COMP-U-DOPT PARTNERS WITH CHICAGO LEARNING EXCHANGE FOR REMAKE LEARNING DAYS CHI

CHICAGO, Illinois (May 16, 2021) - Comp-U-Dopt, a nonprofit with a mission to provide technology access and education, has allocated 320 free refurbished computers for distribution in partnership with the Chicago Learning Exchange and Thrive Chicago in conjunction with Remake Learning Days CHI.

The Chicago Learning Exchange (CLX) is a nonprofit network of 200+ youth-serving organizations that supports remaking learning for the digital age. CLX is presenting the festival in collaboration with WTTW Kids, Project Exploration, MyCHI.MyFuture, Comp-U-Dopt, Chicago Public Schools' Department of Family and Community Engagement and the Chicago Park District. Together, they are building from the success of the festival held in 2019, which included 130+ events for youth and families primarily on the south and west sides of Chicago.

“We are proud to partner with CLX, Thrive Chicago, and all the other partners that have made Remake Learning Days CHI possible. Today we are able to support families in the Roseland, Back of the Yards, Austin, and Garfield Park neighborhoods providing computer ownership,” says Kaia Dutler, Executive Director of Comp-U-Dopt for Chicago & Northern Illinois. 320 families will now own a resource that is essential to all homes in this digital age. A spotlight has revealed the essential nature of computer ownership, access to high-speed internet, and technology education for all students. When a family does not have access to any of these mechanisms, the vacancy creates inequity that furthers the economic disparities for those living in underserved communities.”

According to the Pew Research Institute, 46% of low-income families lack access to a computer at home and census data points to approximately 13 million families across the United States facing the same challenge. With supply chain delays and the global demand for devices at an all-time high, Comp-U-Dopt’s approach is one of the most efficient and only real viable method of closing the gap for low-income students.

While 320 families will be served through these events, Comp-U-Dopt continues to develop partnerships with Chicago corporations, foundations, and community members to ensure all families have technology access and education. Comp-U-Dopt encourages institutions to consider donating excess computer equipment as workers return to offices over the next several months. Not only does donation provide access to families still in need, but it also keeps e-waste out of landfills, creating sustainability across multiple sectors through accessibility and environmental consciousness. We invite those interested in helping us close the digital divide visit www.compudopt.org/chicago. Families in need will also find the computer lottery registration link at the same address.

Comp-U-Dopt provided over 7,000 computers to deserving youth across the Chicago and Northern Illinois region over the last 12 months. They look forward to expanding their impact by continuing to supply computers and expanding their STEAM focused enrichment and workforce development training to students. “Enrichment programming starting this summer will be critical as we begin recovering from the pandemic and move students back into classrooms this fall. Technology education programming is essential to sustainability, closing the digital divide for youth living in underserved communities and ensuring a diverse workforce. We are excited to continue this journey through partnerships like those developed through collaborations that make Remake Learning Days CHI possible.”

CLX’s Executive Director Sana Jafri adds, “The pandemic has moved learning with technology from the margins to the center for many. We are not only leveraging this unique moment to think about how learning can happen anytime, anywhere across Chicago, from schools, parks, museums, to community-based organizations or more. We are remaking it to advance equity and opportunity for youth and families to flourish in the digital age. Remake Learning Days CHI provides multi-destination opportunities for youth and families to tinker and learn by doing across any of these settings.”

Along with the computer distributions being held, all families can participate in workshops across the city. All Chicago events can be found at the RLD CHI website via MyCHI. MyFuture here. We
encourage students, parents, and caregivers to sign up early, as some events have registration limits. All partner events will be held in accordance with CDC and local Chicago Department of Public Health guidelines.

Comp-U-Dopt
Comp-U-Dopt is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2007 with a mission to provide technology access and education to underserved youth. To date they have distributed over 37,000 devices to students in need and delivered over 107,000 hours of technology education, along with keeping over 300 tons of ewaste out of landfills.

Each year they serve 3,000-plus young people from economically disadvantaged families providing computers and quality STEM and workforce pathway focused programming. [www.compudopt.org](http://www.compudopt.org)

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Remake Learning Days CHI is led by Chicago Learning Exchange (CLX), a nonprofit network of 200+ individuals and organizations who are united to advance racial equity in the future of learning and work in Chicago. It is also made possible through the generosity of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, ArcelorMittal, The Field Foundation of Illinois, H.B. Fuller, and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. For more visit [www.mychimyfuture.org/remakedaysCHI](http://www.mychimyfuture.org/remakedaysCHI) or follow CLX @CLXchange via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, and the hashtag #RemakeDaysCHI.

Remake Learning Days Across America (RLDAA) is a nationwide festival of learning happening across 17+ regions around the country. Remake Days CHI is part of RLDAA. The national festival is generously supported by The Grable Foundation, The Hewlett Foundation, Schmidt Futures, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and Ford Foundation. For more information on Remake Learning Days Across America, visit [remakelearningdays.org](http://remakelearningdays.org) or follow RLDAA on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and the hashtag #RemakeDays.