



Nonprofit Technology Resources

1524 Brandywine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215-564-6686 (fax) 215-564-6642
<http://www.ntronline.org>

Learning Through Technology Program Report for Fiscal Year 2006 (ending July 31, 2006)

NTR's **Learning Through Technology** (LTT) program provides refurbished computers to students of all ages, along with an Introduction to Computer Hardware workshop. All projects are conducted in cooperation with community-based organizations or schools that provide ongoing technical support to participants. Some LTT projects are supported by fees paid by participants and sponsoring organizations ("Low-Cost LTT"), but foundation gifts allow about 60% of LTT services to be delivered at no cost to recipients ("Free LTT").

Free and Low-Cost LTT projects distributed nearly 600 computers this year, accounting for almost half of NTR's computer distribution. NTR also distributes low-cost computers through its Computer Thrift Store, and through contracts with organizations such as the School District of Philadelphia.

Services Provided	Free LTT	Low-Cost LTT	Combined
Computers placed	349	232	581
Workshop attendees	561	214	775
African-American	47 %	83 %	56 %
Hispanic/Latino	44 %	6 %	34 %
Other ethnic groups	9 %	11 %	10 %
Youths (under 21)	72 %	7 %	55 %
Adults (21-64)	27 %	83 %	42 %
Seniors (65+)	1 %	10 %	3 %
Male	42 %	25 %	37 %
Female	58 %	75 %	63 %

Low-Cost LTT

This year's Low-Cost LTT projects served 214 participants, 93% of whom were adults. About 80% were affiliated with Community College of Philadelphia (CCP). Over the past six years, CCP has sponsored one or two LTT workshops almost every month. Most of the sponsors of Low-Cost LTT projects collected the class fees from the participants. Sponsors included:

Community College of Philadelphia
Grandma's Kids
Keystone Education Yields Success

Maximizing Participation Project
Mayor's Commission on Technology
PMHCC

Free LTT

This year's Free LTT projects served 561 participants, 72% of whom were children. About 30% were students at Catholic schools or after-school programs. About 21% were affiliated with the School District of Philadelphia's GEAR-UP for Robotics program. About 12% were participants in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs at public schools in Philadelphia. These numbers include not only the students receiving computers, but also other family members, teachers and facilitators in attendance. Four adults with disabilities each received a free computer, with an individual training session, in an unfunded pilot project sponsored by Horizon House and Liberty Resources. Sponsors of Free LTT projects included:

African American Female Entrepreneurs
Alliance Youth Program
Andrew Jackson School
Anna H. Shaw Middle School
Austin Meehan Middle School
Central East Middle School Beacon Center

Edison-Fareira High School
Elverson Military Academy
Gear-up For Robotics program of the School
District of Philadelphia
Grover Washington, Jr., Middle School
Horizon House

Information Technology Support and Training for Nonprofit Organizations in the Philadelphia Region

The official registration and financial information of Nonprofit Technology Resources may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Impact Services
Liberty Resources
James R. Lowell Elementary School
Julia R. Masterman School
Martin Production Company
Mayor's Commission on Technology
Overbrook High School
Philadelphia Youth Advocates Program
St. Boniface Elementary School
St. Hugh of Cluny School

St. Maron CDC
St. Peter's School
Stetson Middle School
Sulzberger-Mayer Middle School
TechAccessPA
Turner Middle School
University City High School
Vare Elementary School
Village of Arts and Humanities
Visitation BVM School

Financial Support

Funding from foundations, corporations and individuals for Free LTT projects allowed more than a third of all the computers distributed by NTR this year to be delivered at no cost to recipients. This year's Free LTT funding included \$59,550 from foundations. A two-year commitment of support from the Connelly Foundation provided free computers to 80 students from Catholic schools this year, and will serve another 80 in the coming year. The Claneil Foundation, the Hamilton Family Foundation, and The Fourjay Foundation continued their support for GEAR-UP for Robotics students. Three recent gifts are designated to support Philadelphia schoolchildren participating in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs. Major LTT supporters included:

Black Family Technology Awareness Campaign
Citizens Bank Foundation
Claneil Foundation
Connelly Foundation
The Fourjay Foundation
Hamilton Family Foundation
Donald P. Jones Foundation
Lucent Technologies
The Quaker Chemical Foundation

The Rittenhouse Foundation
Siemens Medical Solutions USA
Joseph Kennard Skilling Foundation
Sovereign Bank Foundation
The Tabitha Foundation
The Tuttleman Family Foundation
Valentine Foundation
Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial

Computer Donations

NTR's computer reuse program depends upon equipment donations from dozens of corporations and organizations, as well as hundreds of individuals. More than 400 donors contributed over 6,900 items this year, including about 2,900 computers and 2,700 monitors. Major hardware donors included:

The Annenberg School for Communication
The Art Institute of Philadelphia
Atlas Cold Storage
George Brown
Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
Community College of Philadelphia
Curtis Circulation
Davis Advertising
First Trust Bank
Glenmede Trust Company
Global Knowledge
HealthPartners
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

Neose Technologies, Inc.
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Phelan Hallinan & Schmieg, LLP
Post & Schell, PC
The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church
Radian Group, Inc.
Reliance Insurance Company
The Restaurant School
St. Joseph's Preparatory School
SunGard Data Systems Inc.
University of the Arts
University of Pennsylvania
Villanova University College of Engineering

Evaluation

At the end of each NTR training session each participant completed a workshop evaluation form, rating five aspects of the class from a low score of one to a high of five. For the value of the exercises, the average response was 4.6; for presenter's knowledge of subject the average was 4.8; for presenter's

understanding of the audience the average was 4.6; for length of workshop the average was 4.5; and for overall value of the workshop the average was 4.7.

Feedback

Workshop participants provide comments about the training sessions through our workshop evaluation form, and we often hear from computer recipients weeks or months later, telling us how the use of their new computer has impacted their lives. Teachers and facilitators from partner organizations also send support letters and thank-you notes, describing how participation in LTT has benefited their clients and made it possible for their programs to offer additional learning opportunities.

The computer will give our children an opportunity to participate in an on-line writing program. – coordinators of an after-school program offered by Inn Dwelling, an affiliate of St. Vincent de Paul Church

I was in the program at Community College called, "New Choices New Options," and I was signed up to receive a free computer with the NTR program ... I would have never expected this computer to be this well working because it was free and not only that, but it came with a year of free internet access. Words just cannot express how appreciative [I am] of this kind gift.... Thank you!!! – CCP student

Until today I was intimidated by computers. Now, I have a better understanding of how they work and I now look forward to using mine. I love the idea of taking the computer apart and putting back together. – CCP student

Very insightful, easy to understand instructions and nice hands-on walk-through presentation. The dismantling of the computer and the explanation of the functions of each individual component was educational. – CCP student

Now I know what's in that box! – CCP student

Mr. Griggs did a good job of giving vital information about computers. It was very simple and easy to understand also. – Shaw Middle School Gear-Up for Robotics student

Presentation was informative -- children were able to look inside the computer to see how they work. – parent of Visitation BVM student

I really enjoyed the presentation, because I had the chance of discovering new things of the computer. The chance we had to open the computer and see the "computer world" I thought it was unique!! –St. Hugh of Cluny School student

It was interesting to see the inside of a computer. Both parents and children were very interested in this. – parent of St. Hugh of Cluny School student

I love the fact that we took the computer apart to see what we were dealing with. – parent of St. Hugh of Cluny School student

You will never fully understand the impact the free computers will have on the young ladies who received the computers from Nonprofit Technology Resources. Prior to going to the workshop of June 8th, several of the young ladies expressed that no one in their family had ever owned a computer. After the workshop, all the ladies expressed delight at having their own computers and several of the families have called to say thank you. This has been an invaluable experience for these ladies and their families and I thank you whole-heartedly. Enclosed you will find cards from several of the ladies who received the computers. – Assistant Director, CORA Beacon Center, Grover Washington, Jr. Middle School

Thank you for giving me a computer for free it is so nice of you. You are a true friend to me and my classmates we all love it. It was really nice of you to give it to me now I can do my homework on my computer in my room. P.S. I love it. It is great. – student at CORA Beacon Center, Grover Washington, Jr. Middle School

Technical Support

All computers distributed by NTR are now covered by our three-year guarantee. If anything goes wrong with the computer's hardware or operating system, we will repair or replace the computer. This coverage includes problems caused by computer viruses and other "malware," such as "Trojans," "adware," and "spyware."

Bring A Computer, Ask a Question

We rely on the partner organizations that sponsor Learning Through Technology projects to teach their students the basics of how to use a computer, and to provide some training and support. But so many people have asked us for help with their computers that we began offering a program that we call "Bring A Computer, Ask a Question" (BACAAQ) for people who want to learn how to find solutions on their own to problems encountered in the home computing environment.

We began offering BACAAQ workshops once a month in 2005, relying mostly on volunteer labor, and charging a \$10 fee that covers only part of our costs. These workshops are intended not as a substitute for professional technical support, but rather as a learning opportunity, addressing questions relating to both hardware and software, covering Windows and Macintosh systems.

Thanks to a grant from the School District of Philadelphia, starting in the fall of 2006, we will offer BACAAQ workshops more frequently. The School District's gift will also allow us to offer BACAAQ at no cost to students up through high school age attending any of Philadelphia's schools (not just public schools). We are currently seeking additional funding to enhance and continue BACAAQ.

Plans for 2007

Based on research and experience, the need for Learning Through Technology in the community remains strong. A 2004 survey by the School District of Philadelphia found that 64% of school households citywide owned a computer, and that as few as 27% owned computers in some neighborhoods.

Private foundations and corporations provide nearly all of the funding for Free LTT projects, supporting distribution of nearly 700 free computers over the past two years. In the coming year, we aim to distribute more than 400 free computers, and we will be seeking support from more than a hundred foundations and corporations – mostly small, local organizations.

Support for LTT will help to expand NTR's service capacity, providing service-learning opportunities and paid internships for low-income high school students and other aspiring computer technicians.

NTR will continue to build support for the LTT program through collaborations with community organizations, educational institutions and volunteers from technology-based industries.