



Starry Computer Donation Helps Bridge Digital Divide for HACLA Families

Starry's computer donation will benefit families of Mar Vista Gardens with school-aged children to enable a seamless transition to online learning amidst the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis.

Los Angeles, Calif. (August 15, 2020) -- [Starry, Inc.](#), a wideband hybrid fiber wireless internet service provider, today announced it has donated 21 chromebooks, in partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), to families with school-aged children living in the Mar Vista Gardens community. The computers are being provided, in advance of the start of the school year, to families identified by HACLA as not having access to devices needed for online learning in the home. The donation follows the launch of Starry's ultra-low cost true broadband access program, Starry Connect, in Mar Vista Gardens in June.

"The COVID-19 health crisis continues to exacerbate the impact of the digital divide on our most vulnerable communities," said **Virginia Lam Abrams, Starry's Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Strategic Advancement**. "Virtually every school district across the country will start this school year by integrating online learning into their curriculums. For families without broadband access or computers in the home, this shift will have a devastating impact on learning outcomes and progress for those students. We are thrilled to provide these computers and support HACLA in its ongoing efforts to bridge the digital gap at Mar Vista Gardens."

With most California school districts starting online learning this month, the California Governor's office estimated that one in five students in California lack high-speed Internet or an appropriate computing device at home. A parent survey conducted by the Governor's office in April found that 50 percent of low-income families and 42 percent of families of color said that they lacked a laptop, Chromebook, or tablet necessary to access their students in distance learning¹.

The chromebook donation took place in coordination with the "Back to School" Outreach event hosted by A Child's Dream-CA at Mar Vista Gardens. A Child's Dream-CA is a non-profit that organizes an annual backpack giveaway to provide approximately 850 students and their families in Los Angeles with back-to-school supplies, books, personal hygiene products and more to prepare students for the new academic school year.

In June, Starry and HACLA announced a partnership to offer high-quality, uncapped, true broadband access through the Starry Connect program to Mar Vista Gardens. For \$15 a month, Starry Connect provides 30 mbps symmetrical speeds, all in-home WiFi equipment and installation, and personalized customer care to all its subscribers. Starry Connect does not require a long-term contract, pre-qualification, credit checks, or other complex individual eligibility criteria that are common requirements of other affordable access plans and often serve as barriers for resident sign-up.

Starry Connect is an official ConnectHomeUSA stakeholder with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is helping to bridge the digital divide for HUD-assisted housing residents in the United States. Starry Connect officially launched in 2018 and counts the Denver Housing Authority, the Boston Housing Authority,

¹ *Office of Governor Gavin Newsom (April 2020)* <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/04/20/governor-newsom-announces-cross-sector-partnerships-to-support-distance-learning-and-bridge-the-digital-divide/>

Innovative Housing Concepts (Englewood, CO Housing Authority), Related Affordable, HCCI, and Beacon Communities as its largest public and affordable housing partners.

Starry Internet is available in Los Angeles, New York City, Boston, Washington, DC and Denver, with an expansion roadmap that will cover more than 30 million U.S. households. Starry is currently available in select areas in Los Angeles. To see if your building is in coverage or to sign up, visit: <https://starry.com/internet>.

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ABOUT STARRY, INC.

At Starry, Inc., we believe the future is wireless and that connecting people to high-speed, broadband internet should be simple and affordable. Using our innovative, next generation fixed wireless technology, Starry is 3 deploying gigabit-capable broadband to the home without bundles, data caps, or long-term contracts. Starry is a different kind of internet service provider. We put our customers first by protecting their privacy, ensuring access to an open and neutral net, and putting the customer experience at the heart of everything we do. Headquartered in Boston and backed by world-class investors, Starry is currently available in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Washington, DC and Denver and is expanding nationwide. To learn more about Starry or to join our team and help us build a better internet, visit: starry.com.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Mimi Ryals, Starry, Inc.
mryals@starry.com // press@starry.com

John Collins, Mercury for Starry
starry@mercuryllc.com

Eric Brown, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles
Eric.Brown@hacla.org