



# Funder Spotlight: AT&T

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018

## An interview with Ken McNeely, President of AT&T's Pacific Region

- 1. AT&T has a longstanding history of philanthropy and community involvement. For how many years has it been going on? Please tell us about your history of generosity and participation.**

Our 142-year history of innovation is a story about people from all walks of life coming together to improve how we interact with the world around us. We've invested in projects that create learning opportunities, promote academic and economic achievement, and address community needs. That long history is why we're a leader in diversity today, and why we're still committed to fostering an inclusive culture. We strive to be a great place to work and a desired business partner. We're also committed to helping our customers use our technology for social good.

- 2. What motivates the company's philanthropy? What key topics of interest inspire the foundation's priorities, and how have those changed over time?**

AT&T is dedicated to using technology to help solve some of the world's most pressing challenges—from climate change and resource conservation to improving education outcomes for students and folks already in the workforce. To position our company for long-term success, we approach each social and environmental challenge in a way that

will create value for our customers, employees, shareholders, and the communities in which we live and serve.

- 3. AT&T has been especially strong in addressing Workforce Development, supporting programs that help people acquire new skills for a changing workforce. In fact, AT&T supports PRC's Employment Services and our work with Technology Center. What inspires the company's focus in addressing this priority?**

At AT&T, we're in the midst of one of the most significant transformations in our history. We've evolved from a telephone company to a world leader in communications, media and entertainment, and technology. We all must constantly refresh our capabilities for a world where the pace of technological change continues to accelerate. That's why we've embraced the culture of continuous learning and have backed that commitment with an employee reskilling initiative unsurpassed in size and scope. In 2017, AT&T invested about \$220 million training employees, nearly \$34 million in tuition aid and provided nearly 20 million hours of training. And we're very proud of our support for PRC's employment services right here in San Francisco – it's a cause near and dear to my heart as well.

- 4. A relatively new structure for AT&T support is "People," "Planet" and "Possibilities." Please tell us about that structure, and how does that fit into larger overall goals for the company?**

At AT&T, we are using the power of our network to build a better tomorrow. Our focus on "People, Planet and Possibilities" looks to improve people's lives, transform the way we and our customers conserve natural resources, and strengthen communities with the power of innovation, investment and our people.

- 5. Besides critical funding, what are some other ways in which AT&T tries to affect change in our communities?**

Another way we're addressing today's challenges is through our Smart Cities initiative, which helps cities monitor power outages, water leaks and traffic patterns to more effectively manage their resources. We're consistently innovating and looking for ways our customers can harness our technologies to help minimize their environmental impact. And, we're employing many of these solutions ourselves, helping us meet our commitment to enable carbon savings that are 10 times the carbon footprint of our operations by 2025.

I'm also very proud of our commitment to service – we have an amazingly robust program for our employees to volunteer in their communities, and there are entire employee resource groups organized around community service and mentoring. It really is a part of our company culture.

**6. AT&T employees volunteer and participate in community nonprofits regularly. How does AT&T engage our communities directly?**

Our employees are involved in serving their communities across the country, and their commitment is incredible. Their dedication and selfless service impact the communities where we all live and work. Our company strives to empower them and provide opportunities for employees around the world to use their skills and passions for good. Here in California, our employees have volunteered approximately 230,000 hours of personal time to community outreach activities in 2017. And through our Aspire Mentoring Academy, we've mentored over 85,000 California students over the past five years.

**7. If there's just one thing that you'd like to let the community know about AT&T, what would that be?**

We want to use the power of our network to build a better tomorrow. We're focused on amplifying the combined strengths of our company and our communities to tackle broad challenges. We're operating in a world where virtually anything can be connected to the internet—from sensors in cars and traffic lights to utility meters and household appliances. Taking the needs of our communities and the environment into consideration, technological solutions can also help address major social and environmental challenges. And now, through WarnerMedia, we can expand that vision even further. For example, we're working to create diverse and original content that deepens the conversation on issues that matter, and we're helping develop next-generation, diverse storytellers who can help us ensure an inclusive artistic landscape. There are lots of exciting opportunities to continue innovating for social good, and we want our customers and our communities to be a part of it.