



Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Douglas Guthrie
President & CEO

HACLA Partners with Human-I-T to Donate 530 Laptops to Low-Income Students in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES – The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) has teamed up with human-I-T to provide 530 Chromebook laptop computers to its public housing residents. HACLA conducted a lottery across all of its (14) sites to disseminate the devices to families with more than three school-aged children living in the household. With each laptop device, human-I-T has committed to a one-year product warranty, one year of free tech support, and assistance in signing up for an affordable high speed internet connectivity plan.

As schools (and many companies) were forced to close their doors in response to COVID-19, telecommuting and distance (online) learning have become a new way of life – one that has been a more difficult adjustment for some than for others. With both parents and children staying at home, resources have become even more limited for some as families are sharing laptops and desktop computers for both work and school use.

“Many students from lower income areas are at a disadvantage without proper access to resources and tools necessary for their learning,” said Doug Guthrie, President & CEO of the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles. “It’s not fair that students should fall behind in their academic matriculation for external factors outside of their control. This partnership with human-I-T is a great step towards closing the digital divide and making sure our students are set up for success.”

Nonprofit organization human-I-T offers WiFi connectivity support, affordable computers and free digital literacy training to individuals. “Our goal is to provide low income families with the technology and resources they need to succeed in the digital age,” said Gabe Middleton, CEO and co-founder at human-I-T. “With COVID-19 requiring people to stay at home, this work is more important than ever as we endeavor to keep people healthy, safe, informed and connected.”

This partnership is made possible thanks to the generosity of Crown Castle’s “Connected by Good” program, which funded the donation of 500 laptops. An additional 30 devices have been donated by Visionary Women.

“As the current pandemic has shown, access to connectivity is a necessity for students, teachers and families to close the homework gap. We’re proud that our Connected by Good program could help support Human-I-T and ultimately 500-plus Los Angeles-area students in public housing with laptops, which will allow them to connect to the internet and continue to learn remotely,” concluded Mark Guillen, Public Affairs Manager for Crown Castle.

About HACLA

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) was established in 1938 by City of Los Angeles

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Resolution No. 1241. HACLA is one of the nation's largest and leading public housing authorities, providing the largest supply of quality affordable housing to residents of the City of Los Angeles. HACLA provides affordable housing to over 83,000 households in its Public Housing and Section 8 departments, and offers a range of permanent supportive housing programs for homeless households, including: Project-Based, HUD – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, Homeless, Tenant Based Supportive Housing, Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA), Continuum of Care and Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy program.

About human-I-T

Based in Long Beach, CA, human-I-T believes that through social entrepreneurship, opportunities are created for our world to become more inclusive, sustainable, and bold. We inspire and empower people through technology and information to achieve their full potential. Services include human-I-T Connect, assisting qualifying households in subscribing to high speed, affordable internet; human-I-T Equip, offering low cost laptops and computers to nonprofits and low-income individuals; and their Digital Literacy program, a free self-paced online course teaching basic computer skills. Services are also available in Spanish. To learn more, visit human-i-t.org.

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