

## What's happening at RWCI this summer?

Renaissance West Community Initiative [info@rwci.org]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:15 PM

**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)



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A group of campers from the Stratford-Richardson YMCA Tech Stars Summer Camp at RWCI.

**Dear Steve,**

Children cannot succeed in school without reliable internet access and the knowledge and skills necessary to use technology in its fullest capacity. Likewise, adults need digital access and skills to look for jobs, continue their education, and find family support resources. That's why RWCI emphasizes digital inclusion and is working to bridge the technological divide here in Charlotte. As of 2014, over 20% of Charlotte was not connected to the internet. Here's what RWCI is doing to change that:

### YMCA Tech Stars Computer Camp

#### Local campers attend technology immersion program at RWCI

RWCI has partnered with the Stratford-Richardson YMCA to host the [Tech Stars Summer Program](#) at The Renaissance. For several weeks this summer, campers have made use of our brand new computer lab, laptops, and other equipment to learn coding and computing skills



Tech Stars camp in session at RWCI

that will help them in the classroom and throughout life.

## Partner Spotlight

### An interview with DigiBridge Founder and CEO David Jessup: Bridging the Digital Divide

After a successful pay-what-you-can weekend tech workshop hosted by DigiBridge at RWCI, we sat down with Founder and CEO David Jessup to learn more about DigiBridge's mission and why they've partnered with RWCI. See an excerpt below and read the interview in its entirety [here](#).



David Jessup

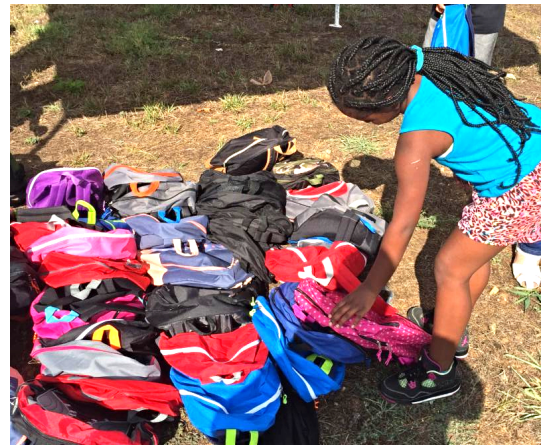
### Why do you think RWCI is a good partner for your work?

...Digi-Bridge and RWCI both emphasize the importance of teaching students how to "fail well," because inquiry and trial-and-error are such a huge part of exploration in the STEAM [science, technology, engineering, arts, and math] fields. The traditional practice of grading on an A-F scale doesn't teach the mindset needed to be successful in the modern, STEAM-oriented world. We have to shift our practices if we want to provide kids with truly hands-on, transformative experiences...[Continue reading.](#)

## TruBlue Back-to-School Book Bag Giveaway

### Local community organization hosts back-to-school event at The Renaissance

A group of former Boulevard Homes and Little Rock residents formed a non-profit organization called Team TruBlue to give back to their community. One way they achieve this is by hosting an annual Book Bag Giveaway for local children. This year they handed out hundreds of backpacks and other school supplies at The Renaissance to children as they prepared for the upcoming school year. Team TruBlue sponsors several youth and families throughout the year so they can build self-efficacy and self-worth. Other programs they offer include: Mentoring, Community Outreach Advocacy, Bullying Prevention, Family Strengthening, and Stopping the Violence.



A student picks out her book bag at the TruBlue event

### Use AMAZON SMILE to support RWCI while you shop!



We all order from Amazon.com. Make your orders count by shopping through **Amazon Smile for RWCI**. Simply bookmark this link ([AmazonSMILE](#)) and start from there when you shop at Amazon.com. When you check out, a portion of

proceeds will be donated to RWCI. How easy is that? Talk about using technology

for the greater good!



We'd like to thank the Fifth Third Foundation for awarding RWCI a generous grant in support of Computer-Based Training Programs for residents over the course of the next year.

**As always, we welcome you to visit The Renaissance and see for yourself the amazing transformation taking place on West Boulevard. [Donate today.](#)**

Sincerely,  
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