



**2012 Don and Rosemary Vial Awards
for Digital Inclusion:
Outstanding Performance by an
Organization Nominee**



Recognizing that access to jobs is increasingly tied to access to broadband technology, Chrysalis has expanded the computer training component of its Employment Program by creating an enhanced computer curriculum for its clients, providing each client with a personal USB drive, and piloting a laptop computer lab in its downtown site, to be replicated in its Santa Monica and Pacoima sites. Through multiple training sessions, Chrysalis provides its homeless and low-income clients—many of whom are long disconnected from having broadband access—with Digital Literacy skills, broadband access, technology training and one-on-one tutoring helping them gain the computer skills needed to find and retain employment. Since late 2011, several hundred Chrysalis clients have learned computer skills and Internet literacy, as well as resulting employment.

What distinguishes Chrysalis' Digital Inclusion efforts is its focus on a population of disconnected individuals often left underserved by service providers. Chrysalis works with homeless and economically disadvantaged adults—those with both a lack of basic Digital Literacy skills and access to computers and broadband in general. Providing such tools for this population helps them overcome a critical barrier for them to find and obtain employment and turn their lives around. Furthermore, clients are given skills that will continue to empower them towards self-sufficiency, such as online job searches, electronic resume writing, and online researching.

Chrysalis works with over 125 partner nonprofit organizations, which refer their own clients to Chrysalis, so that they can access Chrysalis' successful Employment Program, including computer and Internet training. Even social service partners with their own job training programs rely on Chrysalis to provide their clients with the crucial job readiness tools that help people succeed in the job market. Chrysalis Enterprises, Chrysalis' social enterprise division, is one of only two Southern California programs chosen by the San Francisco-based venture philanthropy organization REDF to be a subgrantee in their highly competitive Social Innovation Fund project, and Chrysalis clients directly contribute to REDF's employment and retention goals. In 2004, Chrysalis Enterprises was chosen by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation as a national model of success. Chrysalis participates in many coalitions in the communities where we work. Chrysalis' V.P. of Programs and Government Relations serves on the board of the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition, and was elected to the executive committee of the downtown Los Angeles Central Providers Collaborative (LACPC). Chrysalis also participates in the Providers Collaborative in the San Fernando Valley, and has been asked by the United Way to participate in their planning process for their work on financial stability and job training.

In addition to full-time Chrysalis staff, each year over 100 volunteers from all market sectors volunteer their time to help Chrysalis clients overcome barriers to employment. Volunteers teach computer classes and provide one-on-one tutoring to help clients gain basic and intermediate computer skills and Internet literacy. Providing access to broadband technology and the knowledge of how to use it is a critical tool for clients searching for employment in today's economy. Chrysalis staff and volunteers implement our strategy of making broadband readily available and provide the training and support necessary to make that technology a vehicle for meaningful change in our clients' lives.

Like Don and Rosemary Vial, Chrysalis has always believed that with access to equal resources, including computer and broadband access, all people will be able to compete in the marketplace and be self-sufficient. Additionally, Chrysalis has always aimed to provide homeless and low-income clients with all that they need to compete fairly in the job market, providing a full range of support to clients, including everything from bus tokens to a mailing address. Chrysalis shares the Vial's passion for fairness, equity and compassion for those in need.