



PROJECT SILICON

Impact Report

2025-2026

Table of Contents

01

A Letter To Our Community

02

Our Story, So Far

03

2025 In Review

04

2025 In Detail

05

Our 2026 Goals

06

Partnership Report

07

Join Our Mission

A letter to our community

Three years ago, our education system shifted from a physical to a digital landscape. We started this organization as a group of friends at the Bronx High School of Science after witnessing classmates struggle to keep up with our new curriculum without computers at home. We watched our younger siblings scratching homework on cracked tables, virtual classrooms interrupted by unstable home internet, and students rushing to complete assignments within the tight 2-hour limit at the NYPL. We wanted to help out, however we could.

We began with cold emails and ad hoc laptop pickups in our parents' basements. In the last three years, we have grown into something grander: over 2,600 devices in the hands of people in need. From **entire computer labs** built with donated technology in downtown Manhattan to **classrooms filled with working computers** in Bangladesh, we've grown into a program our team is proud of, and one we hope to continue to grow.

This report shares that journey through **the people at its heart**: Ernesto, a student who eased his parents' long commute with a laptop at home; Maria, a Colombian immigrant who previously managed online inventory from her phone, now equipped with a desktop; Jane Doe*, a mother who completed her education on a donated laptop, while caring for two children staying at a homeless shelter.

This year marked a pivotal moment; On **June 13th, 2025**, we officially became **The Silicon Project**. We saw an influx of support, signed an office lease in downtown Manhattan, built a new tracking system and website, and, most importantly, refined our focus on what has always come first: putting technology in the hands of those who need it most.

The following pages share our story, our mission, and our dreams. Most of all, they reflect what we've learned: giving someone a computer is giving them a chance.

With gratitude,
The Silicon Project Team

*name redacted for privacy reasons

Our story so far

Our Mission

The Silicon Project exists for one reason: so that no parent has to tell their child, "We can't afford one," when homework or passion requires a computer. So that no one misses a job because the application was online-only, and they had nowhere to apply.

In 2025, not having a computer locks doors: assignments you can't complete, college portals you can't access, or job applications you can't submit. We refuse to accept this as 'just the way things are.'

We collect used computers from people and corporations who have moved on, but whose devices haven't. We refurbish them, clean the data, make repairs, install software, and then put them directly into the hands of students and families who need them, one device at a time, ensuring fewer people are left behind.

But we've learned that a laptop alone isn't enough. Without the knowledge to use it, it's an expensive paperweight. That's why we don't stop at delivery: we follow up. We troubleshoot. We teach. We help students figure out everything from file management to college applications. **The device is the beginning of the relationship, not the end.**

We are not a charity that drops off equipment and disappears. We are students helping students. Neighbors helping neighbors. People who believe that what you can access shouldn't depend on what you can afford.

Our Purpose

We are **entirely student-run**. Our leadership, our volunteers, our web developers, and our pickup coordinators are all students, and it's central to who we are. We understand the challenges facing students today because we live them. When a recipient emails us about trouble with their device, they're talking to someone who has sat in the same classrooms, stressed over the same deadlines, and knows firsthand what it means to need technology for school.

Every dollar we've spent has come from device sales, small donations, and sometimes our own pockets. We've never had institutional funding or grants; although this has proved difficult at times, we have been forced to be resourceful, to build sustainable systems, and to prove that impact doesn't require massive budgets, but commitment to a central mission, one that our entire team shares.

We are tech-first. Our website, our donor portal, and our inventory systems were all built by students, for our mission. Our core ethos doesn't just include distributing technology, but also *embodying it*. We believe the recipients of our devices should see technology not as an intimidating barrier but as an accessible tool, and we aim to lead by example.

We write this report for multiple audiences: donors who have trusted us with their devices and dollars, recipients who have welcomed us into their lives, partner organizations who may be considering collaboration, and ourselves as a celebration of what we've accomplished.

2025 in review

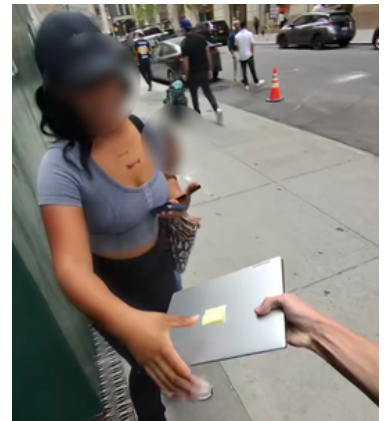
355

Laptops, desktops, peripherals,
and mobile devices distributed



3,300

Pounds of technology processed,
recycled, or donated



2025 in review

"We Care Act NYC* is INCREDIBLE. I needed a laptop to start school so I took a chance and filled out their short application. Shortly after, I received an email back, they hooked me up with a REALLY NICE LAPTOP. And they're even there to assist me if I need it. What a great experience! Great program, you guys keep doing what you're doing!"

— **Ernesto, Recipient**

"I am absolutely thrilled and incredibly grateful for the laptop I received! As someone pursuing online schooling for cybersecurity, having a reliable laptop is not just a convenience, but a critical necessity. This donation came at the perfect time and means the world to me. It has removed a significant barrier to my education and allows me to fully engage with my studies and work towards my goals."

— **Carlos, Recipient**

"I want to extend my deepest gratitude for their generosity and support. As a minority woman entrepreneur working to grow my business, Giafajas, receiving a computer from this amazing organization has been a game-changer. Their commitment to empowering small business owners like me is truly inspiring. This gift will help me streamline my work, improve productivity, and achieve my goals."

— **Maria, Founder of Giafajas, Recipient**

"I never knew I could get a free laptop for my kids. Not only did they give me one, they gave two—one for my son, one for my daughter. Thanks to my oldest daughter that told me about this marvelous program. I am extremely grateful. Excellent service, no hard time, everything was smooth and the guys very kind and helpful."

— **Yany, Recipient**

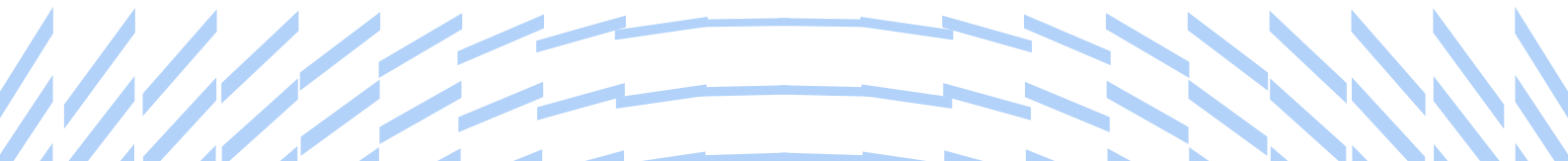
"I received an excellent working Dell laptop from We Care Act NYC*. The process was smooth, and the team was incredibly supportive. I hope this laptop will help me a lot for my studies."

— **Muhammad, Recipient**

"I didn't know where to donate my perfectly good new monitor, so I was very happy that they took it, even coming to my building to pick it up. My doorman committed upon how nice the person was who came by to get it. Will happily donate to them again."

— **Cathy, donor**

*Before June 2025, our program was called We Care Act NYC



2025 in detail

1

Establish Legal and Financial Independence

For years, we operated as a chapter of the We Care Act, sharing its 501(c)(3) status and infrastructure. This arrangement allowed us to start, but it also limited our ability to grow. In 2025, we officially became **Project Silicon**, registered with the IRS and Department of State. With this, we were able to sign a lease to a small office that gives our team a professional home and reduces our storage footprint from four units to two.

2

Build Technology Infrastructure That Reflects Our Values

We aimed to inspire those who receive our technology to *learn how technology works*. This year, we completely revamped our website to reflect this tech-first philosophy. Every page, including donor logistics software in the backend, was coded by hand by students, demonstrating that the same young people distributing devices are capable of using technology through sophisticated digital systems.

3

Deepen Our Commitment to Recipients

Numbers matter, but **relationships matter more**. This year, our team attended more 1:1 correspondences and meetings than ever to provide resources, instructions, and support. In one instance, we worked with a student for a year to troubleshoot their device's setup. When it became clear that the original device couldn't meet the donee's requirements, we donated an additional iMac to ensure she had the tools she needed. We hope to create stronger relationships and deliver more creative solutions for our community.

4

Reframe Our Revenue Model for Sustainability

For years, we gave away every device we could. But as full-time students running operations without grants or salaries, free wasn't sustainable when we had to pay for storage units, replacement parts, and shipping labels out of our own pockets. This year, we shifted to a **revenue-first model**: low-cost devices available to all, and free devices for those who can't pay. It's not the pure vision we started with, but it's the only way we could keep going and keep our vision alive.

Our 2026 goals

1

Refine Our Revenue Model for Scale

In 2026, we're pursuing grant funding not to replace our revenue model or to charge students, but to relieve internal pressure so we can scale. With operational support from foundations and partners like T-Mobile, we can lower prices on our paid devices and expand qualification requirements for free ones. **Sales keep us alive, but grants will let us reach further and provide for more individuals.**

2

Formalize Our Volunteer Development Program

In 2026, we will expand our team beyond our 27 members, formalize our volunteer development program with documented training materials, and offer structured mentorship between experienced volunteers and newcomers. We will also expand our recruitment beyond schools, ensuring a sustainable pipeline of dedicated volunteers and employees who can carry our mission forward.

3

Reform Free Computer Program to Selective Batches

For those who were unable to fill out our form this year, we've closed off applications, but don't worry! We're processing the requests until late spring of 2026. Moving forward, the free computer program will work in batches to allow for breathing room and operational diligence amongst our team of student volunteers. Our online store **will always offer significant discounts** to those who need them most; for inquiries, please email us with details about your circumstances. We're committed to meeting our recipients at the best possible place.

4

Launch Digital Literacy Curriculum

We have always provided informal support to recipients: answering questions, troubleshooting problems, and offering guidance. But we've learned that many recipients need **more structured help with the transition**. In 2026, we will develop and launch an online digital literacy curriculum covering essential skills: file management, internet safety, productivity software, and navigating online systems for education and employment.

Partnership report



Capital One

Much thanks to **Kaylee, Zack, and Giovanna** for their continued pro-bono support of our financial operations! Their work has helped immensely with tightening our internal record-keeping and laying the financial foundation for our future donations and revenue operations.

Simons Foundation

The Simons Foundation, founded by Jim Simons, works towards advancing the frontiers of research in mathematics and the basic sciences. Thank you to **Olena from the Simons Foundation** for her unwavering belief in our mission, supporting our team with donations, and making the pick-up and auditing experience extremely smooth.



Broadway Community

Broadway Community is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving individuals experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty in New York City. We would like to extend our gratitude towards **Isaac, Felix, and the community** for working with us to construct accessible computer stations for those in need.



Revise Robotics (YC W25)

Revise Robotics builds automated systems to refurbish and resell used electronics, with a focus on laptops. Much thanks to **Rupesh** for working with us on our first batch of laptops to refurbish through cutting-edge technology, allowing us to scale the refurbishing phase efficiently!



Join us



If you have a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer from 2016 or newer sitting unused in a closet, **it could change someone's life.** We accept donations of working devices from individuals and businesses nationwide. For donors in the NYC area, we offer free pickup services. Please complete our online application to proceed.

If you're a **student** looking to make an impact, we're always looking for volunteers. Whether your skills are technical, creative, organizational, or interpersonal, there's a place for you on our team, just a matter of finding the right fit.

If you **represent a foundation, corporation, or community organization** interested in partnership, we'd love to hear from you. Our model is proven, our impact is documented, and our ambition is to scale.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Join us in shaping the next chapter of our mission by bringing your expertise and passion to our Board of Directors. As we celebrate the milestones featured in this year's report, we are seeking visionary leaders who are committed to driving long-term strategic growth and ensuring our programs continue to serve the community with excellence.

Whether you have a background in finance, technology, fundraising, or community advocacy, your unique perspective will help us break down barriers to equity and expand our reach in the coming year. We invite you to step into this vital leadership role and help lead Project Silicon toward a future where our collective vision becomes a reality for all.

Please email us for further discussion.

We thank you for your ongoing support of our program and mission

We're providing the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, designers, scientists, engineers, writers, and artists with the technology they deserve.



Regus Brookfield Place
200 Vesey Street, Floor 24
New York, NY 10281

www.thesiliconproject.org
EIN: 39-2727360

info@thesiliconproject.org