

# **COMPUTER RESOURCES**

# Things to think about:

# What if I don't know how to use a computer?

- Goodwill Community Foundation at Learn Free.org has free computer tutorial classes. <a href="http://www.gcflearnfree.org">http://www.gcflearnfree.org</a>. Click on computer training. Under the getting started heading, click on computer basics. Under lessons you can choose from different lessons. Everything from "getting started" to "doing more with your computer"
- Many libraries also offer <u>free</u> basic computer training programs for adults. Visit your local library website or speak your local librarian to see when and where basic computer classes will be offered in your area: <a href="http://www.publiclibraries.com/newjersey.htm">http://www.publiclibraries.com/newjersey.htm</a>
- Many townships offer <u>free</u> computer courses (some are specifically for seniors). For example the Township of Edison offers free computer training for seniors at the Edison Senior Citizens Center. See website for more information: <a href="http://www.edisonnj.org/index.asp?Type=B\_BASIC&SEC=%7B154FD216-7857-41A8-80BB-E2F5130794B8%7D">http://www.edisonnj.org/index.asp?Type=B\_BASIC&SEC=%7B154FD216-7857-41A8-80BB-E2F5130794B8%7D</a>. Another example: Rockaway Township Free Public Library offers free computer classes to township residents. Each class is one hour with limited seating. You can find more information about the workshops via their website: <a href="http://www.rtlibrary.org/computerclasses.html">http://www.rtlibrary.org/computerclasses.html</a>.
- The State Department of Labor and Workforce Development also offer Adult Basic Skills training at their One-Stop Career Centers which include learning computer skills. See website for more information or see One-Stop Career Centers attachment: <a href="http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wnjpin/findjob/onestop/services.html">http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wnjpin/findjob/onestop/services.html</a>
- The College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development New Jersey Council of County Colleges has a New Jersey Business & Industry Association Workforce Training Program. The training program offers classes on computer applications (Windows, Outlook, Excel, and Word) to businesses and organizations throughout New Jersey. Please see the website for more information: <a href="http://njworkforce.org/nj">http://njworkforce.org/nj</a> business.html.

# What if I don't have a computer, how can I access the CDS?

- Many libraries have computer labs onsite. You can go online to find the library nearest you with a computer lab: <a href="http://www.publiclibraries.com/newjersey.htm">http://www.publiclibraries.com/newjersey.htm</a>
- One Stop Career Centers have computers available at no charge. Locate and contact one
  in your area for more information:
   http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wnjpin/findjob/onestop/services.html
- There are many non-profit companies all over the United States that accept computer donations, repair them and donate refurbished computers to organizations and individuals in need. This may require some research, but here is a beginners list of places to look. By no means is this to be considered an exhaustive list of all the possible ways to obtain a free or low cost computer. Search engines such as Google, Bing, or Yahoo can provide you with many more results that are not included in this list. Agencies may want to contact these organizations themselves or individual staff members may be interested in obtaining a refurbished computer for their own use. Please visit the websites for more information.

#### • **USA**:

Many US organizations have more complete lists than the one here: you could try TechSoup or recycles.org,

- o California
  - Yellow Network Coalition's mission is to recycle/reuse computer hardware; promote Open Source Software; and provide free access to the Internet. We provide the environment and tools that allow people and organizations share the wealth.
- Georgia
  - ReBoot is a nonprofit, statewide, collaborative effort of many groups and organizations committed to recycling computers.
     We are dedicated to actively promoting independence for people with disabilities through our efforts.
- New York
  - TecLogicNY: We have started a web site that offers free PC's for kids. This started out as a hobby building and repairing used PC's for friends, and family, and collecting old PC's to rebuild. To allow us to continue this hobby, we offer services at little to no cost to people who can afford it. However, we do tend to not charge if it is someone with a big family or who are not financially secure.
- o Raymond, Ohio
  - Student Pc's repair and recondition used computers along with Build new systems as needed for the handicapped children of the Continental USA.
- St. Louis, Missouri
  - <u>ByteWorks</u>, a computer recycling and training project taken on by the Missouri chapter of Tech Corp.

- <u>WITS</u> is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to students
  of all ages. We recycle/refurbish donated systems from local
  organizations and companies, by fixing or replace what may be
  broken and putting it back into the community for educational
  use.
- o Eugene, Oregon
  - Computer Reuse & Recycle Center: a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization rejuvenating computers for our community
- o Portland, Oregon
  - Free Geek: a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that recycles used technology and provides computers, education and access to the internet in exchange for community service.
- Dallas, Texas
  - Gene Swann assembles good quality used computers from recycled hardware at cost for people with low income. He can assemble a tower computer ready to be used for about \$39 plus \$25 shipping. Computers can also be picked up locally without shipping cost at:

## Freecycle

It's a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by a local volunteer Membership (free). <a href="www.freecycle.org">www.freecycle.org</a>

## Computer Hope

Computer disposal, donation, and recycle information. http://www.computerhope.com/disposal.htm

#### Computers with Causes

Accepts donations of old computers and give away free refurbished computers. There is a short application process. As stated above, we get an overwhelming amount of gifted computer requests every year. We do a strict need assessment, background and reference check, which helps us eliminate false requests and benefit those **truly in need**. Our commitment to those that gifted the computer equipment to us in order to better serve the causes we and our donors deem important is our first priority. If you or your organization truly "are in need", chances are we will be in contact with you. Sometimes this can be weeks, so please be patient. We have a very limited volunteer staff and strive to meet all application demands in a timely manner. We look forward to serving you in the future!

http://www.computerswithcauses.org/application.htm

# • Technology Grant Options for Non-Profits

Technology Grant News -

http://www.technologygrantnews.com/grant-index-by-type/grants-for-non-profit-organizations.html (subscription)

## • Technology Grants for Non-Profits

TECHMD – Managing your technology, download technology grants report for list and description of all tech grants available. <a href="http://www.techmd.com/Pages.aspx/Technology-Grants-for-Nonprofits">http://www.techmd.com/Pages.aspx/Technology-Grants-for-Nonprofits</a>

#### • Human Service Solutions

Non-profit tech funding <a href="http://hswsolutions.com/resources/nonprofit-tech-funding/">http://hswsolutions.com/resources/nonprofit-tech-funding/</a>

## • Fundsnet Online Services.com

Computers and Technology <a href="http://www.fundsnetservices.com/searchresult.php?sbcat\_id=4">http://www.fundsnetservices.com/searchresult.php?sbcat\_id=4</a>

If you have any additional resources to add to this list, please feel free to forward them to cdsta@umdnj.edu.