



Nonprofit Technology Resources

Celebrating Our 29th Year of Service

Annual Report 2003

for year ending July 31, 2003

NTR serves low-income people in Philadelphia by recycling used computers, providing hands-on training, and helping community-based service organizations use computers in their work.

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



Computers for Robotics Training

Foundation and private donors made it possible for NTR to give free computers to ninety-one children who were participants in the School District of Philadelphia's Middle School GEAR UP Robotics program. Some of these students are shown in the above collage taking part in NTR's Learning Through Technology hardware introduction for new computer owners. Some of the students' parents also attended this workshop.

Who We Are



Nonprofit Technology Resources serves low-income children, teens and adults in Philadelphia by refurbishing used computers, providing hands-on training, and helping community-based service organizations use computers in their work.

Staff

Executive Director

Stanley R. Pokras

Service Director

Lorraine Johnson

Production Supervisor

Shane Thornton

Development Associate

Dave Butler

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W. E. Martin Productions

Jay Cohen

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Delawarevalley.org

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Network Administrator

Dept. of Human Services

City of Philadelphia

Ines Acosta-Nelson

Teacher

Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

Stephen Rockwell

Community Impact Officer

Teaming for Technology

United Way of Southeastern PA

Computer Lab Access Program

NTR offers fully integrated computer networks, complete with printer, hub, networking cables and training for staff. This program is very popular in schools, community technology centers and start-up nonprofits.

Computer Labs Placed

Association of Child Daycare Providers

Diversified Community Services, Dixon House

Saint Augustine's Episcopal Church

Sherwood Park CDC

Turner Middle School (paid by Temple University's New
Choices / New Options program)

W E Martin Productions (Macedonia Baptist Church)



Major Gifts

In the fiscal year ending July 31, 2003, NTR received \$108,750 in foundation gifts, of which \$55,250 supported LTT Free Computers projects. A \$50,000 gift from the Kopelman Foundation supported development of the Community Self-Indexing Project, a new Internet service that helps members of various communities identify and share resources. The remaining funds supported the TARGET internship program, providing enhanced learning opportunities to aspiring technicians.

Thanks to Our Foundation Donors

The Campbell-Oxholm Foundation

Anna H. & Elizabeth M. Chace Fund

Citizens Bank Foundation

Claneil Foundation

The Connelly Foundation

The Fourjay Foundation

Donald P. Jones Foundation

The Kopelman Foundation

The Quaker Chemical Foundation

The Rosenlund Family Foundation

Caroline J.S. Sanders Charitable Trust No. 1

C.W. & Marjorie J. Schrenk Family Foundation

Joseph Kennard Skilling Foundation

Union Benevolent Association

Western Association of Ladies for the Relief and

Employment of the Poor

Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial

Learning Through Technology

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. Most LTT projects are supported by fees paid by participants and sponsoring organizations, but foundation gifts allow a large proportion of LTT services to be delivered at no cost to recipients.

Low-Cost Computers

We distributed 260 low-cost computers this year in workshops attended by 286 students, 92% of whom were adults. About 42% were affiliated with Community College of Philadelphia .

Workshop Sponsors

AAFEA Youth (a program of the African American Female Entrepreneurs Alliance)
Community College of Philadelphia
Institute for the Study of Civic Values
New Choices New Options (a Community College of Philadelphia program serving the community)
North Philadelphia Financial Partnership
Open Arms
St. Cyprian Catholic Parish
Southwest Community Services

Free Computers

We distributed 253 free computers this year in workshops attended by 392 students, 68% of whom were children. About 31% were affiliated with Tigerman Productions, and another 30% with the School District of Philadelphia's GEAR UP Robotics program.

Organizations Distributing Free Computers

GEAR UP Robotics
Germantown Women's Y
Montgomery Townhouses
St. Veronica School
Tigerman Productions
Unison TV Kids
W.E. Martin Production Company (an affiliate of Macedonia Baptist Church)

Critical Path Free Internet Service

Philadelphia FIGHT's Critical Path program offered in-kind matching support for NTR's Free Computer funding requests, in the form of free Internet dial-up accounts for all participants. In the latter part of this year, we directed students to register for their own accounts. In the coming year we plan to install the service ahead of time.



Greg Stubblefield (center, in black), NTR's Curriculum Design Specialist and Instructor, leads a group of children from Montgomery Townhouses in a Learning Through Technology workshop. Gifts from the Caroline J.S. Sanders Charitable Trust and the C.W. and Marjorie J. Schrenk Family Foundation allowed NTR to offer free computers and an Introduction to Computer Hardware workshop to these children. Greg, who began as a volunteer for NTR in 1999, teaches computerized music to a group of high school students in his spare time.

The Mayor's Commission on Literacy

NTR has been providing training, technical support, and training to the Mayor's Commission on Literacy (MCOL) since 1992. In the spring of 2003, NTR joined MCOL in celebrating its 20 years of service to the Philadelphia community.



For MCOL's 15th Annual Computers in Adult Literacy Conference, NTR supplied a 1983 "portable" computer. Ruth Sugar (above), of the MCOL staff, shows off NTR's venerable Kaypro 10, which is still working just fine after 20 years. This computer was one of the first built to house a portable hard disk drive.

Major Hardware Donors

AAA Mid-Atlantic
 Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP
 Albert Einstein Healthcare Network
 Biosis
 Chester County Disability Services
 Community College of Philadelphia
 Dechert
 Delaware Valley School District
 Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
 Duane, Morris and Heckscher, LLP
 Eastern University
 Electronic Boutique
 Ephrata Area School District
 Episcopal Community Services
 Friends' Central School
 Health Partners
 Marshall Dennehey & Warner
 Mr. Ron Boehm
 Promissor, Inc.
 Reed Smith LLP
 Reliance Insurance Company
 Serviceware Technologies
 Tactix Real Estate Advisors
 ViroPharma Inc.
 WMGK FM

Community Technology Centers Network

NTR coordinated Philadelphia regional activities for the national association of community technology centers (CTCNet), continuing to chair the regional planning committee and working closely with the United Way's Teaming for Technology and other groups. The Planning Committee conducted another regional conference this year and continued the growth of the local CTCNet email discussion list, which is managed by NTR's Executive Director.



Jenny Pierce (left) of Philadelphia FIGHT, pictured here with Juliet Fink, received the Toni Stone Innovative Initiative Award at the national CTCNet conference in June of 2003. Philadelphia FIGHT's Critical Path program provides free Internet dial-up service to children receiving free computers through NTR's Learning Through Technology program.

Community Technology Centers' Network

If you would like to receive e-mail announcements from the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Community Technology Centers' Network, please send your contact info to Stan Pokras <pokras@ntronline.org>.



Greater Philadelphia Chapter:
<http://www.ctcnet-philly.org/>

CTCNet nationwide:
<http://www.ctcnet.org/>

CommuniShare: A New Direction for NTR's Core Mission

NTR's mission has always been to help bridge the "digital divide." We've done this primarily through various hardware and training programs, aimed especially at Philadelphia area low-income and nonprofit communities. While we have successfully gotten computers and technical expertise into the community, we've also wanted to help people use these resources to improve their lives. Enter CommuniShare (www.communishare.org).

CommuniShare is NTR's new web-based service designed to enhance the "connectedness" among members of a community. As a web-based resource, however, CommuniShare is not limited to the Philadelphia area. And, because it can be customized for different purposes, it can benefit many types of communities that NTR had not previously served.

So, CommuniShare reinforces NTR's "traditional" mission while also helping NTR reach new communities. It's all about bridging the digital divide, and using technology to help people improve their lives, their communities and their world.

How does CommuniShare work?

CommuniShare is what is known as an "Application Service Provider," or ASP, meaning that many different customers (or "client communities") can create and maintain their own private, customized versions of the service—all via NTR's CommuniShare application on the Internet. CommuniShare can be adapted and used by many different kinds of communities. This not only includes geographic communities like neighborhoods and towns, but also other types of communities, such as schools, colleges, communities of faith, organizations, corporations—just about any collection of people who might think of themselves as a "community."

CommuniShare is really a kind of highly customizable "electronic bulletin board," able to be designed and shaped to serve the objectives of various different communities. Once CommuniShare has been set up for a particular client community, members of that community can log into their private version of CommuniShare from any Internet-connected computer. Then, community members can submit any number of Entries into the service, as well as read Entries submitted by others. Members can submit Entries about themselves, like their own interests, hobbies, ideas, or products/services they'd like to sell. Or the Entries can be "recommendations" to other members of the community of books, organizations, contractors, restaurants, anything.



Creating Connections, Building Community



Community members who don't have access to the Internet are not left out, because all of the information can also be printed out and distributed on paper.

CommuniShare uses a process called "community self-indexing" to help members of a community more effectively share their own information with others in the community. CommuniShare is based on the belief that the members of a community have a wealth of information in their heads and hearts and hands. Sharing this information — voluntarily, conveniently, respectfully — can yield tremendous benefits both for individual community members as well as for the community as a whole.

Other online community building tools

Many online services can serve to "build community." Electronic bulletin boards, mailing lists, discussion forums, and many other "social networking" sites are available to help people connect to one another. The concept of community self-indexing is not unique to CommuniShare. Other services that facilitate community self-indexing include the following:

- Craig's List (www.craigslist.com), a way for people to post or find jobs, rent apartments, sell services, find dating partners and much more
- Angie's List (www.angieslist.com), a service for homeowners to share recommendations of companies and contractors they've dealt with
- Freecycle (www.freecycle.org), a way for people to offer (or ask for) stuff for free, reducing clutter while minimizing waste

Each of these services is similar to CommuniShare in that they facilitate the sharing of participant's information with one another. CommuniShare, however, takes a more "community-centric" approach. First of all, rather than broad geographic areas like "the Philadelphia region,"

CommuniShare (continued)

CommuniShare is focused on smaller groups of people who already identify with a strong sense of community — churches, schools, companies, clubs and so on. People can be more open and trusting with what they choose to share when they know it will only be shared within the relative safety of their own, genuine communities. In addition, each community can customize its CommuniShare application to reflect its own unique goals, culture and special requirements.

Where we are and where we're going

CommuniShare was created by Seth Horwitz, a long-time friend of Stan Pokras and an NTR supporter. Work began on designing CommuniShare in the fall of 2002 with a very generous start-up grant of \$50,000 from the Kopelman Foundation (www.kopelman.org). Following a detailed bidding process, a development contract was awarded to Walter Davis Studio (www.wdstudio.com) who, in collaboration with Ace Technology Group (www.acetechgroup.com) and consultant Donna Wray, developed the initial system. During this time, additional funding was received from the White Dog Foundation (www.whitedog.com/foundation.html), as well as from private sources.

During most of 2003, CommuniShare was developed, using “open source” technology. In the fall of 2003, five complementary “pilot” applications were launched. And since then, 6 new applications have been sold. These applications represent very diverse types of communities, and are described below (in alphabetical order):

AchieveAbility (formerly PCAH) and People’s Emergency Center, two community technology centers serving low income communities in West Philadelphia. Both communities are creating Beehive local websites in collaboration with the United Way and One Economy Corp. These CommuniShare applications are being integrated as special features within the Beehive sites to provide community members with tools to empower themselves and their communities.

CommuniShare will be an important component for neighborhood websites because it helps to identify the hidden assets of those communities, and it bridges a common disconnect among community members by providing a platform for communication and self-indexing. We look forward to the future of this application.

Lorelei Narvaja, Director of Technology Outreach for the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania

IKEA U.S., an international home furnishings retail chain with 18 stores and 10,000 co-workers in the U.S., headquartered in Plymouth Meeting. As part of an overall redesign of their U.S. Intranet, the “People Bank” is being presented as a way for IKEA co-workers to share both business-related expertise as well as to make personal connections to build corporate community and loyalty.

Mishkan Shalom, a Reconstructionist synagogue in Roxborough with 300 member households. This cash-strapped synagogue in transition uses “Community Connections” to help members find out about one another, and to store a collection of recommendations for contractors and other local resources.

National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC), a national professional association of 2200 genetic counselors. NSGC wants to use “Community Connections” to build relationships among members who rarely or never actually meet face-to-face.

The CommuniShare concept has added value to our developing community of self-educating families. Given the geographic diversity of our population — many families’ paths rarely cross in person — the ability to share resources on-line has been quite helpful. We have every expectation that use of the “Open Connections Community Network” will continue to expand as more and more families experience the benefits of this approach to sharing information within our group.

Peter Bergson, Co-Director of Open Connections

Open Connections (OC), a resource and programming center in support of home-schooling families in the Philadelphia area. OC wants to use the “Community Network” as a hub for both youth and adults of member families to enrich their educational opportunities by sharing personal information and recommendations of useful resources in the wider community.

The **Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO)**, located in Elkins Park. In addition to building a greater sense of community among current students, staff and faculty, PCO especially wants to use “Community Connections” as a means of increasing alumni participation.

The **Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND)**, a consortium of 42 colleges and universities in and around Philadelphia working on community-based service programs. PHENND wants to use the “People Exchange” to help build relationships among members who often don’t have much contact with other consortium members.

CommuniShare (continued)

Upper Darby Sellers Library, the public library in Upper Darby. Sellers Library wants to use “InfoShare” as another information resource provided by the library, and as a new way to engage and involve current and prospective library patrons.

Weavers Way Co-op, a food co-op in Mt. Airy with about 3000 member families. As another cooperative service provided to its members, Weavers Way views “Common Threads” as a way to recognize and validate the rest of members’ lives.

I just wanted to thank you for the entire Weavers Way community of 3,000 plus households for your work on our Common Threads project. The ability for our membership to communicate through a common marketplace such as this has greatly enhanced our dynamics as a membership group.

Glenn Bergman, General Manager of Weavers Way Co-op

The **White Dog Café**, a local restaurant that has served as a gathering spot for socially active people and activities, with a quarterly newsletter sent to 20,000 people. The White Dog would like to use “Community Connections” to help members of this loosely connected community participate in a multidirectional flow of information about issues, events and activities that are important to them.

Up and running!

It might be said that CommuniShare is currently up and running in “version 1.0.” With a relatively basic set of features, it can be customized for various types of communities. We’ve deliberately deployed the initial applications to a wide variety of community types (a college, a library, a co-op, a faith community, and so on). In this way, we can see how well the basic design and features of “version 1.0” work in communities with different needs and characteristics. By working with and observing these different CommuniShare applications, we are learning what works well and what doesn’t—both in general, as well as with different types of communities. Consequently, we are gathering lists of design changes and

Consulting Services

NTR’s **Information Systems Design Services** program provides database systems that enable nonprofit organizations to better manage their service records and improve their capability to generate reports that document their efforts. We design fund-raising and other database systems, assist in evaluating software needs, and help agencies select software to purchase. This service is provided by our professional staff.

new features that we’d like to build into CommuniShare in general. At the same time, we’re identifying special features (as well as marketing opportunities) for particular types of communities. In the coming year, we plan to raise money (through sales, custom development and fundraising) to develop the features and marketing initiatives that would make CommuniShare more useful in general, as well as more attractive to specific types of communities.

Interested in getting involved?

If CommuniShare sounds interesting to you, there are several ways you can get involved, and help NTR use CommuniShare technology to improve communities.

Tell us what you think. We sincerely desire your feedback about CommuniShare — both positive and negative. And we’d like to hear your suggestions about how it can be improved, and how it can be used in different types of communities.

Send us sales leads. Can your community (or another community you know) use CommuniShare to help its members be better connected?

Join the team. If you could volunteer some of your own time or expertise in helping CommuniShare, we want to talk to you. Maybe you have technical (open source) expertise. Or maybe you could help with sales or fundraising. Get involved with this exciting new service, and help to shape its future.

Make a donation. (You knew we’d come to that, didn’t you?) By making a tax-deductible donation to NTR, earmarked for CommuniShare, you can play a vital role in helping CommuniShare grow and develop into a more useful and widely available service.



Contact CommuniShare at info@communishare.org, or visit us on the web (www.communishare.org) to find out more about these opportunities or anything else about CommuniShare.

Seth Horwitz, CommuniShare Project Manager

Consulting Clients

Asian Arts Initiative
Carpenter Hall
Clay Studio
Community Technology Centers Network (CTCNet)
Mayor's Commission on Literacy
New Jerusalem Laura
The Philadelphia School

Volunteers Drive to Succeed in Learning Through Technology

Organizations That Sent Interns or Volunteers to NTR

Arbor Independence Career Center
Benjamin Franklin High School
Berean Institute
Central High School
Communities in Schools - Youth Works
Impact Services
Institute for the Study of Civic Values
KRA Corporation - SPOC Program
Mayor's Commission on Services to the Aging
Metropolitan Career Center
Neumann Institute
Philadelphia Area Reuse Center
Philadelphia Cares
Ross Innovative Employment Solutions
Social Equality, Inc.
Transitional Work Corporation

84 Interns and Volunteers Contributed 5,666 Hours

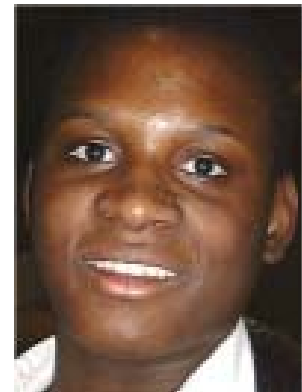
Kaseem Acres	Andrey Kolyada
Wanda Banks	Mikel Lively
David Beckham	Nancy Loi
Paula Blair	Steven Lopez
Chenelle Bradley	Kenneth Mack
Wendy Brooks	Barbara Mason
Bruce Brown	Sally McCabe
Cesselyn Brown	Lauren Morrison
Darien Brown	Brandon Munson
Lendia Brown	Andrie Nicks
Seth Brown	Bette Nixon
Asa Bush	Kobra Oden
Kimberly Cambell	Lorraina Pegues
Christopher Caraballo	Wesley Powaserys
Valarie Carpenter	Tiawanna Price
Heather Carson	Andre Pride
Walter Chisholm	Rosalyn Purnell
Tyesha Clark	Ernesto Querijero
V. Cole	Gabriel Ramos
Sirron Corector	Meenal Raval
Victor Crawley	Ronald Reid
Yesenia Cruz	Ray Robinson
Bethel "Pete" Davis	Carlos Rodriguez
Dessarie Davis	Ronald Rucker
Audrey Dawsonia	Marvin Saddler
April Duncan	Morris Sampson
Dante Dutton	Daniel Sanchez
Emily Ferreira	Marvin Simms
Brian Finnegan	Pamela Sing
Shatara Fletcher	Ed Sweeney
Joanna Fuentes	Valerie Sweeting
Amira Glover	Marcus Thompson
Roosevelt Graham	Byron Tribbett
Jon Hanna	Kristyna Vartanian
Lena Hodo	Keith Wallace
Andrew Jackson	Megan Wharttnaby
Dustin Johnson	Lois White
Willa Johnson	Marchella Wiggins
Yvette Johnson	Steven Wiles
Corey Jones	Larry Williams
Marcella Jones	Asad Woods
Afshin Kaighobady	Idrees Young



Interns from Impact Services Summer Program, (clockwise from lower left) Dante Dutton, Steven Lopez, Marcus Thompson and Chris Caraballo help unload a shipment of donated computers and monitors.

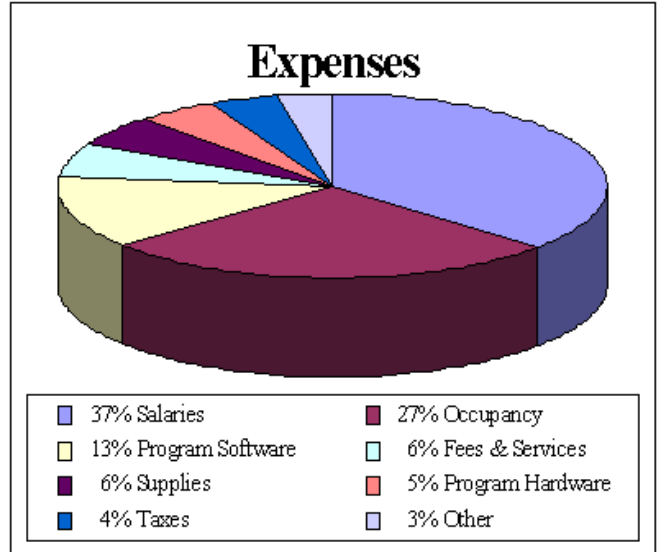
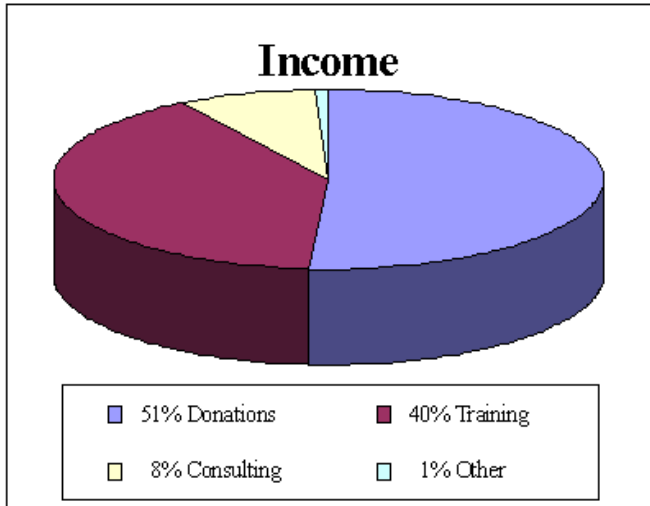
Internships at NTR

NTR's internship program for aspiring computer technicians has become an important element in training programs of local high schools and technical schools, providing a place where students can gain practical experience working on computer hardware. Job readiness program providers supply NTR with interns for both clerical and technical positions. Benjamin Franklin High School sends students to work at NTR during school hours, after school and during the summer as part of work-readiness programs. For the past four summers, Impact Services has paid four or five students to refurbish computers at NTR through the Philadelphia Foundation's SCOPE work-experience program.



Benjamin Franklin High School students, Andre Pride (left) and Larry Williams were among our most active volunteers. Larry has been with us since January of 2001.

Statement of Activities for Year Ending July 31, 2003



Category	Amount
Contributions	\$ 113,740
Computer Hardware Training	\$ 89,040
Sales and Rentals	\$ 1,712
Consulting Income	\$ 18,130
Investment Income	\$ 100
Total Support and Revenues	\$ 222,722

Category	Amount
Program Services	\$ 204,811
Management & General	\$ 5,154
Total Expenses	\$ 209,965
Change in Net Assets	\$ 12,757
Fund Balance, Beginning	\$ 4,416
Fund Balance, Ending	\$ 17,173

Balance Sheet As of July 31, 2003

Assets	
Cash	\$ 28,452
Accounts Receivable	\$ 900
Parts Inventory	\$ 19,581
Total Assets	\$ 48,933
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 26,510
Deferred Revenue	\$ 5,250
Total Liabilities	\$ 31,760
Net Assets	\$ 17,173
Net Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 48,933

Financial Overview

NTR's Support and Revenues increased about 1% over the previous year, while expenses decreased about 30%. Cash donations comprised 51% of our income, up from 29% last year. Occupancy (rent and utilities) accounted for 27% of our expenses, up from 21% last year.



Susan Mahoney of Adnil Professionals has been providing bookkeeping services to NTR for the past five years.

Technical Support

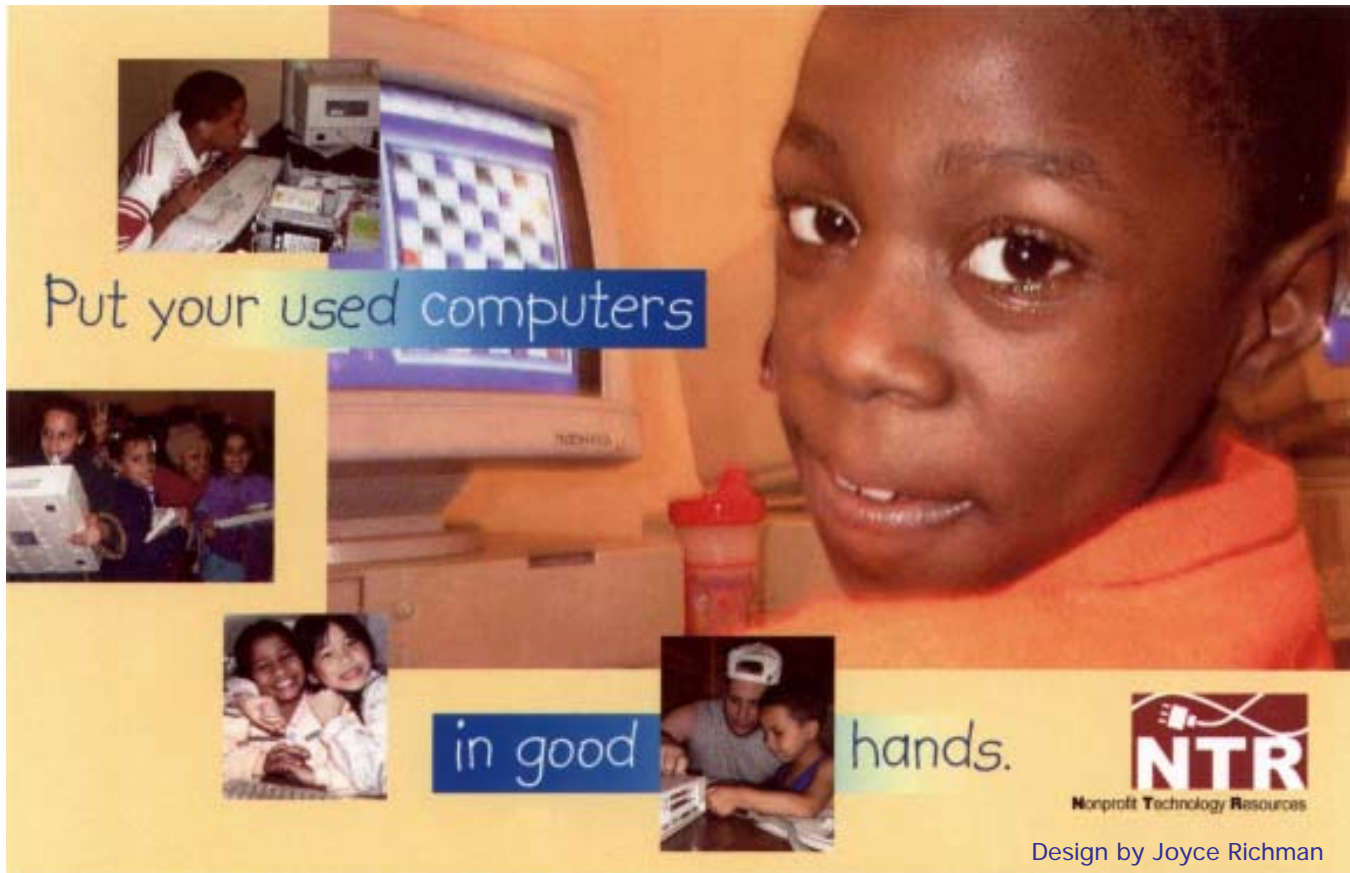
NTR's **Technical Support** program offers on-site hardware and software trouble-shooting to nonprofit agencies. The leader of our technical team is Frank Desimone (right), of Green-Logic, an Information Technology consulting firm serving small organizations. Frank has been providing Windows networking support and training to NTR's clients for the past two years.



Technical Support Clients

Carpenter Hall
 Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center
 New Jerusalem Laura
 Philadelphia Health Management Corporation
 Philadelphia Museum of Art Heritage Policy Project
 Point Breez Civic Association
 Rosenbach Museum
 Utility Emergency Services Fund

Does Your Old Computer Need a Loving Family?



Put your used computers
in good hands.

NTR
Nonprofit Technology Resources

Design by Joyce Richman

Donate Used Computer Equipment

NTR needs donations of used computers, SVGA monitors, small dot-matrix printers, ink-jet and laser printers, and other accessories. The equipment you donate to NTR will be refurbished, used for parts, or recycled responsibly.



Nonprofit Technology Resources
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Philadelphia, PA 19130-4003
phone: 215-564-6686
fax: 215-564-6642
email: ntr@ntronline.org
web: www.ntronline.org



Contact Us

Find out how your donations or cash contributions can help put computers in good hands, and put smiles on the faces of those who need your help.