national strategy to eliminate the technology gap at scale. A new strategic plan was adopted in late 2020 that outlines the early steps we are taking to meet this challenge.
- Finances: NCF's endowment provides a foundation of annual operating support for its work. Once Digitunity begins operating as a new entity, NCF will serve as its primary source of funding each year. To become financially sustainable by the end of 2023, Digitunity will employ a robust fundraising program.
- People: Staff team of 5 FTEs and a recently-expanded Board of 9 people. We are working to further expand the Board in 2021 to enhance our collective skills and experience.
- Program: Current NCF program includes a web-based computer donation platform, corporate tech donation placement service, and a national network of 1,300 practitioner organizations, including 88 nonprofit computer refurbishers. Expanding and activating the network is a primary focus for 2021.

Board Duties

- Meetings are conducted by virtual conferencing and take place approximately every 6 weeks.
- 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

National Cristina Foundation's Governance Committee, led by Chairman Aaron Woods, 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.