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Laptops Donated to Madera County Foster Youth

SACRAMENTO, CA – October 23, 2018 – Earlier today, representatives from the Rural County Representatives of California ([RCRC](#)) and National Homebuyers Fund, Inc. ([NHF](#)) provided an update to the Madera County Board of Supervisors on the distribution of 40 gifted laptops to local foster youth and former foster youth aged 16-21 in Madera County. These laptops are part of a statewide distribution of more than 1,100 laptop computers to all eligible foster youth and former foster youth aged 16-21 within 35 of RCRC's member counties.

Late last year, RCRC and NHF's Boards of Directors each approved providing \$200,000 to support [iFoster's](#) 1 Laptop Program for Foster Youth. Through this one-time \$400,000 contribution, eligible foster youth and former foster youth in care within 35 of RCRC's member counties will be provided a laptop, complete with the iFoster Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Assistant, which includes a HIPAA compliant secure online digital locker, accessible anywhere, anytime. The laptop is fully integrated into iFoster's resource portal and programs, providing access to more than 500 needed resources, and improved youth support networks.

"RCRC and its affiliates have demonstrated a true commitment to improving the quality of life in California's rural counties," said Madera County Supervisor David Rogers. "I am grateful for this contribution to Madera County's foster youth, and I am proud to be part of an organization that invests its resources in our local communities."

Owning a computer addresses additional challenges for foster youth, including accessing needed resources and the loss or misplacement of important life documents as youth move from placement to placement. A 2016 study of 730 youth across California who received iFoster computers found that only five percent of rural foster youth have consistent access to a computer in their homes, compared to 90 percent of all teens, and

79 percent of low-income teens (Pew Research Center, 2014). When provided with a computer, 98 percent of youth reported using it on a daily or weekly basis, and statistically significant improvements were found in academic performance, social connectiveness, and life satisfaction.

ABOUT RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES OF CALIFORNIA (RCRC)

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) is a thirty-six member county strong service organization that champions policies on behalf of California's rural counties. RCRC is dedicated to representing the collective unique interests of its membership, providing legislative and regulatory representation at the State and Federal levels, and providing responsible services for its members to enhance and protect the quality of life in rural California counties. To learn more about RCRC, visit rcrcnet.org and follow @RuralCounties on Twitter.

ABOUT NATIONAL HOMEBUYERS FUND, INC. (NHF)

National Homebuyers Fund, Inc. (NHF) is a non-profit public benefit corporation established in 2002 to stimulate and expand homeownership opportunities nationwide. NHF has helped more than 38,600 individuals or families purchase a home and provided over \$326.7 million in down payment assistance.

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