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Tech Goes Home Launches Groundbreaking Advocacy Community Fellowship Program

BOSTON, March 21, 2024 -- Tech Goes Home (TGH), a leading Massachusetts nonprofit committed to closing the digital divide, today announced a new Advocacy Community Fellowship program. Supported by initial funding from Capital One, the program brings together 10 members of the Tech Goes Home community to participate in advocacy capacity-building sessions and other professional development opportunities – positioning them to be leading voices in digital inclusion advocacy, decision-making, and systems change work in Massachusetts.

Founded in Boston, TGH partners with community-serving organizations – like schools, libraries, and nonprofits – to reach individuals and families facing barriers to digital access. Working hand-in-hand with their community partners and a network of local instructors, TGH provides thousands of learners every year with a laptop or tablet, reliable internet access, and 15 hours of digital skills training.

The 10 participants in the Advocacy Community Fellowship program will include instructors who have led TGH courses in their communities, graduates who have participated in a TGH course, and other members of the TGH community. Over the course of two years, the Fellows – who will receive an \$11,000 stipend for their participation – will have the opportunity to join monthly training, capacity building, and networking sessions and will contribute to TGH’s ongoing advocacy work through testimony, media engagement, coalition building, and more.

“Our intention is to center the voices of our community – and those most proximate to and impacted by digital exclusion in Massachusetts – in all of our advocacy work,” said Marvin Venay, Chief Advocacy Officer at Tech Goes Home. “The Advocacy Community Fellowship will create an opportunity for TGH graduates and instructors to develop valuable skills and connections, raise their voices about digital equity, and shape the future of digital inclusion based on their lived experiences. We are grateful to the 10 community members who have put their names forward for the initial fellowship cohort, and excited to bring the group together to begin learning, discussing, and advancing our shared goal of digital equity across Massachusetts.”

The 10 members of the first Advocacy Community Fellowship cohort are:



Cyntoria Grant

Cyntoria has over 25 years of experience in family engagement and adult education. She is the head of public school partnerships at Harvard Ed Portal, a center out of Harvard University offering academic and other resources for Boston's Allston-Brighton neighborhoods. Cyntoria desires to help families and students have access to the resources they need to thrive in the 21st century.

Victoria Marcello

Victoria is a committed leader and teacher passionate about bringing workforce development and technology skills to individuals experiencing housing instability. She currently serves as the Director of Education at Project Place and on the senior leadership team, where she leads a team of staff that teaches work readiness and customer service skills and provides agency-wide direction to support the mission of Project Place. She has been a TGH instructor for the last six years.

Prince Charles

Prince is the Computer Learning Center Director at Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation in Dorchester. A long-time director and producer of independent films, Prince is also a media educator who works with youth to hone their video skills to promote self-discovery and cultural engagement. Prince serves on the board of TGH and has been an instructor for the past ten years, teaching digital courses designed for seniors and focused on small business entrepreneurs.

Steve Desrosiers

Steve is a Haitian-American product of Boston's neighborhoods, schools, and universities. He has been a lifelong public administrator for the City of Boston, currently serving as Supervisor of Attendance at Boston Public Schools. Most of his career has been in education, where his interest and work have been in family and student engagement practice. Steve enjoys reading, playing guitar, and watching history documentaries when he has time.

Ruby Fevrier

Ruby serves as a computer instructor with the City of Boston. He has extensive experience in non-profit organization management and after-school programming centered on supporting students with diverse learning needs. With a focus on individualized instruction, Ruby helps to provide targeted interventions and strategies to help students succeed academically and develop essential life skills. He aims to empower students to reach their full potential and become confident, independent learners.



Elsa Flores

Elsa is a Salvadoran mother, professional, and community leader with 21 years of experience working with families and children in the Boston community. A teacher with 11 years of instructor experience in El Salvador, Elsa now uses her skills as a bilingual communicator to educate and advocate around issues of cultural competency, language justice, and community outreach. Her prior role includes working with families and students in Boston Public Schools. She also hosts and teaches classes for parents of special education students and English language learners.

Judith Thermidor

Judith is a long-time TGH instructor and current director at East Boston Senior Center, one of two senior centers operated by the City of Boston's Age Strong Commission. She has over eleven years of experience providing clinical and social services in underrepresented communities. She is committed to building strategic frameworks to implement solutions for high-value, equitable health care and supportive services for older adults. In addition to her medical background and community engagement, Judith has volunteered as a trainer, translator, and speaker to promote healthy aging, especially among marginalized communities.

Carmen Vega

Carmen Vega has a rich career spanning nearly a quarter of a century at Boston Public Schools. She is the Family Education Coordinator for the Office of Family & Community Advancement, where she engages and empowers BPS families and communities, facilitating meaningful academic progress and support. Born and raised in Puerto Rico and raised in New York City, Carmen has called Boston home for 25 years. She is a 2021 graduate of the TGH program and has been TGH trainer for over a decade, helping more than one thousand families and community members achieve their goals in the digital world.

Marie Pierre

Marie has a history of working in health care and long-term care systems. She immigrated to the U.S. at a young age and has called Massachusetts home ever since. Marie is retired and remains active in helping her community.

Roubbins-Jamal LaMothe

A recent MBA graduate from Cambridge College, Roubbins-Jamal, has professional experience in a variety of roles in both for-profit and nonprofit organizations. His private sector and political campaign volunteer background has provided him with a rich understanding and unique perspective on driving change and fostering development within diverse environments. Embarking on the next chapter of his career, he is eager to leverage his MBA, blend experiences in politics and organizational settings, and contribute to meaningful projects and initiatives that aim for societal betterment and managerial excellence.



About Tech Goes Home: 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 across Massachusetts. 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.

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