



LAPTOPS 4 LEARNING

CASE STATEMENT



Academy of Math & Science

Over 150 happy students at the South Mountain, Glendale and Camelback locations of the Academy of Math & Science received laptops, thanks to a generous donation from Desert Financial Credit Union employee and member fundraiser, and a grant from the foundation.

LAPTOPS 4 LEARNING



CHILDREN ARE BECOMING SMARTER BECAUSE THEY HAVE MORE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Hence, children feel worthy, deserving and entitled to assert their needs and desires. The internet is also producing more deeply engaging children because they have the ability to be more absorbed in obtaining knowledge than traditional textbook learning can provide.

Dr. James Bower, 2011

JULIE'S STORY

Laptops 4 Learning met Julie during her junior year of high school at Cesar Chávez High School. Julie was enrolled in multiple AP and honor classes in hopes of gaining the scholarships she needed, which would enable her to become the first member of her family to attend college.

An ebullient, intelligent, ambitious and active student, Julie juggled multiple sports activities (basketball, softball, and volleyball) while completing her schoolwork — taking class notes, research papers, take-home exams, homework assignments, etc — all on her cell phone. In spite of her best efforts, Julie completed her sophomore year with only a 2.0 GPA.

Having a laptop device would have made Julie's school life tremendously more productive. However, supporting her family on a single income with four children, Julie's mother simply could not afford to purchase a laptop. Laptops 4 Learning was made aware of Julie's story and awarded her the educational support tool she needed to help her excel. Remarkably, Julie's GPA soared to a 4.0 by the end of her junior year.

After receiving her very own laptop, Julie used the summer months prior to her senior year to begin researching colleges she might want to attend, preparing for SAT/ACT testing, and researching the availability of scholarships. Julie maintained her diligence toward school and was accepted at two Arizona state universities during her senior year. Julie's mom was able to use the newly acquired laptop to apply online for employment opportunities and was ultimately able to obtain a new, higher paying job.



View Julie's story here in her own words.

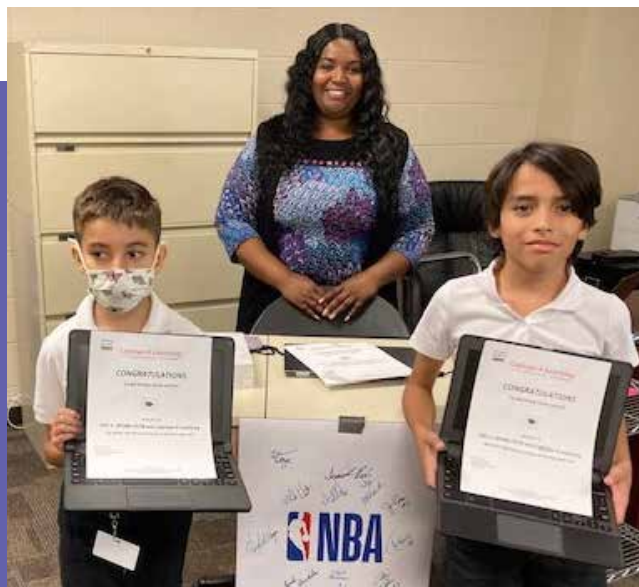
<https://www.facebook.com/gregory.a.powell/videos/493199645744021>



EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SOAR

As teachers use more technology in their classrooms, the Digital Divide — the gap between those with sufficient knowledge of and access to technology, and those without — widens to the point where some students are unable to complete assignments due to their limited access to the internet.

Dr. Milinda Crawford, principal at the George Gervin Preparatory Academy in Phoenix, proudly looks on as two top performing students received a laptop in celebration of their ranking among the top ten students in the state of Arizona in reading readiness.



Intelligence, drive and desire are simply not enough. In today's classrooms, even the brightest, most determined, financially disadvantaged students rapidly fall behind other classmates simply because they lack the technology tools they need, not only to access the internet, but to participate in everyday learning objectives.

DIGITAL DIVIDE REFERENCE DATA

Digital Divide Persists Even as Lower Income Americans Make Gains in Tech Adoption

– May 7, 2019

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/07/digital-divide-persists-even-as-lower-income-americans-make-gains-intech-adoption/>

Nearly One-in-Five Teens Can't Always Finish Their Homework Because of the Digital Divide

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/10/26/nearly-one-in-five-teens-cant-always-finish-their-homework-because-of-the-digital-divide/>

53% of Americans Say the Internet Has Been Essential During the COVID-19 Outbreak

<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2020/04/30/53-of-americans-say-the-internet-has-been-essential-during-the-covid19-outbreak/>

As Schools Close Due to the Coronavirus Some US Students Face a Digital Homework Gap

– March 16, 2020

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/03/16/as-schools-close-due-to-the-coronavirus-some-u-s-students-face-a-digital-homework-gap/>

WHAT WE DO

Laptops 4 Learning (L4L) is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization whose mission is to provide laptop computers to socio-economically disadvantaged kindergarten through college students and military service veterans.

In today's technology driven world, access to computers is a requisite for success, and should NOT be considered as a privilege.

The ultimate goal of L4L is to "close the digital technology divide" that exists by providing laptop devices to the less privileged at an affordable cost or free when necessary.

L4L forms partnerships with public and private school districts, alternative schools, community colleges, four-year College and University systems, community organizations, churches and veteran support groups, to identify and connect with students and veterans who lack access to a computer.

L4L makes affordable laptop devices available to ANY student, however, we place special focus on students who attend Title-1 schools (defined by the federal government as schools with a 40%+ student population who qualify for free or reduced-priced lunch).



Laptops 4 Learning purchases the laptops we provide to our students ONLY from Microsoft Certified Refurbishers. All of the laptops are backed by a one year warranty.

OUR EXCITING PROGRESSION

247% | LAPTOPS 4 LEARNING HAS EXPERIENCED REMARKABLE GROWTH

2016-17

L4L evolved from a “laptop give-away” project started in 2016 for students in Arizona schools, to a nationwide non-profit organization in February 2018.

2018

L4L funded its initial year of operation as a certified nonprofit, implementing the program’s participant payment process titled “Help-Fund-My-Laptop”. L4L provided 87 laptops to students in need through this program, combined with individual private donations.

2019

L4L’s 2019 Strategic Plan focused on aggressively introducing the program to greater numbers of donors interested in financially supporting the mission of eliminating the “digital divide”. As a result, in 2019, L4L was able to provide laptops to 178 students, doubling the previous year’s total. L4L’s “match funding” program was used to award 155 of these units.

2020

L4L provided a total of 720 laptops to program participants in 2020 — a phenomenal year of growth! Three hundred twenty (320) units were provided free-of-cost, through an employee/member fundraiser conducted by Desert Financial Credit Union, combined with a matching grant donation by Desert Financial Foundation. In addition, a partnership formed with PMA Media Group’s “Video Scholarship” program provided 200 laptops free of charge to college students from low-income households.

2021

L4L provided 1,060 students with laptops in 2021. This tremendous growth was made possible through Grants awarded by Valley of the Sun United Way, The Del E. Webb Foundation, Desert Financial Foundation and members of Desert Financial Credit Union and a BD Corporation “employee match” donation. Multiple private donor contributions also played a major role in this growth.

SOURCES

OF FUNDING

While we encourage all program participants to contribute towards the cost of their laptop when they are able, the revenue received from participant donations alone, does not generate sufficient funds to meet the sheer number of requests L4L receives from students and veterans requiring financial support. In order to ensure that the laptops offered to program participants remain affordable, L4L solicits funding from the following sources:

22%
PRIVATE DONATIONS

L4L is passionate about presenting the program concept and mission to any individual who may wish to contribute funds. These donations are then matched with like donations and collectively used to provide a laptop for multiple program participants.

54%
CORPORATE/SMALL BUSINESS GIVING & SPONSORSHIP

L4L proactively solicits funding from corporate and small business entities that recognize the value of providing technology tools to individuals in need of assistance to further their academic and career aspirations.

L4L also solicits funding and/or partnerships with community service agencies that offer support focused on aiding students from low and moderate income families or military service veterans.

13%
COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

11%
"HELP-FUND-MY LAPTOP" DONATIONS

L4L employs a procedure which facilitates and encourages program participants to donate to themselves and/or actively seek donations from their own personal contacts who are interested in helping them obtain a laptop. This allows each participant to create an on-line account to which donations are accumulated until the cost of their chosen laptop is reached.

HOW WE USE

OUR FUNDING

Laptops 4 Learning uses grant funds and other donations to purchase laptop devices in bulk quantities. Single units are then made available to students and veterans at an affordable cost, or free when circumstances require.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, a spike in demand for laptops throughout the country created an availability shortage with our suppliers. This increase in demand, combined with the decrease in availability, resulted in a significant increase in L4L's cost to purchase devices. As a result, L4L now aggregates contributed funds to enable our organization to be positioned to react and purchase laptops in bulk as soon as a vendor partner provides notification that devices are available.



A South Mountain Community College student purchased a laptop through L4L to help improve her grades.

Donated funds are also used to increase L4L's "Match Funding" reserves. The objective of "Match Funding" is to meet program participants where they are financially to help them acquire a laptop, while also ensuring that the program does not revert to simply being a laptop give-away project. "Match Funds" are used to supplement a program participant's contribution toward the purchase of a laptop if/when they cannot afford the full cost.

L4L has observed that program participants tend to have a greater appreciation for a device to which they have personally invested time, money and energy. However, we recognize that for many families, particularly those with multiple children, it is a financial hardship to purchase even one laptop. "Match Funds" allows L4L to offer support to a greater number of students and their families.

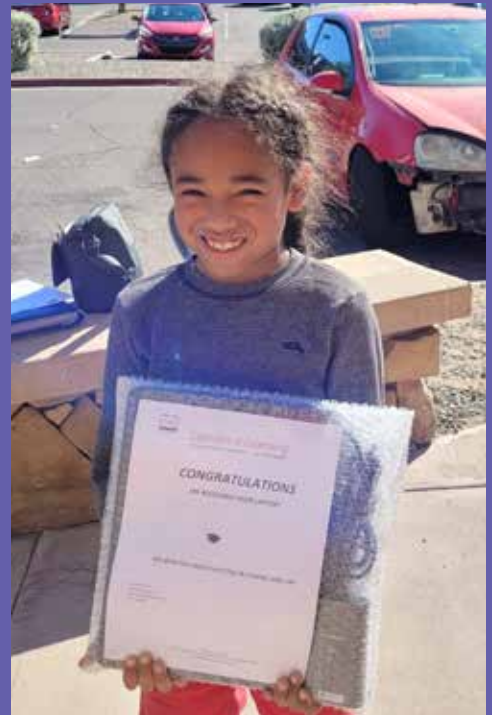


Students ending their middle school journey and now heading to high school at Booth-Fickett Math/Science Magnet School in Tucson receive laptops in support of their future success in school.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WE PROUDLY SHARE

During 2021, Laptops 4 Learning partnered with the following organizations who recognize the negative societal impact inadequate access to computer technology is having. Organizations who chose to proactively step-up and partner with L4L to help close the ever-increasing digital technology gap for low-moderate income families include:



Desert Financial Credit Union members and employees were provided with a matching donation by Desert Financial Foundation, to provide 400 laptops to Title-1 school attendees in Glendale, Phoenix, Mesa and Humboldt Valley Schools. In addition, 20 laptops were provided to the Prescott Valley library to be used in a loaner program for students without access to a computer at home.



The Phoenix Chapter of the NBRPA provided 15 laptops to students attending the George Gervin Prep Academy, a college prep K – 8th grade school located in South Phoenix. NBRPA provided an additional 15 laptops to students attending Hope Academy High School, a South Phoenix based college and career readiness STEAM high school.

PMA VIDEO SCHOLARSHIP

Video Scholarship (a division of PMA Media Group) partnered with L4L to provide funding for 215 laptops to college students from low income families across the U.S.



BD Corporation employees, with a matching donation from the BD Foundation, provided 42 laptops in support of families with multiple students registered with the L4L program.

2,022 IN 2022

Laptops 4 Learning's rallying cry and goal for 2022 is to provide a minimum of 2,022 students with laptops.

Each \$1,000 in funding obtained by L4L helps put a digital device (Laptop or Chromebook) into the hands of 5 to 8 students. L4L receives an average of 10 to 12 student/veteran registrations weekly. Typically, about 15 of the monthly registrants will require partial funding to help purchase a device, and an additional 5 to 8 will require 100% funding.

L4L's in-person visits to schools, community agencies and other personal contact events were put on hold in 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic precautions. In-person contacts and on-line outreach to communities across the country have resumed in 2022. We are working diligently to increase community awareness of our program and identify students who need a device. This will predictably lead to an increase in the number of participants seeking help obtaining a device, and an increase in the number of laptops needed to be purchased to meet the demand.

TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOAL

We are respectfully seeking financial support from everyone who recognizes the benefit of ensuring that no student is denied the opportunity to succeed simply because they cannot afford a laptop.

Please...
go online to

**LAPTOPS4LEARNING.COM/
DONATIONS**

and donate today..



Save The Family was provided with 50% "Match-Funding" from L4L, allowing for seven students to receive laptops. Each organization contributed 50% of the laptops cost. Thanks to dual grants both L4L and Save the Family received from Valley of the Sun United Way, each organization partnered to contribute 50% of the laptop cost for the students in the Save the Family program.



Reveille Foundation took advantage of "Match-Funding" to purchase 45 laptops for a workforce development and training program for Military Service Veterans.



R.O.C.K. (Reaching Our Community Kids Foundation) Boxing Club received 15 laptops funded by Del E. Webb Foundation for use in a summer computer literacy program for kids in the South Phoenix community.



Laptops 4 Learning Executive Director, Brenda Powell, and Greg Powell, Director of Program Development, at a community event promoting the L4L opportunity for students.

Laptops 4 Learning was founded by Dwayne Baker in 2015, after he recognized the need for the students he mentored to have access to technology, for both educational and employment opportunities. As a veteran, he also wanted to help fellow veterans pursue education and employment opportunities.

Brenda and Greg Powell assumed operational responsibilities in 2018. Brenda is a retired high school guidance counselor. She worked in corporate sales and training for 20 + years for companies such as Xerox, TRW, and Honeywell. Greg has over 40 years experience in technology sales and management. His skills include creating and implementing business plans successfully achieving profitable growth.



A Day in the Life of Laptops 4 Learning:

L4L has students who have benefitted from receiving laptops in 38 states across the country. Opportunities to personally deliver laptops are a highlight of our day.

Join us as we deliver laptops to a student and a family.

<https://youtu.be/Q-tfh4COV7Q>



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