ONE NETWORK

Digital Equity Newsletter

January 2024

Welcome to Literacy Minnesota's newest monthly newsletter – One Network. This newsletter is an overview of the digital equity services offered by organizations like Literacy Minnesota and resources for those wanting to know more about digital equity. To see previous issues of this newsletter, visit this link: https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation

For more information contact Frances Bates at fbates@literacymn.org.

Covered within this issue:

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https://www.literacymn.org/
700 Raymond Avenue Suite 180, Saint Paul, MN 55114

Mission: To share the power of learning through education, community building and advocacy.

Meet Our TEQuity Staff

Digital Equity Team

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Other

Rob Podlasek (He/Him)
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Our Digital Literacy Services

We offer support in a variety of areas including teaching digital skills and helping you get internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).
https://www.literacymn.org/digitalliteracy

Northstar Digital Literacy

The Northstar program assesses digital skills and provides classroom curriculum and self-directed online learning.

Website: https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/

Digital Equity and Navigation

Digital Navigators mentor learners in using technology and can help you get free internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). For more information on our services contact Susan at swbrandt@literacymn.org.
https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation

Midway Location: 553 Fairview Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55104
The Midway digital literacy lab at Goodwill Easter Seals is open 10am to 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Manee is there the whole time and Nick is there in the afternoons.

Minneapolis Location: 627 W Broadway Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55411
Katey works at the Minneapolis campus facilitating computer labs and Northstar digital literacy classes.

The **Affordable Connectivity Program** (ACP) is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.
https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation#affordable-connectivity-program

https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/
https://www.fcc.gov/acp

Trainings and Workshops

We offer a variety of digital literacy programming, including webinars about using Northstar.
https://www.literacymn.org/digital-literacy-trainings-workshops

Other Initiatives in Minnesota

Neighborhood House

Their Digital Inclusion team supports individuals and families in getting low-cost devices, highspeed internet connection in the home, and digital literacy skills.

Address: 179 Robie St E, Saint Paul, MN 55107
Website: https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/

Lyndale Neighborhood Association

The Lyndale Education Program serves the residents of Horn Towers with literacy, language, and career skills. Created the ELDES curriculum to help address digital literacy gaps in English learners.

Address: 3537 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55408
Website: https://lyndale.org/

PCs for People

This is a nonprofit social enterprise working to get low-cost quality computers and internet into the homes of individuals, families, and nonprofits with low income.

Main location: 1481 Marshall Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55104
Recycling Center: 2492 Doswell Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55108
Website: https://www.pcsforpeople.org/

Office of Broadband Development

Helping Minnesotans understand broadband options available and work together to improve availability and use of high-speed broadband services.
Address: 180 5th St E, Saint Paul, MN 55101
Website: https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/

Check out this newsletter's resource section on our website to see more local organizations.
https://www.literacymn.org/one-network-newsletter-resources

Community Bulletin

Technology Literacy Collaborative (TLC)

The TLC is a group of aspiring leaders in the digital equity field within the Twin Cities. They gather to problem solve and discuss best practices.

Their recent in person meeting was success. Around 10 people were able to come and together they worked on a plan for the upcoming year for the TLC. They also discussed the best ways to stay connected and keeping track of shared information. The group will be looking into using LinkedIn as a networking tool. Be sure to keep up with this newsletter for any more updates on the TLC.

If you have any questions or are interested in join the group, reach out to Katrina at kbenson@neighborhoodhousemn.org.

Lyndale Neighborhood Association

The mission of the Lyndale Neighborhood Association (LNA) is to be the vehicle for our community members to shape their neighborhood.

Address: 3537 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55408
Website: https://lyndale.org/

LNA has served over 160 residents of Horn Towers over the past dozen years, retaining dozens of learners for 4-6 years, and watching their literacy and language skills, careers, and families grow over time. They have created a new curriculum called ELDES and it will be piloted during 2024.

ELDES
English Learner Digital Essential Skills (ELDES) is a comprehensive curriculum designed to address digital literacy gaps in lower-level English learners and native English speakers with no prior exposure to computers. It's tailored to empower individuals with essential digital skills and knowledge. The curriculum is meant to serve as a precursor to the Northstar curriculum with a focus on building digital vocabulary and activities based in real-life applications.

If you are interested in helping pilot this program, contact Grayson Betz at grayson@lyndale.org.

Glossary

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
The ACP is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.

Browser
A software application (such as Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, or Mozilla Firefox) that allows users to access the Internet.

Digital Equity
A condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Sometimes called TEQuity/Tech Equity which is the shortening of technology equity.

Digital Literacy
The ability and knowledge needed to access and operate internet-connected devices, to successfully use commonly available software, and to navigate and utilize online resources in order to effectively communicate and complete social and work-related tasks in a virtual space.

Digital Navigators
Trusted guides who assist community members in internet adoption and the use of computing devices. Digital navigation services include ongoing assistance with affordable internet access, device acquisition, technical skills, and application support.

Email
A system (such as Google Gmail, Microsoft Outlook, and Yahoo! Mail) that allows the user to transmit messages electronically.

Internet
An electronic communications network that connects computer networks and organizational computer facilities around the world.

Network
A system that connects two or more computing devices for transmitting and sharing information.

Search Engine
Programs (such as Google, Bing, and Yahoo!) that allow you to find specific information online.

Server
A type of computer that is equipped with software and hardware to offer services to other computers connected to it.

Wi-Fi
A wireless networking technology that allows devices such as computers, smartphones, and other equipment (printers and video cameras) to interface with the Internet.

Resources

General

Connectivity Blueprint
https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/ramsey-connected-computer-internet-resources/connectivity-blueprint

Digital Equity Act
https://www.digitalequityact.org/

National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE)
https://www.digitalequity.us/

National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA)
https://www.digitalinclusion.org/

Glossary Sources

Internet vs. Wi-Fi
- https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/wireless/what-is-wifi.html
- https://www.longlines.com/blog/internet-vs-wifi-whats-the-difference#:~:text=Wi%2DFi%20connects%20devices%20within,%2C%20routers%2C%20and%20other%20infrastructure.

Other
- https://www.spiceworks.com/tech/networking/articles/what-is-a-computer-network/
- https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-a-server-definition-lesson-quiz.html
- https://thecenterfordigitalequity.org/
- https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/
- https://www.vocabulary.com/

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More information here: https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation#one-network-newsletter

Join the mailing list here: https://www.literacymn.org/one-network-signup

Questions, comments, or concerns? - Contact Frances Bates at fbates@literacymn.org.

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