



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



www.sdfutures.org

Since 2000, the San Diego Futures Foundation (SDFFF) has provided more than 30,000 computers to more than 700 San Diego nonprofits and 5,000 disadvantaged families. They've provided computer equipment, software, training, low-cost broadband, and technical support to more than 15,000 people who were not using the Internet at home previously. SDFFF has trained more than 100 youth and adults for IT careers. It's full-time staff provides training, mentoring, certification assistance, and employment services, and maintains a 75% placement job rate.

SDFFF operates one of the most effective Digital Inclusion programs, the San Diego Broadband Initiative (SDBI), in the United States. The program currently has the capacity to reach approximately 10,000 homes per year, representing a 5% annual closure of the Digital Divide. It operates a Community Technology Center that gives the public a place to learn about various technologies and apply for donations or purchase items at reduced prices. The program's web portal, www.sdbroadband.org, offers its members (currently 5,000+) online resources, software, and training. SDFFF operates the only known Community Technology Help Desk, providing computer support to its clients in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic.

SDFFF is a highly respected nonprofit in San Diego. It has formed relationships and partnerships with more than 30 nonprofit agencies, and receives support from some of the region's most influential stakeholders and employers. Partners include the County of San Diego, Hewlett Packard, Qualcomm, Microsoft, Cox Communications, MAAC Project, Wakeland Housing Corporation, Able Disabled Advocacy, and more. In 2011, SDFFF won an award from "Securing Our eCity" for its efforts to raise awareness and educate its target population on issues related to Internet safety and security.

SDFFF works closely with key stakeholders to identify ways in which technology can be utilized for good in the community. In October 2011, SDFFF partnered with AARP and the County of San Diego to hold the first technology conference geared specifically toward the aging population. As a result, the County of San Diego committed to holding quarterly conferences and workshops for the benefit of the aging population throughout San Diego in 2012. SDFFF is partnering with Price Charities and San Diego State University on the "City Heights Safety Initiative," which is an effort to help understand and reduce crime in City Heights. SDFFF is building a website for the project, providing technology for 300 low-income families in targeted neighborhoods, and identifying ways in which technology, including cel phone, tablets, and PCs, can be used to engage the community and learn about how they're affected by crime. SDFFF is also partnering with Feeding America to learn how technology can be used to more effectively identify and solve issues related to hunger. SDFFF is also leading the effort to assemble a broadband consortia for San Diego and Imperial counties in an effort to study and more fully understand and address the unique needs of the region.

SDFFF's mission is to improve the lives of low-income residents, people with disabilities, and seniors through the deployment of technology, training, and support. The organization's staff is working tirelessly to close the Digital Divide in San Diego. SDFFF currently has the capacity to close the Digital Divide at a rate of 10% per year. It is reaching out to partners, corporations, and leaders every day to increase that capacity and to ensure that technology is integrated in all of the social solutions developed to improve lives and enrich the community.