



Media Advisory
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Bridging the Gap partners with local organizations to distribute 300 computers and internet access to the Temple and Waco communities

September 25, 2019 - Bridging the Gap is hosting several distribution events to provide computers and internet to hundreds of low-income families in Temple and Waco, TX.

Bridging the Gap is a nonprofit-led initiative of PCs for People and Mobile Beacon that helps community anchor institutions like housing authorities, schools, libraries, and nonprofits provide affordable computers and Educational Broadband Service (EBS) internet to individuals and families below the 200% poverty level.

The first Bridging the Gap distribution event will occur on Friday, September 27th at 5 PM at Waco Charter School in Waco, TX. Bridging the Gap will distribute 100 computers and mobile hotspots with three months of unlimited internet service to selected low-income families and individuals from the school community. Skinny's Repair Shop will provide on-going computer support after the distribution event.

The second Bridging the Gap distribution event will occur on Saturday, September 28th at 9 AM at Ralph Wilson Youth Club in Temple, TX. Two hundred computers and mobile hotspots with three months of unlimited internet service will be distributed to selected low-income families and individuals from the Belton Independent School District and Temple Independent School District. Electronic Assistant Corporation will provide on-going computer support after the distribution event.

"The opportunities and access to technology that PCs for People and Mobile Beacon will provide to our students and their families are invaluable," Belton ISD Board of Trustees President Sue M. Jordan said. "We are incredibly grateful for our long-time partnership with the United Way of Central Texas and appreciate them for being the powerful connector that brought us all together in support of our community."

"Although we have been able to close the digital divide within our school buildings, it is still an obstacle for some of our students when they leave. Bridging the Gap is an initiative that helps support a seamless transition between school and home, which ultimately gives our students an

equal advantage as a learner. Further, this provides an opportunity for our committed parents to monitor their student's success online," Dr. Bobby Ott, Temple Independent School District Superintendent.

Thank you to our event partners United Way of Central Texas, Ralph Wilson Youth Club, Southwest Elementary, Miller Heights Elementary, Bonham Middle School, Lamar Middle School, and Travis Science Academy.

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About Mobile Beacon:

Mobile Beacon provides high-speed, low-cost, mobile internet access to the anchors of communities: the nonprofits, schools, libraries, and healthcare organizations that provide vital services to millions of Americans every day. Through this broadband service, organizations have an essential tool to fulfill their missions and maximize their philanthropic impact, which allows organizations to access more information, reach more people, and help more in their communities. Learn more at www.mobilebeacon.org.

About PCs for People:

Since 1998, PCs for People has been a driving force behind digital inclusion efforts across the US. We are a self-sustainable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a national reach. Self-sustainability is driven by our four step approach - Source, Refurbish, Distribute, and Support. With strong partnerships and dedicated staff, 250,000+ computers have been distributed, 128,000+ homes have internet access, and millions of pounds of electronics have been responsibly recycled. Our corporate services include secure IT asset disposition and AAA NAID certified data sanitization. Learn more at www.pcsforpeople.org.