New youth support center is fourth in Twin Cities, 15th nationally
Hope Community and Best Buy open Best Buy Teen Tech Center in Minneapolis

Community leaders and residents gathered this past Thursday for a ribbon-cutting at the grand opening of the newest Best Buy Teen Tech Center at Hope Community in south Minneapolis.

Hope Community is located in the fourth to open in the Twin Cities and 15th to open nationwide.

At the center, teens can explore a variety of technologies including design, music production, and visual arts. Young women and more veteran the center can participate in the Career Pathway program supported by a $150,000 seed grant from the Foundation of Minnesota, which offers paid internships and school career readiness help, including internships and mentorship.

"We have learned that technology is a powerful vehicle for youth to learn, develop new skills, share their story and speak their belief," said Hope Community Executive Director St. Anthony Channen horn. "Youth come here because they find opportunities that don’t exist elsewhere, and a community of people that believe in their willingness."

Best Buy Teen Tech Centers address the region’s and nation’s opportunity gap through open access, free, year-round, hands-on technology access and education in an after-school setting. The new center continues the company’s $3 million investment since 2013.

"The focus of this initiative is on students, creating opportunities and giving the next generation of innovators a platform to talk about the impact they can have," said Best Buy CEO Hubert Joly. "We believe this program will empower young people to succeed in the business world, which will ultimately create economic opportunities that support the growth and vibrancy of our community.

"We are excited to partner with MEDA to cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit that resides in this community," Julia Glinke, president and CEO of JAUM. "We believe this program will empower young people to succeed in the business world, which will ultimately create economic opportunities that support the growth and vibrancy of our community.

"We're hopeful everyone who comes to our Teen Tech Centers is treated in the workplace. We think that's something that's important to people and interest,” said Smith.

"This stands united with the host committee and its corporate partners in creating opportunities for all Minnesotans to engage with Newcomers and share the skills needed to succeed in the business world, which will ultimately create economic opportunities that support the growth and vibrancy of our community."

"We've hopefully come to a stage where we believe in technology and we're treating it in the workplace. Where else do we have a chance to teach people and interest,“ said Smith.

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