



For Immediate Release

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TeenForce Doubles STEM Internship Program For High School Foster Youth In Silicon Valley

24 Leading Employers Now Participating In Program Recognized By President Clinton

SAN JOSE – June 27, 2016 — TeenForce, a social enterprise specializing in preparing foster youth for careers, today announced an expansion of its innovative STEM Internship program to 24 Silicon Valley employers, including Symantec, San Jose Water and Alliance Credit Union.

The TeenForce program, one of the largest STEM initiatives for foster youth in the U.S., will give 37 students an opportunity to explore technology careers. TeenForce more than doubled the number of paid internships from 16 in 2015, when the program was launched.

President Clinton cited TeenForce's STEM program at the 2015 Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America meeting and urged others to follow its lead in helping foster youth. (See President Clinton [video](#) recognizing TeenForce.)

"At age 24, foster youth earn an average of \$690 per month, which is less than half of the average for their non-foster peers. Evidence shows that foster youth who start working during high school have the best earning potential," said John Hogan, CEO of TeenForce. "STEM internships are a life-changing experience for foster youth, keeping them engaged in school and helping develop networks of supportive adults."

TeenForce's STEM program is a partnership with the Silicon Valley Children's Fund (SVCF) under their joint CGI America Commitment to Action, made at the 2014 CGI America meeting. TeenForce and SVCF are combining to offer STEM training, work readiness training and paid STEM internships to 100% of the high school foster youth in Santa Clara County. Students complete 60 hours of pre-internship training and skills development, focused on areas such as robotics, coding and office productivity tools.

"Symantec is proud to support the launch and growth of this ambitious program," said Jaime Barclay, manager for Corporate Responsibility at Symantec. "There will be thousands of jobs available in cyber-security and other STEM fields in the coming years, and these youth deserve the opportunity to compete for these jobs. This program will level the playing field, ensuring that foster youth are exposed to the same opportunities as non-foster youth in this arena."

Elise Cutini, Executive Director of Silicon Valley Children's Fund, said: "The Children's Fund has a strong record of increasing foster youth high school graduation rates and college completion. This program will deliver STEM skills and provide real work experience. This is critical, as we know that 25% of foster youth have no earnings between the ages of 18 and 20. The only foster youth that are consistently employed by the age of 24 are those who gain work experience while still in high school. To most foster youth in our community, the Silicon Valley corporate world might as well be in another country. This program helps demystify what lies behind that corporate wall."



About TeenForce

Based in San Jose, TeenForce is a social enterprise that helps youth acquire the skills, habits and work experience to fulfill their potential. We have a particular emphasis on working with current and former foster youth. Our approach is patterned after the for-profit staffing industry, which helps develop relationships with employers and drives revenue to make us self-sustaining. TeenForce is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Foundations and Corporations interested in supporting the Commitment to Action with funding and/or internship opportunities are encouraged to contact John Hogan at JohnHogan@teenforce.org

About Silicon Valley Children’s Fund

Silicon Valley Children’s Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that invests in high impact public-private partnership programs that help foster youth become successful and self-sustaining adults. Driven by values centered on youth-advised innovation, cost-effective social solutions and cross-sector collaborations, our primary focus is educational outcomes for foster youth with programs that provide critical educational and psychosocial supports including academic enrichment and coaching. SVCF scholars graduate high school, matriculate to and complete college at a much higher rate than the national average. For more information on our programming and outcomes contact Elise Cutini at Elise.Cutini@svcf.org

About Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America

Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America brings together leaders from the business, philanthropic, nonprofit, and government sectors to develop solutions that encourage economic growth, support long-term competitiveness, and increase social mobility in the United States. CGI America’s annual convening is designed to be a working meeting that promotes collaboration. Each CGI America participant makes a Commitment to Action: a new, specific, and measurable plan that supports increased economic growth and opportunity. To date, CGI America participants have made more than 500 commitments, which have improved the lives of nearly 2.4 million people.

Internship Partners: The employers listed below will be hosting one or more foster youth interns during summer 2016. Internships are typically 5 to 6 weeks and range from 125 to 200 work hours.

- Anaerobe Systems
- Alliance Credit Union
- Alliance Manufactured Homes
- Beshoff Infiniti
- Cambridge Property Management
- ChaseVP (Commercial Printer)
- City of Morgan Hill
- City of San Jose - Environmental Services Division
- George Chiala Farms
- Imwalle Properties
- Intero Real Estate Services
- Iron Construction, Inc.

- Opportunity Youth Academy
- Petrinovich Pugh & Company LLP (Accounting)
- Kaiser Permanente
- Princeton Capital (Mortgage)
- QuantumScape Corporation
- Santa Clara County Office of Education
- San Jose Water Company
- Silicon Valley Children’s Fund
- Symantec Corporation
- TenCate
- The Tech Museum of Innovation
- Bozzuto Insurance Services