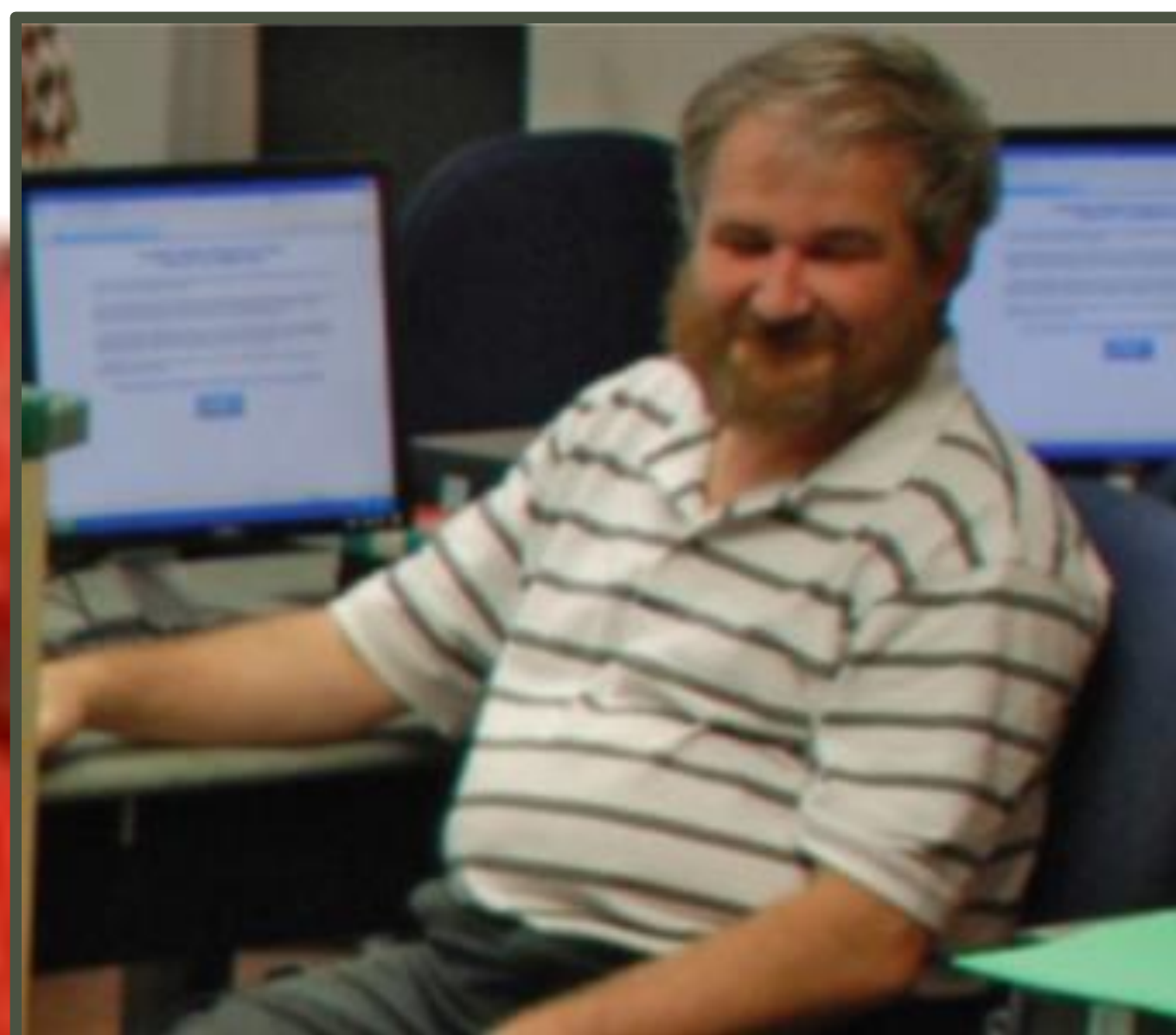


# The Red Wheelbarrow Digital Literacy Project

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## The Rub

- Digital illiteracy persists among adults in the coastal Mississippi communities the Jackson-George Regional Library System serves
- JGRLS does not have the human power to meet this need, and JGRLS' current budgetary constraints prevent the hiring of new personnel
- Barrired learners are unlikely to seek help from government agencies due to enrollment criteria
- No state or local public funds or policies exist to scale this portion of the digital divide
- No mass transit system in the area

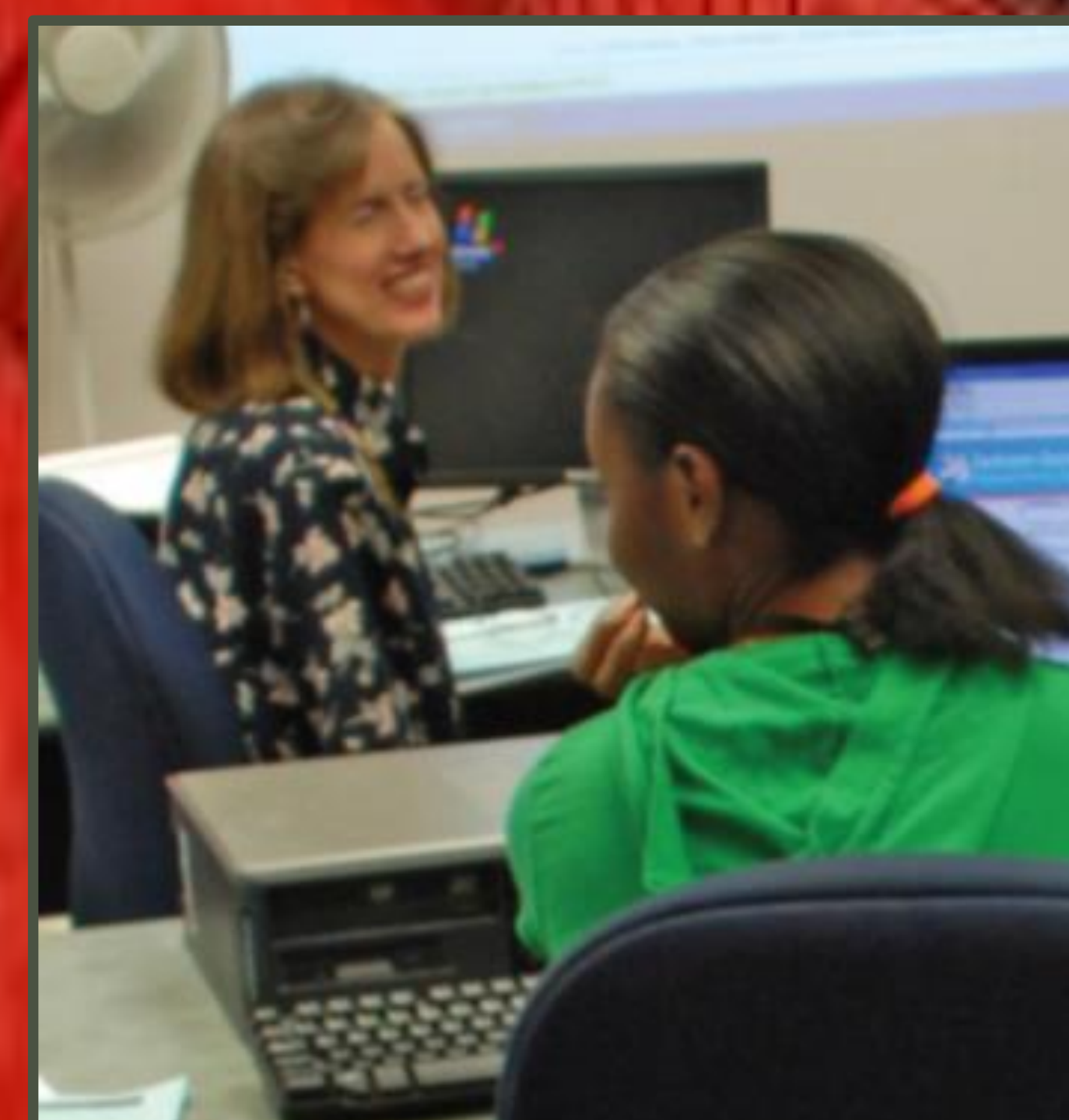


## The Notion

- Develop a model for a digital literacy program that recruits and trains volunteers to teach basic computer skills to folks using the library system's public computers and broadband access at its 8 branches
- Host volunteer-led computer learning clinics at Gautier Public Library that are free and open to all comers
- Materialize a mobile computer learning lab to bring the digital literacy program to the community

## The Work

- Created a recruitment and training model for volunteer computer coaches that can be used by JGRLS staff
- Established a program to connect volunteer coaches with folks who need to learn basic digital literacy skills
- Produced an annotated guide to online portals for local, state, and federal government services and local nonprofits
- Drafted a feasibility study for a mobile computer learning lab to prepare for funding opportunities



## The Upshot

- Eight computer clinics held to date with an average of four coaches working with eight participants
- Program can be replicated and used by other JGRLS branches
- Program connects marginalized Mississippians with public and community services
- Coalesces folks from diverse cultures and worldviews around a common goal
- Helps erode the digital divide in Mississippi

**Gautier Public Library**  
SIGN UP FOR  
**Computer Basics for Adults**

Sign up for a **FREE** session today!  
**Saturday, May 11 • 10 am-noon**  
**Thursday, May 16 • 6-7:30 pm**  
**Saturday, May 25 • 10 am-noon**

Take advantage of these FREE clinics at the library where computer novice users can get one-on-one basic computer and Internet skills training from community volunteers. Need to learn how to complete online job applications, apply for government and medical benefits, sign up for e-mail or Facebook, or maybe learn to video chat with your friends and family? Whatever your computer needs, we will help. Bring your own laptop or tablet or use one of our public computers. Visit the service desk for more information. Classes intended for ages 18 and up.

Call the library for information 497-4531 and sign up!

Gautier Public Library  
2100 Library Lane • 497-4531  
Visit [www.JGRLS.org](http://www.JGRLS.org)  
Facebook @JacksonGeorgeLibrary

**Jackson-George** Inspiring Ideas,  
Regional Library System Enriching Lives,  
Building Communities.

## The Dream

- Recruit and train a volunteer to be the coordinator of the digital literacy project at the Gautier Public Library
- Partner with government agencies and nonprofits to recruit trainers, publicize computer clinics, and build social capital
- Persuade community influencers to found a digital literacy council and to serve as board members
- Lobby state legislators to fund digital literacy projects in Mississippi's public libraries