

# CELEBRATING 2023 & LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024



# An End of Year Message for our Members, Donors, Partners, & Friends

December 2023, End of Year Greetings

Dear Friend,

As we bid farewell to the last week of 2023, we reflect with immense gratitude for the National Cryptologic Foundation (NCF) community's unwavering support. Your dedication has propelled us through a year of positive transformation and impactful initiatives. As we prepare for the promising year ahead, we invite you to consider an end-of-year donation to help us sustain our vital role in the community.

#### **Celebrating 2023 Achievements**

Our **Education Program** continues to thrive as we empower citizens to become cyber-smart individuals and create pathways for the future cyber and cryptologic workforce. This year's accomplishments include:

#### #CyberChats Podcast: Engaging Learning Adventures

Our <u>#CyberChats initiative</u> is midway through the second season and is available on multiple streaming platforms. This enriching podcast engages and empowers students and young adults to explore cybersecurity topics alongside industry experts. The next season is already in planning, and your support helps cultivate an engaging learning environment deeply connected to the ever-evolving realm of cybersecurity.

#### **Cyber-Education Events: Inspiring Young Minds**

We held our first <u>Cyber Saturday</u> event aimed at educating and inspiring young minds about cybersecurity. We had over 50 students participate in this all-day event and are looking forward to holding another Cyber Saturday in May 2024. We also had the opportunity to deploy our Cyber Escape Room – an immersive educational tool that creates a realistic journey for youth and adults to explore the dynamic landscape of cybersecurity.

#### NCF Ambassador Program

We launched the <u>NCF Ambassador Program</u> to educate students on principles of cybersecurity through live instruction by a trained educator/expert who focuses on lessons and exercises in the <u>"Outsmart Cyberthreats</u>" booklet. The program was launched in partnership with St. Mary of the Mills school in Laurel, MD with 15 students participating.

#### Amanita Whitehat Cyber Game Series: Fun Learning for Cybersecurity

The <u>Amanita Whitehat cyber game series</u> introduces cybersecurity in a thrilling and accessible manner. This year we released the second game - *Amanita Whitehat and the Mayhem at Mallory Middle*. It has been played by many students across the country.

We concluded the year with the inaugural event of our **Engagement Program**, convening partners to address emerging cyber and cryptologic issues. Working with our partners at the National Security Agency (NSA), we <u>hosted a convening</u> addressing the critical topic of Quantum Resistant Cryptography (QRC) with a focus on Firmware. This event saw participation from NSA, NIST, CISA, corporate entities, and experts both nationally and internationally. We look forward to hosting our next event on March 11th, 2024, focusing on QRC-Software.

#### Looking Forward to 2024

As we turn our gaze to 2024, we're already planning exciting initiatives aligned with our vision, mission, and values. Your financial support is crucial to ensuring the continued success of our efforts.

#### Make a Difference Today

To contribute to our mission and support our initiatives in 2024, please consider <u>making a donation</u>. Thank you for being an integral part of our community. Together, we can continue advancing the nation's interests in cyber and cryptology.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Warm Regards,

Laura Nelson Chief Executive Officer & President National Cryptologic Foundation



## **END OF YEAR GIVING**

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