

December 2020

CTN ADDS NEW HOME CONNECT LEARNING PATHWAY

CTN just released a new Learning Pathway for the Home Connect program, increasing the number of customized learning options from five to six. The newest Pathway provides our older adult learners, and their digital coaches, another choice as they continue their digital literacy journey. Take time to [read about the new Pathway](#).



THANK YOU MESSAGES FROM LEARNERS

Robert Averett - CTN staff trainer Carlos Sivira received a heartfelt thank you from Robert Averett, one of Carlos's Home Connect learners. With Robert's permission, we are sharing his touching tribute so you can read [Robert's story in his own words](#). Although Carlos isn't an "official" professor (as far as we know), he certainly is in the eyes of this older adult learner.

Linda Z. - After a recent blog post appeared on our website about Linda Z's Home Connect training, she sent a thank-you letter shared with her permission: *"I am very thankful that I live in the U.S., the land of freedom and the land of opportunities. I have been working hard for all of my life, and it's time to harvest the fruits from the tree.*

But the pandemic messed up our lives, and prevented us seniors from getting out, and enjoying our lives." [Read this inspiring message](#).



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: CELEBRATING CEI'S IPAD GRADUATION



In July, we spotlighted the Center for Elders Independence (CEI), highlighting the valued partnership between CEI and CTN. Now, we share news about the recent Zoom graduation of the first cohort of seniors, all celebrating their digital learning milestone. See how this all came about as we [learn more about the festivities](#).

CTN LEARNER SPOTLIGHTS

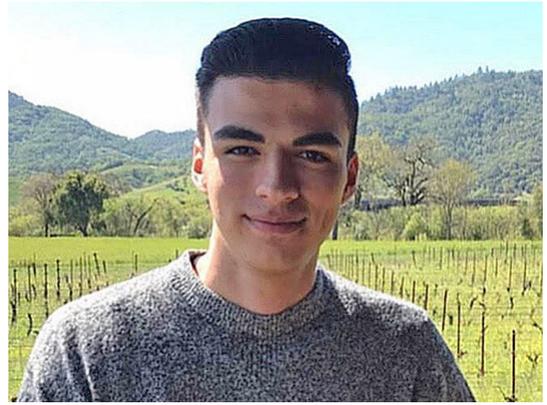
Elmira Lagundi - Before the pandemic, Elmira was a volunteer for the San Francisco Ballet; now she uses her new computer skills to watch recorded performances on her new tablet. She also uses it to regularly communicate with her grandniece and grandnephew back in the Philippines. [Read more](#) about how Home Connect has helped Elmira to remain active.

Guandong Lu - In addition to using his new Home Connect tablet to research his wife's medication side effects and interactions with each other, he has acquired a virtual fan base and found many new friends when he became a popular singer on a karaoke app. [Guandong's story](#) is like many others whose life is brighter now that he is online.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DANIEL RASCON

When Daniel was doing a full-time remote summer internship this year, his employer gave him time off to do volunteer work. While searching for remote volunteer opportunities, he discovered CTN and decided to become a digital coach helping

isolated older adults remain safe and healthy by learning to use a device. **Check out Daniel's story.**



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: CAROL SIMMONS

Carol originally joined CTN through an Encore Fellowship and officially came on staff in 2019 as CTN's operations director. Carol's wide-ranging responsibilities now include interviewing prospective digital coaches and assisting in the onboarding of new coaches from around the country. "I love working at CTN," Carol says. **Find out why.**



HELP OLDER ADULTS GET ONLINE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

An advertisement with a blue background. On the left, an elderly man and woman are sitting together. The woman is holding a tablet. On the right, there is a quote in white text. At the bottom right is the CTN logo, which consists of a stylized tree icon above the text "CTN community TECH NETWORK".

“ We use our tablet to order medicine refills, so we no longer have to go to Kaiser and expose ourselves to infection.”

-Carlos and Bonnie Perez

CTN
community
TECH NETWORK

As our nation once again surges with coronavirus cases, older, vulnerable populations will continue to suffer **isolation-related health issues**. Community Tech Network offers hope to isolated older adults impacted by the pandemic by helping them access the internet and provide them with crucial digital literacy skills. **With your support**, we can continue to help.