

## Keep Us Connected Campaign

### Working to Continue the SF Connected Program



*See back for Dates of Up-coming Budget Town Hall Meetings*

**What is the SF Connected Program?** The SF Connected Program is the result of a 3-year federal Dept. of Commerce grant (BTOP) to help jumpstart broadband internet access, computer training and support for seniors and adults with disabilities in San Francisco.

**Why is it important to get Seniors and Persons with Disabilities on-line?** Statistics indicate that the internet usage rate of seniors and adults with disabilities is only 42% compared to more than 80% by other demographic groups. This means seniors and adults with disabilities are cut off from important resources many people take for granted: educational and employment opportunities, news and information, socialization opportunities, and an affordable way to stay in touch with distant loved ones. Several years ago, the City set a goal of getting 90% of all residents on line by 2015 and clearly we have a long way to go.

**Where are these computer labs and access points?** In 54 senior and community centers and supportive housing buildings across the City of San Francisco. There are at least 2 computer labs in every Supervisorial district.

**How accessible are these computers for seniors and people with disabilities?** All labs are ADA compliant, with wheelchair accessible computer desks, large print key boards and Zoom text functionality for the visually impaired. Two senior community centers are working with developmentally disabled adults and seven sites are in adult day health centers.

**Are labs accessible for the linguistically isolated?** Classes and tutoring are being provided in English, Spanish, Russian, Cantonese/Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Korean. Each computer has touch screen access to information in the 5 primary San Francisco languages above.

**How many students, classes, volunteers have been involved?** As of March 1, the SF Connected Program has provided 5,613 training activities, where both paid and volunteer trainers provided over 40,000 hours of student training.

**Why do we need your help?** Funding for the program ends September 30<sup>th</sup> 2013. While the community centers will get to keep the computers, there will be no more money for tech support, system maintenance or necessary upgrades. No more money for recruiting and training volunteers or for paying a corps of skilled instructors and tutors to augment the volunteers. Over burdened senior and community centers will be solely responsible for maintaining the labs, which means the labs are likely to fall by the wayside as the Centers focus on their primary missions of nutrition, social services and socialization for low-income isolated seniors. **This proposal includes \$275,000 in additional employment opportunities for older adults and adults with disabilities next year.**

**What can you do?**

- **Contact your local Supervisor and the Mayor to urge their support of the SF Connected Program by including \$993,500 for the SF Connected Program in next year's budget.**
- **Join the Keep Us Campaign on Facebook or learn more at [www.sfhealthyaging.org](http://www.sfhealthyaging.org). You can also call 415-821-1003 for information.**

## Time To Tell the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors – Don't Disconnect Us!

We have a great chance to send the "Keep Us Connected" message to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors at up-coming neighborhood Budget Hearings. The dates have just been announced and some locations still need confirmation, but this is an important time to turn out folks to tell the Mayor and the Supervisors "Don't Disconnect Us". We will have campaign buttons and handouts – *we just need you to bring people!*

The total price tag is \$993,500 to keep the core SF Connected Program going, to help the Centers cover the cost of supplies and computer maintenance, and to provide job opportunities for older adults and persons with disabilities as lab coordinators, tutors and trainers. We won't know until June 1 how much of this will be in the Mayor's budget, and whatever the Mayor doesn't include, we will need to ask the Supervisors to help add. So let's keep building the momentum!

Please confirm by email that you will attend and bring folks to one of these hearings – [marie@sfccommunityliving.org](mailto:marie@sfccommunityliving.org). Go to [www.sfhealthyaging.org](http://www.sfhealthyaging.org) for updates. Thanks!

### Districts 1 & 4 with Supervisors Eric Mar & Katy Tang

**Saturday, April 20, 2013 (10:00 – 11:30 a.m.)**

George Washington High School, 600 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

### Districts 10 & 11 with Supervisors Malia Cohen & John Avalos

**Monday, April 22, 2013 (6:00 – 7:30 p.m.)**

Southeast Community Facility, 1800 Oakdale Avenue

### Districts 8 & 9 with Supervisors Scott Wiener & David Campos

**Saturday, May 4, 2013 (9:00 – 10:30 a.m.)**

Cesar Chavez Elementary School, 825 Shotwell Street

### Districts 4 & 7 with Supervisors Katy Tang & Norman Yee

**Saturday, May 11, 2013 (10:00 – 11:30 a.m.)**

Hoover Middle School - 2290 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue (confirmed)

### Districts 5 & 6 with Supervisors London Breed & Jane Kim

**Monday, May 13, 2013 (6:00 – 7:30 p.m.)**

Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin Street

### Districts 2 & 3 with Supervisors Mark Farrell & David Chiu

**Saturday, May 18, 2013 (10:00 – 11:30 a.m.)**

Galileo High School – Auditorium, 1150 Francisco Street

