

# General Overview and Application for Prospective Board Members



**Digitunity**

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Dear digital equity 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 led to the creation of **Digitunity**, a public charity established in 2021 to make owning a computer possible for everyone. Device ownership is an often overlooked aspect of the digital divide, even as 36 million people in America do not have a computer at home. A massive, \$65 billion federal investment in broadband infrastructure made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will ultimately lead to a dramatic expansion of broadband availability over the next several years. However, it will only be successful if it is matched with a significant expansion of device ownership. At Digitunity, that is our charge.

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 unlock supply at scale, work with communities to develop and implement sustainable device preparation and deployment strategies, and share our subject matter expertise to advance the field. 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](mailto: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 on the letter "y".

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-device or device-deficient households make up a national "device gap" that must be bridged. Folks in these households are often unable to access education, telehealth, and employment. It's not right and we must do better.

### Who is Digitunity?

We believe that no one should be left behind from the opportunities that computers, along with affordable connectivity and digital skills, 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. Carrying that work forward, Digitunity is an independent, systems-level actor working to advance digital equity through sustainable device ecosystems that meet the device needs of marginalized people nationwide.

### Why Join the Digitunity Board?

- We are an organization with a national footprint, and we are working to solve a big problem via systems-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 national 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

### The Problem

Owning a computer is critically important to being able to participate in an increasingly digital world. There are 36 million people in the United States that do not have a computer at home. We acknowledge that historical and institutional barriers have led to this persistent problem.

### Our Mission

The mission of Digitunity is to make owning a computer possible for everyone.

### Intended Impact

A robust and sustainable supply of free or affordable devices will be made available through accessible, resilient, community-level distribution systems, to ensure that anyone who needs a computer has one.

## Theory of Change

To solve this problem, Digitunity believes a holistic, community-driven approach must be taken to develop four key aspects of device ownership:

1. A robust and sustainable supply of free and low cost, large-screen computers
2. Computers appropriately prepared for the intended uses of residents
3. A trusted and vetted deployment network
4. Intentional focus on the long term health and resilience of the device ecosystem

Finances: Through its \$7.5+ million endowment, National Cristina Foundation provides a foundation of annual operating support for Digitunity's work. To become financially sustainable for the long haul, Digitunity is actively working to generate additional financial support from a variety of sources, including consulting engagements, program revenue, unrestricted grants, indirect cost recovery from grant-funded projects, Board support, and corporate giving.

People: A 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 2024 and beyond to enhance our collective skills and experience, and bolster the staff team as needed and as finances allow.

Program: Current Digitunity program includes a web-based computer donation platform, corporate tech donation placement service, and a national network of 1,600 practitioner organizations, including 96 nonprofit computer refurbishers. 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 quarterly.
- 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 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 Board" page at Digitunity.org](#) to find the online application at the bottom of the page. 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.