



## For Immediate Release

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# TeenForce Brings Computers and STEM Training to Santa Clara County Foster Youth

**SAN JOSE – March 22, 2017** — [TeenForce](#) today announced it will give Santa Clara County foster youth 200 laptops and offer STEM training as part of a regional initiative to provide access to technology and job opportunities to foster youth. The laptops -- along with a \$40,000 cash grant to TeenForce to support its STEM program – were donated by Google.

The grant brings Google’s cash and in-kind support to \$235,000 since December 2015.

“Google has been supporting the TeenForce’s STEM program for almost 18 months,” said Javier Gonzalez, Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager for Google. “When we learned about the need for laptops as part of the Silicon Valley Hack Foster Care Summit, we wanted to do our part to make sure that Santa Clara County teens and young adults were well supported. We believe that these computers can fill an important need for foster youth during the all-important years when they are beginning to focus on careers and completing educational milestones.”

[Hack Foster Care Summit](#), which took place in Mountain View February 27-28, brought together technology companies, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and foster youth advocates to help “hack” the child welfare system and improve the experience for foster youth, foster families and social workers. One of the goals of the Summit was to provide laptops to 100% of foster teens in California. This will require about 10,000 laptops over the next three years, and a coalition of foster youth organizations and businesses, including Google, are 25% toward that goal.

TeenForce will distribute the laptops to foster teens who are participating in its nationally recognized Foster Youth STEM and Professional Development program. The STEM program provides high school foster youth with training in coding, robotics and design thinking. Students that complete the training become eligible for paid internships with companies like Symantec, Interio Real Estate Services and Iron Construction.

The foster youth STEM program is an ongoing collaboration between TeenForce and [Silicon Valley Children’s Fund](#) supported by Google. In addition to the current laptop donation and cash award, TeenForce was a 2015 Google Impact Challenge winner, and Google selected Silicon Valley Children’s Fund as a recipient of the 2016 Google RISE award. The Silicon Valley Children’s Fund is the leading provider of educational support to foster youth in Silicon Valley.

John Hogan, CEO of TeenForce said, “Google is a very strong supporter of foster youth in Silicon Valley, and we appreciate the company’s dedication to improving the child welfare system in the region. With Google’s delivery of 200 laptops, we now have enough computers for about half the foster teens in the County. Our STEM program has already delivered 100 laptops in the past 12 months. We are confident that we and other partners will get Santa Clara County to 100% laptop access for foster teens by the end of the year.”



### **About TeenForce**

Based in San Jose, TeenForce helps foster youth acquire the skills, habits and work experience to fulfill their potential. 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 STEM program with funding and/or internship opportunities are encouraged to contact John Hogan at [JohnHogan@teenforce.org](mailto:JohnHogan@teenforce.org)

### **About Silicon Valley Children's Fund**

The Silicon Valley Children's Fund (SVCF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to improving educational and life outcomes for foster youth. SVCF has provided over \$3M in scholarship dollars to foster youth in Santa Clara County. Our persistent coaching model provides high school and college foster youth continuous mentor support, education planning, tutoring, career exploration and an unconditional commitment to help them define and achieve their life dreams! SVCF scholars are 10x more likely to graduate from college, compared to only 3% of foster youth nationally. For more information on SVCF's programs and outcomes, contact Elise Cutini at [Elise.Cutini@svcf.org](mailto:Elise.Cutini@svcf.org)