

'Equipping Deserving Students for Success One Laptop at a time'



Dr. Bobby & Julie Baker, with son Alex Baker and Mayor Tecklenburg at a student laptop presentation at the Charleston Development Academy.

# 2022 Predictions for K-12 Students and Technology

Parents, Educators, Students, and Communities experienced a digital divide when the coronavirus pandemic disrupted our lives. The need for online schooling and remote work had a negative impact on those that did not have the same access to computers and internet access. As 2022 ramps up, we are seeing solutions and new programs created to tackle these past challenges. Through our research (Continued Pg 4



Student laptop computer recipients: David



Student laptop computer recipient: Jamesia

## What's Inside

# 2021 DONATION HIGHLIGHTS & PARTNERSHIPS

Learn about our new community partnerships

### NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

We're growing! Meet our new Advisory Board Members

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mark your calendars for our upcoming community events



# Letter From the Advisory Board

Dear Current and Future Supporters of Computers with a Cause,

There is no question that the Covid pandemic has presented many challenges for most non-profit organizations. That, combined with the difficulties that the education system has suffered has clearly had an impact on our organization.

On a positive note, our contributions to the local students and schools have had a very positive impact. We were able to provide hot spots for students who had no internet access to continue their education through remote classes. We were surely surprised at the number of students who couldn't gain any access to the internet and thankfully we were able to help all the students at Early College High School accomplish this.

I believe the question: "How do you swallow an elephant?" and answer: "One bite at a time!" We used our resources to get as many hot spots as we could afford. We also awarded several laptop computers, including 12 to the Charleston Development Academy, Boy Scouts of America, and the Ronald McDonald House. We are learning about other needs and opportunities each week.

There is no question, that we could find a use for hundred's of computers and hotspots if we had additional resources.

For that reason, we will continue our campaign to ask donors to consider providing some of these wonderful kids and organizations who do not have the means to have their own computers. We simply ask that everyone consider a donation as small or as large as they can to help with our mission: "Help provide hardworking & deserving students the tools needed to succeed in today's digital world, one laptop at a time."

I am very excited that we have two new advisory board members who you will read about in this issue of our newsletter. Chris Staubes and Janice Yonemine will make great additions to our board and bring new perspectives and experiences to our organization. We are broadening our base to Maui, Hawaii, where Julie and I lived for 25 years. Janice will help us identify those students who could really use our help there.

We look forward to 2022 and hope the pandemic will end soon but also understand that we have learned a great deal through all of this. I'm happy to once again say that 100% of all contributions are used to purchase computers and hotspots without any administrative overhead. So, if you can help one of these students or organizations in need, I can promise you that it means a lot to them.

Best regards,

Bobby C. Baker, MD

Founder



# Our Story

### **COMPUTERS WITH A CAUSE**

Computers with a Cause was an idea born from Dr. Bobby Baker in 2018. After sorting through the mail, Dr. Baker saw DELL was having a huge Black Friday sale. His passion for doing good prompted him to immediately purchase the maximum number of computers allowed as he knew there were students in the Charleston community that were in need of computers. Eager to find homes for the 5 computers, Bobby contacted the Mayor's office in hopes to be connected to someone in the Charleston County School District.

It wasn't long after, Dr. Bobby and Julie Baker had the opportunity to present Ty'Celia Young, the first recipient of a computer resulting from this collaboration.

Some of the partners have included: Social Venture Partners Charleston. The Coastal Community Foundation, Ronald McDonald House of Charleston and Coastal Carolina



Lara LeRoy (SVP), TyCelia Young (Recipient) and Carolina Rakar (Coastal Community Foundation)

Council of Boy Scouts, and the City of Charleston Mayor's Office.

Computers With a Cause continues to grow to new heights and in 2022, we intend on continuing our mission and making a difference not only in a student's life but with their entire family.

# **Upcoming Events**

**APR 14** 

Board Advisory Meeting – Intro to New Advisory Members

**APR 25** 

Open Submissions starts for Summer '22 Nominees

**MAY 27** 

Summer '22 Application Deadline

**MAY 28** 

Summer '22 Selection Announcement

JUN 3

Summer '22 Student Presentation Day

JULY 1

Christmas in July Giving Event

### **JOIN US AT OUR LOCAL EVENTS!**

OCT 1

National Computer Learning Month

**OCT 28** 

Computers with a Cause Day 2022 - City of Charleston

**NOV 21** 

Open Submissions starts for Winter '22

DEC 9

Winter '22 Submission Deadline for Winter 22

**DEC 20** 

Computers with a Cause 5th Year Anniversary. Winter 22 Presentation Day



## 2022 Predictions (Continued from Page 1)



Laptop donation to students and faculty at Charleston Development Academy

# PROGRAMS FOR MENTAL WELLNESS WILL COME TO THE FOREFRONT FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND STAFF

School districts continue to adapt and provide additional support for students that experienced a learning loss. We continue to see staff burned out, increase cases of covid and shortages of both teachers and other school member staff such as bus drivers. Grants from The CARES act and ESSER funds have provided funding for technology to support digital needs, staffing, and facility improvements.

### INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING WILL INCREASE

COVID disruption opened our eyes to the lack of digital infrastructure, resources, and digital knowledge among some of our teachers, staff, and students. Staff, parents, and school districts have learned from this experience. Thus, this learning experience will be essential to the transition from classrooms that were once taught by those in the digital-first generation to the alpha generation.

We will also see an increase in investments to schools to bolster their digital infrastructure such as devices and networks to support these essential and necessary changes.

# SCHOOL DISTRICTS MUST LEARN FROM TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Many school districts will address the digital inequalities by providing all students with the necessary equipment such as laptops to continue their education inside and outside of the classroom.

Districts will need to rely on teachers for advice to address the learning loss and inequalities that their students face. It's important for students to be assessed to identify the learning gaps although we know what students can truly achieve does not always show up on these assessments.



Student laptop presentation at the Charleston County School District



We worked with Skyroam to donate 10 Hot Spots to the students at Early College High School!





# 2021 Donation Highlights & Partnerships

Zoey Forshee of Troop 222G, Scout Executive Jason Smith. Scoutmaster Michele Davis. & Jacquie Gutierrez.



Debbi Everitt, Dr. Bobby Baker, and Kendra Barrett at the Boy Scouts of America, Coastal Carolina Council

## **Boy Scouts Coastal Carolina Council**

### **Troop 222G Scout selected to receive Laptop**

Computers with a Cause Board Member, Dr. Bobby Baker has been involved with the Boy Scouts Coastal Carolina Council as a Scoutmaster, volunteer, and Board Member for a number of years in both South Carolina and Hawaii. His wife, Julie Baker has volunteered as a Cub Den Scout Leader, and their two children have each earned their Eagle Scouts honors.

The Bakers were ecstatic to gift a laptop to Zoey Forshee, an excellent student who has distinguished herself academically and through her involvement with the Scouts. It is our belief that today's gift of a computer will help Zoey Forshee further her educational goals and give her the leg up that all students deserve.

The Bakers are happy to give back to their community through Dr. Bobby and Julie Baker Foundation and Computers with a Cause and are pleased to support qualified scouts through their charitable endeavors.

# Ronald McDonald House of Charleston

The holidays are an extra special time to give back to your local community. Computers with a Cause was fortunate to create a new relationship with the Ronald McDonald House of Charleston.

RMHC's Director of Development, Alix Tew advised Dr. Baker of their need for families and staff to have new laptops to replace the existing older versions that were currently in use. Computers with a Cause was delighted to gift the Ronald McDonald House of Charleston with 3 laptops to support and give families a more comfortable environment during a difficult time.



Ronald McDonald House of Charleston is located across the new Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital at MUSC



# Welcome Our New Advisory Board Members



Chris Staubes CEO, STAUBES LAW FIRM

Janice Yonamine
RN PACIFIC CANCER INSTITUTE

Chris Staubes is the owner of the Staubes Law Firm in Charleston, South Carolina where his firm assists businesses across the region with their legal needs. Charleston Business Magazine has named Chris to their 2017 Legal Elite of the Lowcountry for his work in Corporate Law and Mergers and Acquisitions.

Throughout his career, Chris has served on various foundation boards and economic development committees in support of his community. Including serving on the Charleston County School Board from 2014 until 2018. He's the founder and President Emeritus of the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce and he has been the President for the Coastal Carolina Council of the Boy Scouts of America since late 2019.

Chris hosts an exemplary track record of leadership throughout our Charleston community, and we are excited to have him serve on the Computers with a Cause Advisory Board.

We're delighted to have Janice join us as an advisory board member and representative of Maui, Hawaii, where Dr. Baker established the Pacific Cancer Institute in 1993 and lived for 25 years. Janice obtained her nursing degree from the University of Hawaii, Maui College.

Immediately upon graduation, she started her 20-year career in radiation oncology nursing at the Pacific Cancer Institute under the tutelage and direction of Dr. Bobby Baker. After her nephew was diagnosed with cancer at 2 years of age, she decided that she wanted to specialize in oncology and give back to her community in his memory.

Janice and her family members formed an Annual Spear Fishing Tournament each year on Father's Day in remembrance of her nephew. All the proceeds from this event are donated to the Hawaii Children's Cancer Foundation and honor a child from Maui, who was diagnosed with cancer. Janice said, "it is our way of respecting our nephew and emphasizing childhood cancer awareness publicly."



# Help Our Cause Donate Today

Our mission is to eliminate one obstacle in the life of deserving young students, one laptop computer at a time. Your tax-deductible contribution will help our local students close the gap by providing the necessary tools to succeed.

### **WAYSTOGIVE:**



### WEBSITE

Use our website to give ComputersWithACause.org



### **SCAN TO GIVE**

Use the QR Code to give, Scan and be taken to PayPal to give online through our secure system:



### **VIA OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

Visit our Non-Profit Facebook Page <u>@ComputersWithACause</u>



### MAIL A CHECK

Computers with a Cause 15 State Street Charleston, SC 29401

# **Our Board of Advisors**



Bobby C. Baker



Vanessa Denney



Chris Staubes



*Jeffrey Montgomery* 





Janice Yonamine Duncan T.M. Wierengo



John Burich



Even Ronald McDonald, himself, expressed his gratitude for the new Dell Laptops.

# Ronald McDonald House of Charleston

The Ronald McDonald House of Charleston provides families with the best chance of success when caring for their children with complex medical needs. Their cause encourages families and communities to come together to create solutions that will positively change a child's future.



15 State Street Charleston, SC 29401 Phone: (843) 737-0182 ComputersWithACause.org

