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What has the nominee accomplished qualitatively and quantitatively to help close the Digital Divide and what has been the magnitude of the impact?

- ❖ The Southeast Community Development Corporation (SCDC) recognized the need for an organized approach to the then largely non-existent services for the population of the Southeast area of Los Angeles County and spearheaded the formation of the Southeast Technology Collaborative to address the communities' needs with technology. SCDC was successful, raising start-up capital, commissioning Community Assessment Report via UC Berkeley and the resulting Regional Technology Strategic Plan. Subsequent to this, SCDC had further success in obtaining over \$1.5 MM from a wide range of sources for the purpose of implementation.
- ❖ Due to this groundwork, SCDC has provided Digital Literacy classes to 800 youth, 800 adults and prepared 1,200 adults to be job ready. SCDC has participated in over 25 community fairs to date and has plans to partner with CFY and AT&T to provide 500 free computers accompanied with two years of free DSL for students participating in a computer literacy class.

How has the nominee made an exemplary contribution towards Digital Inclusion that distinguishes the effort from others?

- ❖ Mobile Technology Center (MTC)
  - A "one of a kind" environmentally friendly mobile classroom offering 15 on-board Mac Book Pro laptops, satellite internet service, Wi-Fi service, multi-function laser printer and a 77-inch Smart Board all housed in a 14 foot RV. The MTC allows SCDC to make its services easy and convenient to the community where otherwise the lack of facility would make it impossible to provide.
- ❖ SCDC has actively assisted other CETF grantees by participating in their events and lending the MTC. In particular, SCDC has been a strong supporter of CETF's *Get Connected!* campaign, following wherever needed and featuring the services of the MTC.

How is the nominee regarded and respected by colleagues and the community?

- ❖ The MTC has generated great interest from fellow CETF grantees as well as local Fire and Police Departments. Not only was there appreciation for the creativity and the manner in which it is equipped, inquiries as to how they themselves could pursue a similar vehicle were explored.
- ❖ SCDC strives to engage diverse community stakeholders with common goals and has been successful in establishing 10 Regional Computer Centers (RCC) for a total of 120 computers. E.g., a partner at one of these centers, the Boys and Girls Club, will provide free classroom space while SCDC provides computers, staff and free bilingual computer literacy classes, which were particularly well received by the community.

What does the nominee do to inspire, enlist and assist others in promoting Digital Inclusion, especially harnessing market forces to serve the public good?

- ❖ In establishing and implementing the Regional Technology Strategic Plan, SCDC was able to successfully promote and advance Digital Inclusion into an underserved community wherein only 30% of the population had access or knowledge of computer technology.
- ❖ At the request of other community organizations, SCDC has gone beyond computer literacy classes to also provide classes in Financial Literacy, Basic Health Education and Energy Conservation.
- ❖ By virtue of offering computer literacy classes at both the RCC's and the MTC, SCDC has been able to form close relationships with youth who would otherwise be at risk due to the high gang presence in these communities.

- ❖ SCDC has initiated and established partnerships with local non-profits, such as, the Human Services Association, Rio Hondo Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, and Salvation Army to provide them support with programming.

How does the nominee capture the spirit and legacy of Don and Rosemary Vial?

- ❖ SCDC recognizes the value of the resources it has been given stewardship over by CETF and other benefactors, as well as the responsibility to use them to the full benefit of the communities it serves. Southeast Los Angeles area families are the poorest per capita in the nation, with over 19% unemployment, and overcrowded schools.
  - The schools do not have the funds to provide the basic necessary tools enjoyed by students in other school districts. Computers and computer technology education is too expensive. As a result, these students lack the fundamentals of a basic education, and are ill prepared to compete with others in pursuing a higher education. This represents a substantial disadvantage from the very start, and one that grows deeper as time progresses. The lack of having a level playing field when it comes to their basic education perpetuates the poverty cycle from generation to generation.
  - Information and education of technology empowers individuals who take advantage of SCDC's services to tackle one of their major disadvantages, and helps them improve both their financial and intellectual lives. Students learn to love learning through the use of computers, and adults gain new skills that help them improve the level of employment they can seek. SCDC believes that in teaching a person how to use a computer, the student is gaining a tool that will help the individual in various aspects of their lives. Learned computer skills enables student to continue educating themselves and become more involved and informed citizens.