

Digging Deep for Digital Inclusion in 2017

A MESSAGE FROM CTN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CO-FOUNDER, KAMI GRIFFITHS



Many Americans felt that 2016 was bleak and entered the new year with trepidation. And with some justification. An especially brutal election season left us with the unshakable impression that our nation, our communities, and our families have never been more divided.

But I choose to feel optimistic.

I have the energy of someone who knows the work she does is more important than ever. Community Technology Network has always recognized societal division, specifically with regard to technology access, and so we are well prepared to meet the challenges of 2017 head on.

If our country is indeed now more fragmented, it is even more important to connect people to each other, to (real, not fake) knowledge, and to resources. The only efficient way to do this is by giving everybody equal access to the internet and the means to navigate the online world with confidence. So, how will CTN carry out its mission in 2017? The answer is through the following high-priority programs.

Connect @ Home: By partnering with agencies such as Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, Bridge Housing, and SAHA Homes, we are helping low-income families and older people connect at home through a device that meets their needs and that they are able to use safely, independently, and affordably.

Developing Digital Leadership: By recruiting and training more volunteers, age 16 and up, we are developing new leaders of a movement to eradicate the digital divide in their own communities. Our volunteers get in-depth training and bespoke support.

Tech Training Solutions: By providing specialized consultancy services, we are working with partners in the public, private, and charitable sectors to create effective tech skills programs that meet community needs. Our consultancy services cover need assessments,

curriculum development, and other aspects of running successful tech training programs.

Advocacy: By being a thought-leader in the field of community technology, we are expanding our sphere of influence. CTN is currently represented on the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA), the San Francisco Tech Council, and the Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly (CASE), and I speak regularly to the media and at conferences to promote our agenda.



We all have a lot on our plates in 2017, but we can all pursue our missions by supporting each other and creating new alliances. Let me know if CTN can help support your community to reunite friends, families, and communities through digital technology in 2017.

All gifts, no matter how small, help us continue our work. Visit our donation page to discover all the ways you can give. Thank you for your support!

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