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Tech Goes Home Receives Grant from Patrick J. McGovern Foundation to Help Improve Digital Equity Data and Evaluation

BOSTON, February 28 – Today, <u>Tech Goes Home</u> (TGH) announced support from the <u>Patrick J. McGovern Foundation (PMJF)</u> for a collaborative research project, in partnership with Dr. Colin Rhinesmith and the Digital Equity Research Center, to improve digital equity data collection and provide stakeholders – including nonprofit organizations, funders, and policymakers – with important guidance about how to evaluate the impact of digital equity efforts.

TGH currently works with community-based organizations and instructors across Massachusetts to increase digital access by providing individuals and families with 15 hours of tailored digital skills instruction, and the opportunity to earn a free computer or tablet, along with one year of free, reliable internet access. The new research supported by PJMF will help TGH create an updated Theory of Change and culminate in a white paper that can serve as a resource for how to accurately and holistically evaluate and strengthen ongoing efforts to advance digital equity.

"The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation understands not only the critical urgency of expanding digital access, but the importance of continually improving how we undertake that work," said Daniel Noyes, CEO of TGH. "This PJMF investment will allow TGH to work with leading digital equity researchers to better understand the state of data and evaluation in our field, and then use that information to design better methods for collecting information and assessing impact. Ultimately, it will help us deliver programming and support that is more effective, sustainable, and equitable in all of the communities we work with."

"A robust and thriving community in the digital era requires widespread digital inclusion," said Vilas Dhar, President of the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation. "We're proud to continue our partnership with Tech Goes Home – particularly in this effort to understand and implement data-driven interventions for transformative change – to build a more equitable, prosperous, and healthy future for all."

This new support builds on previous PJMF investments aimed at increasing TGH's capacity to deliver programming to meet accelerating demand. With that previous support, TGH was able to provide thousands of new learners across Massachusetts with a digital device, reliable internet, and tailored digital skills training. Among the graduates who were able to access TGH thanks to the support of PJMF, 91 percent report using their new digital skills to communicate better via email, 98 percent of school-age children were able to more easily complete school work online, and three out of four graduates have used their devices and skills to access telehealth services.

About TGH

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 in Greater Boston and beyond. 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.

About Patrick J. McGovern Foundation

The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation is a global 21st-century philanthropy bridging the frontiers of artificial intelligence, data science, and social impact to create a thriving, equitable, and sustainable future for all. The Foundation's work focuses on bringing together academia, practitioners, and civil society to pursue the potential of Al and data science to address some of the world's most urgent challenges.

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