



KEY INITIATIVE

TECHQUITY

The Challenges

Imagine trying to apply for a job, complete homework, or access healthcare services without a computer. For thousands in our community, that's their reality.

Across our region, the digital divide is wide and persistent. The digital divide is the gap between those who have access to technology, and those we do not.

- More than **91,000 households** do not have a basic computer.
- **One in four children** do not have access to a computer at home, leaving them to complete schoolwork without the tools they need to keep up or get ahead.
- And while the job market continues to evolve, **89% of jobs in Wisconsin** now require digital skills, yet **one in three workers** does not have the skills needed to compete for those opportunities.

When people get connected, everything changes. Students can log in, learn, and thrive. Job seekers can apply, interview, and get hired. Families can access healthcare, benefits, and critical services without unnecessary barriers.

Today, being connected is not a nice-to-have. It's essential.

The Solutions

Our goal: We will provide 50,000 computers to people who need them across our four counties by 2027.

The vision of Techquity is to ensure that residents in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties have access to reliable devices and the digital skills needed to use these devices in a productive manner.

The initiative brings community partners and local nonprofits together to overcome technology challenges and close the digital divide across the region.

Techquity drives action through two clear, connected strategies that move our community from access to opportunity.



Devices. We provide computers to individuals and families who need them. This is removing one of the most basic barriers to education, employment, healthcare, and connection.



Skills. We build digital confidence and capability across our community through digital literacy and skills training. We equip individuals with the knowledge to understand computer basics, access the internet, apply for jobs, manage finances, and engage in everyday life with independence and confidence.

These strategies do more than close gaps. They open doors, remove barriers, and ensure that everyone in our region has the tools and skills to thrive in a digital world.

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY IS ACCESS TO POSSIBILITY.



The Results

Progress on Goal: 30,952 computers
As of June 30, 2026.

62%



Goal: 50,000 computers

Together, in 2024-25:

- We distributed over **15,500 computers** to individuals.
- We held over **40 computer distribution events** at United Way and at distribution hubs throughout our community. We gave computers at no cost to the guests and offered basic digital skill trainings.
- We introduced over **40 nonprofits** as distribution partners.
- We supplied digital technical assistance to over **4,300 people**.
- We helped people with technology needs over **5,100 times**, including helping them log on to the computer, setting up their email, helping them get online, and more.

Volunteers in Action: Techquity Distribution Events

You and more than **600 volunteers** transformed Techquity events into life-changing moments of access, confidence, and possibility.

These events not only place computers into people's hands, they equip individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to use those devices independently.

This is about starting a new career, enrolling in a class, applying for housing, or staying connected with family and friends.

You sat side-by-side with guests, answered questions, and offered guidance. It wasn't just about technology. It was about dignity, opportunity, and building a stronger future together.

IMPACT IN ACTION



Mary's career journey began with a free computer.

"A few years ago, I came to a United Way Techquity event and was able to get a free laptop," said Mary. "I never had a computer before, but I realized I can't keep doing everything on my phone."

After years of working in a variety of industries, Mary wanted to dedicate some time discovering a career path for herself.

Using her new laptop, she dove into online research and discovered BankWork\$, a program at Employ Milwaukee. BankWork\$ is an occupational skill development program supported by United Way. The program provides eight weeks of retail banking career training.

"I used the computer for classes, for my schoolwork, for everything," said Mary. "It was suddenly an essential in my life."

After graduating from BankWork\$, Mary quickly interviewed and was hired in the banking industry. Today she is an associate banker at BMO.

"I love my customers. I love my job. I love BMO. The whole experience, from Techquity to BankWork\$ to BMO, changed my life."

Partners like Employ Milwaukee help bring our strategies to life every day, providing individuals like Mary a path to a stable career.

2026-27 Investments

These organizations are providing digital skills and literacy training:

La Casa de Esperanza
Milwaukee Community
Crossroads
Milwaukee Community
Service Corps
My Way Out
Serving Older Adults
of Southeastern
Wisconsin

Vision Forward Association
Wisconsin Chinese
Chamber of Commerce
YWCA of Southeast
Wisconsin