



Retired Senior Volunteer Program

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Responding to the needs of the community. Getting things done.
www.rsvpsuffolk.org

RSVP is a Senior Corps Project of the Corporation for National & Community Service

PEGI ORSINO
Executive Director

2010 Great Ideas in Aging Contest **RSVP Suffolk-Community Computer Connections Program**

Sponsoring Agency: The Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Suffolk County, NY

Initial Problem(s) to be addressed:

1. The digital divide that exists between low income seniors and technology.
2. Creating a volunteer opportunity that utilizes the technology skills of Older Americans interested in civic activity.
3. Reducing the amount of discarded computer components and e-toxic waste in our local landfills.
4. No venue for local commerce to donate dated, yet viable technology that still is very functional for personal use.

Brief Program Description:

The Community Computer Connections Program (CCCP), a service project under RSVP Suffolk, takes privately and corporately donated computers, refurbishes them under a Microsoft Refurbishing license that RSVPs holds, tech savvy seniors refurbish the computers, and return them at no charge for labor or parts to financially challenged seniors and disabled individuals living in Nassau or Suffolk Counties, NY.

How does the Program Help? Why do you like the Program?

The Community Computer Connections Program directly delivers a powerful tool into the hands of seniors that can't afford to purchase a computer on their fixed incomes. What was once thought of 2 decades ago as a luxury technology item in homes, has become an essential device for us to gather information, research topics that interest us and gives us an instrument for communicating with the outside world. To a homebound senior, or an elder with limited transportation to access assistive community resources, this personal computer gives them the capability to order their medications on line, to have groceries delivered directly to their home, to be knowledgeable of current world affairs without the expense of a newspaper, and to communicate with family members and friends with out the added expense of telephone bills. The donated computer becomes equipment that will further enhance the senior recipients' human potential, while giving viable technology a second productive life in the community and not as junked toxic waste, the volume of which is having a huge negative impact on the environment. The CCCP provides an charitable donation outlet to local businesses to donate their viable computer systems to help their less affluent elderly community dwellers. CCCP under this RSVP project provides a fresher,

RSVP's mission is to provide diverse volunteer opportunities for people 55 and older. RSVP supports Older Americans who wish to remain active and make a difference in their communities.

challenging opportunity to offer to baby boomers and other tech savvy seniors interested in making a difference in others lives though volunteerism.

When the program was first presented to the RSVP project in 2006 by a 73 year old community activist who saw an escalating community need for pc's to be available to seniors who couldn't afford them, we immediately embraced the concept and took a proactive approach to researching the legalities involved with refurbishing computers. The end result of our investigation was to apply for and receive from Microsoft a refurbishing license which legitimizes the re-programming of Microsoft Word programs into a pc by affixing a Certificate of Authenticity (COA) on the pc equipment. To date more then 1,500 computers have been distributed to low income seniors, families and individuals who are benefited by having this technology in their homes. More then 350 of these components have been delivered to adults 60+. In 2010 CCCP partnered with Project Independence located in the Town of North Hempstead to deliver 15-20 computers to seniors living in a NORC (naturally occurring senior community).

Why do you like the program?

Community Computers Connections Program is a win/win situation on so many levels. It affords local commerce and corporations an opportunity to assist their less fortunate neighbors by donating their "old" computers. It affords a challenging opportunity for seniors and attracts many men to volunteer. It is cost effective-it cost about \$24.00 to refurbish a computer, yet is a priceless gift to those that can't afford to purchase such technology. It gives viable computers a second productive life and saves the environment toxic e-clutter. It brings community resources right to the homebound senior; while enhancing their cognition skills and opens up a world of information to them.

The program is easily replicated and on a local level at RSVP/Suffolk, its run exclusively by volunteers, from requests intakes to deliveries and installations, so no personnel costs are incurred.

Total Program Costs/Major Sources of Income

The program currently is funded by private donations and small grants, such as the Harry Chapin Foundation, United Parcel Foundation, Capital One and Roslyn Savings Foundation. With parts necessary to the refurbishment process, postage and handling of parts to homebound senior refurbishing volunteers, travel reimbursement for volunteers and COA's (mandated by license) this program could deliver 400 refurbished computers annually for a cost of about 15k a year. With the addition of one p/t staff person coordinating and giving oversight to the project it would cost approximately 25k annually to give back 400 computers to those in need and positively impact between 450-600 people a year.

Special Characteristics

The Community Computer Connections Program's program won the 2008 Corporation for National and Community Service's "Spirit of Service" award. CCCP was chosen over 700 other RSVP projects throughout the United States.

Information Contact:

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SINCERELY
VALERIE GILMORE
ON BEHALF
OF
LOUIS GATHERS
40 MAINE AVE
ROCKVILLE CENTRE
NY 11570

Ms. Pegi Orsino + Staff,

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS NOTE OF THANKS ON BEHALF
OF MY FATHER, LOUIS GATHERS JR., AN 81 YEAR OLD
STROKE VICTIM AND DIALYSIS PATIENT. HE IS THE
RECIPIENT OF YOUR CCC PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE
KIND AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF YOUR TECHNICIAN,
KENNY.

MY DAD'S LIFE STYLE HAS CHANGED FOR THE
BETTER - HAND COORDINATION IMPROVEMENT AS
WELL AS HIS COGNITIVE SKILLS.

THANK YOU AGAIN, WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE.