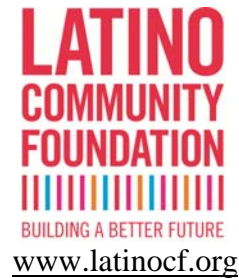




**2012 Don and Rosemary Vial Awards  
for Digital Inclusion:  
Outstanding Performance by an  
Organization Nominee**



In the course of its work with CETF on Broadband Awareness and Adoption, the Latino Community Foundation (LCF), through its cohort of eight community-based organizations, has trained 5,160 individuals in basic computer skills, Internet navigation, and the relevance of the Internet in relation to jobs, education, health resources, and social networking. LCF purchased laptops to be used as mobile labs at each of these eight sites and created curriculum modules for the adult learner. Partner agencies offered trainings on-site to monolingual Spanish-speaking community participants. These community members have multiple, complex needs and LCF's cohort has been able to successfully engage and train individuals with culturally-appropriate sessions that provide both the functional skills needed for digital fluency and the soft skills coaching provided by bilingual and bicultural staff. Also, five of LCF's eight partners were atypical choices and all of them have excelled in this new area of service. This "out of the box" thinking served as a catalyst for more diverse community agencies and constituencies learning about and accessing the online world. The sphere of agencies engaged in this critical work has been expanded.

Making these training numbers even more important is the fact that for the past 18 months, LCF has been providing these valuable Digital Literacy services to some of the region's most underserved individuals. Using data collected at the initial training visit, the typical profile of the training participants is as follows: extremely low-income, with over 60% of participants earning less than \$20K per year and with a household size of at least 4 members; 30% of participants earn no more than \$40K per year; 45% are high school graduates; 66% of those who did not graduate from high school have less than an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education; and 50% are unemployed.

LCF is committed to its leadership in the Latino philanthropic community and to ensuring Latinos have the tools, resources and opportunities for academic and financial success as well as the safe and healthy environment to pursue it in. LCF has funded 23 Latino-based organizations in eight Bay Area counties to help fulfill its mission. In addition to funding direct services, LCF is committed to convening stakeholders to discuss important issues affecting California's communities. To this end, LCF holds a "Community Conversaciones" speaker series on important topics such as Census 2010: Leveraging Demographic Shifts to Empower Communities; A Portrait of California: Human Development Report 2011; and Winning the Future: President Obama's Agenda and the Hispanic Community.

In November 2011, LCF commissioned a report "Conéctese al Futuro, su Familia y a su Bienestar :Strategies for Connecting the Most Vulnerable Latinos" with the goal of informing the philanthropic field about the ongoing need for investments to close the Digital Divide. Too often, both the philanthropic and private sectors show indifference to the work that remains to be done to connect everyone, even those with complex challenges, to the digital world. This perception served as the catalyst for the report. Using the lessons learned from the past 18 months of work in the field and participant data, the paper identifies strategic opportunities for funders to increase digital opportunities which will allow communities to accelerate the closing of educational, income, and health disparities.

LCF captures the spirit of the Don and Rosemary Vial in one very important way: LCF is passionate about fairness and equity. LCF views its Digital Divide work and investments through a social justice lens. Low-income families, the majority of whom are people of color, will continue to be disenfranchised and marginalized if they do not have equitable access to the resources needed to learn and earn to their full potential. LCF's programming championed Digital Inclusion for all by creating culturally-appropriate outreach and curriculum and literally taking it (by mobile lab) to the hardest to reach residents via trusted community partners.