



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Tech for Good - Alameda County Provides Distribution of Free, Fully Refurbished Laptops to Qualified Residents**

*The Alameda County Workforce Development Board collaborates to close the digital divide and support access to online career services, education, and training, through the distribution of free certified refurbished laptops.*

Hayward, CA — The pandemic has exacerbated inequalities, making the digital divide more prominent among low-income families and individuals. The [Alameda County Workforce Development Board \(ACWDB\)](#) has joined forces with **Goodwill of the Greater East Bay** and **Corporate eWaste Solutions (CEWS)** in support of the [Tech for Good](#) Initiative - a laptop recycling program that benefits disadvantaged families and individuals. The [Tech for Good](#) Initiative provides access to high-quality technology (up to 200 units annually) to reach ACWDB's career center participants and low-income families free of charge!

Yuet Kwai Lau, CEO of **CEWS**, has long envisioned helping organizations cultivate practices to reduce e-waste and repurpose valuable materials to achieve greater environmental sustainability: "Making a difference begins at home. That is why **CEWS** is reaching out locally to impact the residents of Alameda County with tools and resources that would otherwise end up needlessly in landfills causing substantial environmental harm. We are grateful to provide services to empower those in need with 21st-century technology at no cost to the recipient."

**Goodwill** will donate gently used laptops to **CEWS** for complete computer refurbishing and installation of Windows 10 and Microsoft Office Suite 2010. **ACWDB** will distribute free laptops and laptop bags to eligible disadvantaged families and individuals in Alameda County through its career centers and other community partners.

Rhonda Boykin, Interim **ACWDB** Director, acknowledges the hardships of the digital divide on job seekers in Alameda County. "We have seen a sharp rise in people who are completely locked out of the job market because they don't have laptops or reliable internet services to look for employment or upgrade their skills. We're committed to partnering to remove barriers to successful training, employment, and retention outcomes."

The Tech for Good Initiative aims to help job seekers with barriers to employment gain access to online training programs, career center workshops and services, and online job resources that facilitate career transitions or new



employment opportunities altogether. Together, partners are working to meet residents' social and economic needs while creating a more sustainable future through sustainable e-waste practices for Alameda County's green future - a win-win for Alameda County's residents and environment.

Mike Keenan, President and CEO, states “**Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay** is proud to be in partnership with **CEWS** and the **ACWDB** to help eliminate the digital divide in our community. Access to technology, or a lack thereof, has a direct correlation to an individual’s ability to connect with vital services on their path to self-sufficiency and success. We are excited to begin the work of bridging the technological gap so that every member of our community has access to the tools they need to better themselves and discover their full potential.”

Applicants must reside in Alameda County and be determined low-income based on the following Housing and Community Development annual income guidelines (family of 1 = \$73,100; family of 3 = \$94,000; family of 5 = \$112,800). Individuals interested in the Tech for Good Initiative should access the **ACWDB** website for service providers' information to apply or call **ACWDB** at 510-259-3836.

**Goodwill of the Greater East Bay** is now accepting donations of unwanted laptops and power cords from businesses and individuals for [Tech for Good](#). To donate, please contact [norcalpickup@cewsb2b.com](mailto:norcalpickup@cewsb2b.com) or (510) 998-2828.

**Goodwill of the Greater East Bay** [<https://eastbaygoodwill.org/>]

Since 1920, our mission is to turn donations into jobs – offering lifetime purpose and opportunity. Everyone has the opportunity to discover their full potential and purpose, empowering them to reach financial independence and become productive members of our community.

**Corporate eWaste Solutions (CEWS)** [<https://cewsb2b.com>]

Corporate eWaste Solutions is a nationwide R2, CalRecycle, DTSC, and ISO certified electronics reuse and recycling provider. We create custom solutions to support organizations' sustainability goals. We specialize in electronic asset recovery, data security, data and product destruction, E-Waste recycling, plastic recycling, collection events, OEM RMA support, logistic support, regulatory reporting support, and social impact programs. CEWS partners with Stopwaste.org, to facilitate the logistics and workforce for pickup, electronic refurbishing, and tracking and reporting of newly refurbished devices.

**Alameda County Workforce Development Board** [[www.acwdb.org](http://www.acwdb.org)]

The Alameda County Workforce Development Board is a 27-member employer-led oversight body of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I programs in Alameda County (outside the city of Oakland). WIOA is a federal program that strengthens workforce programs that serve adults, dislocated workers, youth, and young adults. ACWDB sets local program policies aligned with the WIOA and ensures comprehensive WIOA services for job seekers, youth, and employers. ACWDB also develops strategic partnerships to address and remediate workforce issues.