



For Immediate Release

Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation Teams Up with Hack Foster Care Coalition to Improve the Lives of Foster Youth

Local Tech Companies to Support Regional Initiative to Transform Foster Care System

SAN JOSE – November 2, 2016 — Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation today announced a strategic partnership with the Hack Foster Care coalition of Silicon Valley to transform the lives of 1,440 foster youth in Santa Clara County.

In America today, barely half of the nation's 400,000 foster youth will graduate high school, only 3 percent will earn a college degree, 25 percent will be homeless by the age of 20 and 25 percent will be incarcerated by 25.

The partnership is intended to bring together local technology companies and foster care advocates to transform the existing processes and technology infrastructure in the child welfare system by integrating artificial intelligence, cloud-based solutions and other advanced technology. The goal is to dramatically improve the lives of children and families in Santa Clara County and ultimately across the country.

"The Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation is very pleased to partner with the Hack Foster Care coalition and share the talent and resources of its member organizations," said Carl Guardino, Executive Director of Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation. "Improving the foster care system is an addressable problem that can be solved by engaging the Valley's leading technology companies. Working together, we can remove the barriers to the educational and career success that have held back foster youth for too long."

The Hack Foster Care coalition is a network of technology companies, non-profits, foundations, foster youth alumni and governmental agencies working together to engage the technology sector to improve outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system. Formed in May 2016 at the first ever Foster Care Hackathon at the White House, the coalition has three strategic objectives: Improve access to technology by providing laptops and Internet access to foster youth, reform the foster youth technology infrastructure, and prepare foster youth for college and careers. The coalition is planning a follow-up Hackathon in Silicon Valley on February 27-28, 2017.

[The Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation](#) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization connected to the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. The Leadership Group represents more than 400 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley.

"This partnership is an important milestone that can potentially transform the foster care system here and across the country," said John Hogan, CEO of [TeenForce](#), a Leadership Group member and a provider of work readiness services to foster youth. "The current system is clearly failing foster youth, and as a society, we have an obligation to them. Exemplary companies such as Symantec, SanDisk, Box, Microsoft, Google, Salesforce and Adobe are stepping up to help us make a difference. We invite other companies to join us and work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation."

Yali Lincroft, program director for the [Walter S. Johnson Foundation](#), said: "The possibilities are endless when we think of applying the spirit and brilliance of the tech industry to address the challenges in the child welfare system. Imagine if we can use state of the art analytics and database technology to recruit thousands of new foster families or to match foster youth with families most likely to lead to their success. We also look forward to working with the tech sector to help meet our foundation's joint commitment with [Foster Care Counts](#) to ensure that 100 percent of teenage foster youth have access to laptops and the internet. Currently, just 20 percent of foster teens in California have regular access to a laptop, which contributes to poor education outcomes. We plan to deliver 10,000 laptops to foster teens in California over the next three years to help these youth compete on a level playing field."

About the Hack Foster Care Coalition

The mission of the Hack Foster Care coalition is to promote the use of technology to improve the lives of foster youth and families in the child welfare system. We unify tech leaders, child welfare agencies, foster youth, families and other key stakeholders to collectively apply their expertise to develop innovative, effective, user-centric solutions. Find out more at www.hackfostercare.org

About Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization connected to the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and its Board is a group of dedicated business and community leaders from Silicon Valley. Contact Kimberly Ellis, SVP Communication and Marketing at kellis@svlg.org or (408) 501-7854.

About Silicon Valley Leadership Group

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 400 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax policies, economic vitality and the environment. The Leadership Group members collectively provide nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley and generate more than \$3 trillion in annual revenue. Contact Kimberly Ellis, SVP Communications and Marketing at kellis@svlg.org or (408) 501-7854.

About Walter S. Johnson Foundation

The Walter S. Johnson Foundation assists transition-age foster youth and other vulnerable youth in Northern California and Washoe County, Nevada, to become successful adults by promoting positive change to the policies and systems that serve them and supporting high impact and promising practices in the following areas: provision of supportive services, and promotion of success in college and career. Contact Yali Lincroft at yali@childpublicpolicy.com

Hack Foster Care coalition Contacts

Business Contact

John Hogan, CEO, TeenForce
408.827.3078 x1, johnhogan@teenforce.org

Media Contact

Greg Berardi, CEO, Blue Marlin Partners
415.239-7826, greg@blumarlinpartners.com