

# Promoting Digital Literacy among Vulnerable Calgarians

## Digital Devices for Needy Demographics

### Project Brief



[thecresscentre@gmail.com](mailto:thecresscentre@gmail.com)

[info@cresscentre.ca](mailto:info@cresscentre.ca)

**Estd. 2023**

**Supported by**

**Computers**  
for Schools



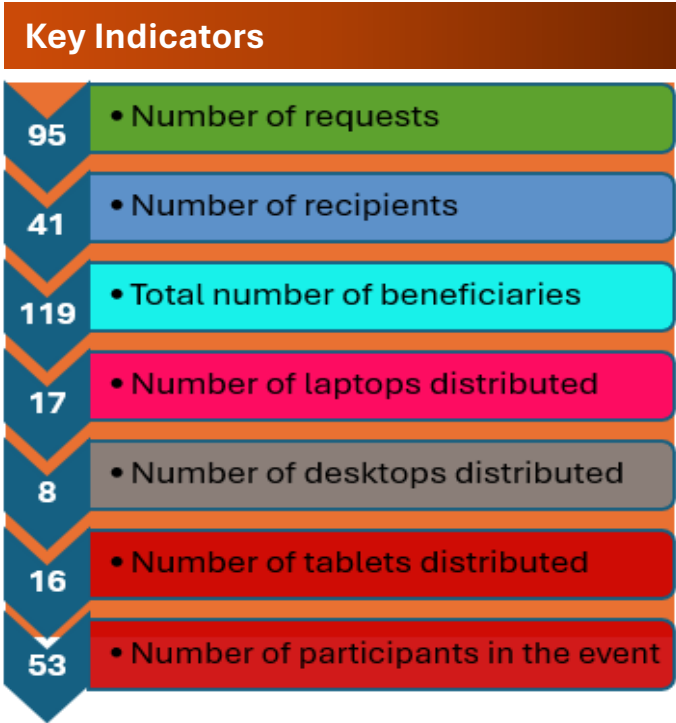
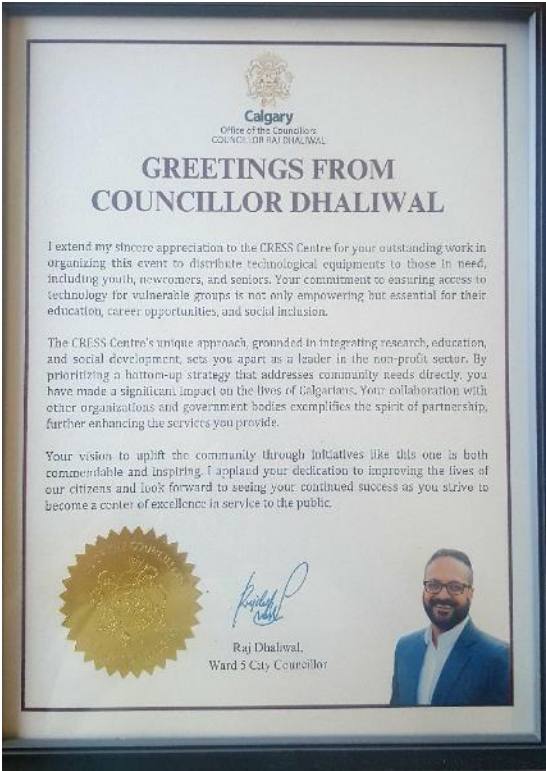
**Ordinateurs**  
pour les écoles

**In Collaboration with**



Promoting Digital Literacy among Vulnerable Calgarians

Vulnerable Calgarians like kids and youth from low-income families, seniors with mobility issues, unemployed people, recent newcomers, and refugees, among others, face challenges to grow and excel in a multicultural environment. They need support services and guidance from early on. The Centre for Research, Education, and Social Services (CRESS Centre) envisions becoming a center of excellence by integrating research and education to provide social services and enhance the quality of life of the vulnerable Calgarians. Our need assessment exercise in the summer of 2024 noticed that many kids, youth, refugee families, and recent newcomers face barriers to enhancing digital literacy. Digital devices like laptops, desktops, iPads, etc., could help them access fundamental resources like completing homework online, preparing resumes, increasing their social network, etc. With this background work, the CRESS Centre approached Computers for School for refurbished items that could be very helpful to the needy demographics we identified. Together with Remember Refugee Society (RRS), a device distribution event was held at the Genesis Centre in collaboration with the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) on 4 Oct 2024.



## Brief Stories of the Recipients

I am a senior nearing retirement. If a device is provided to me, I would like to promote my digital literacy and share my learning with others my age.

I have been in Canada for a while with my family, but we are low-income, and I have been facing challenges in school where I have to go to the library to use the laptops there because my family can't afford because we are low-income and are being supported by the government I have got bad grades since sometimes I have no time to go to the library and study there since my house is a busy place I have no laptop or desktop to work on. When we first came here, we had no phones or laptops, just a small TV that all my siblings and I watched.



I am a newcomer. I would like to study, improve my education, and have a better life. Unfortunately, I can't afford everything if I don't get help as little as possible.



I am a newcomer to a low-income family, and I would like to use the computer (if provided) for language learning to improve my English and for job search, resume writing, and interview preparation. Getting a digital device through your project would be a great help.

My and my kids came as refugees and have fled from war in our home country. We are low-income, and I am currently unemployed but looking for a job. My wife and I are the only ones with electronics, including our TV. I don't have a way to get a job quickly since my kids want another way to watch something they like. We have struggled, and I want to have a way to teach my kids better English and do their work better.



At 13, I live in a cozy but cramped apartment with my mom, dad, and younger brother. My parents both work hard to provide for us, but money is often tight, and I see them stress over bills. Balancing schoolwork and helping at home can be a challenge, especially with my brother needing attention. It would be a game changer if I had a laptop, tablet, or desktop. I could complete my assignments more efficiently, explore my interests like digital art and coding, and even help my brother with his homework. Having that resource would lighten my load and give me the tools to grow creatively and academically, setting the stage for a brighter future for all of us.



I am a Grade 11 student living in an apartment. I have four family members and one old laptop. Most of the time, I have to wait my turn to use the laptop for my projects and assignments. I have done project work at Calgary Public Library several times. If you provided a computer, it would save me time and make it easy to work on time and anywhere.



I am a refugee claimant who came to Canada five months ago. I am living in a shelter. Last month, I got my work permit. Last week, I got a job in a relief position.

I need a laptop to help me apply for jobs and do some online studies to improve myself. I would appreciate it if you considered me. Thank you.





As a mother of two daughters, I've faced numerous challenges balancing work, parenting, and financial stability. I'm determined to create a better life for my children. I'm pursuing a degree in early childhood education while caring for my kids, aged 9 and 11. Receiving item a laptop would be a lifeline for me. I would utilize it to complete online coursework, access educational resources, and develop skills to advance my career. This opportunity would enable me to increase our financial stability and become a role model for my children. Ultimately, it would allow me to provide a secure, nurturing environment for my family to thrive and inspire others in similar situations to pursue their dreams.



I am one of five children in a low—to mid-income immigrant family. Being such a large family means there are some limits to the things we can all get, so getting a free laptop would help me cross off at least one thing on my list as a student going into university next year.

