In Summary:
Our goals are:
- Educate digitally underprivileged
- Provide affordable technology resources
- Recover usable electronics from landfills
- Build partnerships

Digital Equality Initiative
Bridging the gap between the privileged and underprivileged
Reducing the proportion of new youth that are unprepared for higher education
Improving the employability of adults and youth in our community.

We followed a common process:
- Identify problems
- Propose solutions
- Implement the solutions
- Identify new problems
- Repeat

Problem #1
Online resources are limited
Get a team to present ideas

Problem #2
Lack of computer in our community
Get a team to present possible solutions
Digital Equality Initiative
Bridging the gap between the privileged and underprivileged.
Reducing the proportion of our youth that are unprepared for higher education.
Improving the employability of adults and youth in our community.

We followed a common process:
- Identify problems
- Propose solutions
- Implement the solutions
- Identify new problems
- Repeat!
Digital Equality Initiative

Bridging the gap between the privileged and underprivileged. Reducing the proportion of our youth that are unprepared for higher education. Improving the employability of adults and youth in our community.

We followed a common process:
- Identify problems
- Propose solutions
- Implement the solutions
- Identify new problems
- Repeat!
Identify Problems

Many people have identified the problems:

- Low income citizens lack access to technology
- Youth are underprepared for higher education
- Adults are underprepared for job requirements
- Usable computers are filling up landfills

Literacy must now include ability to use computers to communicate: Digital literacy.
Find Solutions

- Free computer literacy training in public computer labs.
- Set up computer training and access centers in anchor institutions, public housing & community centers.
- Provide computer equipment to students who participate in training classes.
- Provide affordable low cost complete computer systems for the community.
three

Make Solutions reality by:

- Creating partnerships that include corporate, educational, financial, medical, social, local, state and federal institutions.
- Each partner contributes "waste" resources.
- We synthesize these into practical solutions that support the social missions of the partners.
four

How we do low-cost computers:

• Discover
• Acquire
• Refurbish
• Distribute
Establish a relationship with donor agencies to receive out of lease, out of service computer equipment.
Volo Broadband refurbishes and distributes the systems as part of its Digital Equality Initiative.
Partial list of Recipients of Donated equipment
Community / non-profit Organizations

Family Advocacy
IMC Urbana
Tap in Leadership Academy
Avivena Community Health Center
Canaan Academy
Joanne Dorsey Housing
Champaign County Nursing Home
Metanoia Centers
It Starts at Home Program (Douglas Center)
Town Center Apartments
Motherlands at Chruch of the Bretherm
Center for Women in Transition
Brian Zelip UIU-C (GSLIS) Black hair care project (13)
Rose and Taylor Salon
Champaign Housing Authority
Parkland College Computer Science Dept.
Urbana Free Library
Salem Baptist Church
Sister Net
Mohamed Area Youth Club
Urbana Connections Center
Prairie lands BSA Boy Scouts of America
WRFU Radio Station
Shadow wood mobile homes
Restoration Urban Ministries
Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club
AOH Church of God
- DCEO Digital Divide funds staff
- Parkland provides facilities and management
- GSLIS Informatics students volunteer, and
- IMC provides AmeriCorps and volunteers

Together, they offer computer training, digital literacy classes, helpdesk and computer lab resources.
Six

Successes of the last 3 years:

- 300 computers placed in labs
- 600 computers placed in homes
- 20,000 lbs of electronic waste diverted from landfills
- 1800 people trained
- 3 FTE positions filled
- 40 Parkland students mentored
- 3 high school students mentored
seven

Next Steps

Every 12 months, we re-evaluate how we are serving community needs, and find new problems to solve!
In Summary:

Our goals are...

- Educate digitally underprepared
- Provide affordable technology resources
- Divert usable electronics from landfills
- Build partnerships