

Sponsorship and Support of Tech Saturdays

Overview

Tech Saturdays is a collaboration between The Children's Storefront, a tuition free Independent School in central Harlem and The Harlem Wireless Initiative, a non-profit organization. We launched Tech Saturdays in December 2007 and are dedicated to helping families in Harlem learn more about technology and acquire hardware.

Success

We have been featured in the NYC Daily News and on NY1 Television. We have had dozens of schools in the greater NYC area (and around the country) donate hardware to us that is several years old. We have a team of about 10 people (all volunteers) who help with every phase of the Tech Saturday program. We have conducted Tech Saturdays on 1/12/08, 2/9/08, 3/8/08, and a double one (morning and afternoon) 5/31/08. We plan on conducting approximately one Tech Saturday per month during each school year, attracting 20-25 families each time.



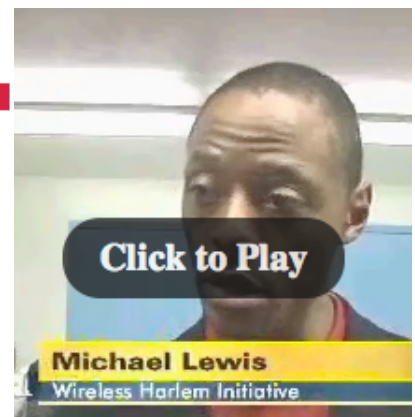
Manhattan



New Program Aims To Put Computers Into Homes Of City Kids

February 10, 2008

A new initiative aims to put more computers into the homes of kids who need them. NY1's Candace Kelley filed the following report.



A Typical Tech Saturday

One Saturday beforehand, several of us meet at Storefront and work in the basement where we have accumulated about 100 computers. We work at imaging the computers with legal software and prepping them for the subsequent Saturday. The morning of the actual Tech Saturday, we bring the computers from the basement across the street or to an accessible location. Families are called by lottery. We have over 75 people on our waiting list. They arrive at 9AM and participate in a 3 hour workshop, getting their free computer at the end of the workshop. The workshop covers numerous topics including software skills, the importance of typing, software honesty and how to get your computer connected to the Internet.

Tech Saturday for Lower School Students

The mission of Tech Saturdays is to provide informative workshop and useful hardware for kids growing up in Harlem. As computer teacher at The Children's Storefront, I (Steve Bergen) emphasize keyboarding and typing skills for all students in grades 1-8. This past year (07-08) we gave out AlphaSmarts donated from other schools to all of our third and fourth grade students. This has helped them immensely with keyboarding skills. We also gave out keyboards to our first and second grade students (not connected to a computer, just the keyboard) and had them type their spelling words on the keyboards to gain familiarity with the keys. This coming year (08-09) via a special grant, we are purchasing the newest model "Neo2" wireless AlphaSmarts and will be distributing the older AlphaSmarts as part of a new Tech Saturdays program specifically for students in grades 1-4. We have a NYC private school donating 100 of the older AlphaSmarts to us and have been very successful with schools around the country donating AlphaSmarts to us. Accordingly, we will be announcing to the Harlem community our newest program called **Tech Saturday for Lower School Students**. Each child along with parent or guardian will attend the workshop, learn strategies for keyboarding practice and will take home an AlphaSmart as part of the program.

Sponsorship and Support

We are seeking sponsors for a variety of reasons. None of us on the Tech Saturday staff ever get compensated for our work and we do not want that to change. Volunteerism is an essential part of the 40 year history of The Children's Storefront. However, we do encounter small expenses involved in transporting computers to 129th street and occasionally in fixing/updating the computers. Currently, several of us pay for these expenses out of pocket and some are absorbed by The Children's Storefront which is complicated since the school's survival each year depends on raising over 3 million dollars from July 1 to July 1. The cost of being a sponsor is \$3,000 for 3 years and in return, we will be publicizing our sponsors and supporters on our Web site, in all printed material and with mouse pads of course.

Additionally, having one or more corporate sponsors validates the community service that we are doing. To be able to tell the NY Times (for example) about Tech Saturdays and to include the fact that we are sponsored by a major company adds to our credibility. We believe we have created a model that other communities in the US can emulate. All of this adds to the publicity that the sponsoring company would achieve, in addition to the value of generosity and helping to "do good" for families in Harlem.

More Information

Our Web page of www.techsaturdays.org contains everything. You will find the Daily News article and the various videos which have appeared on NY1 television. Feel free to contact me by or e-mail. I would also be glad to do a SKYPE video-conferencing presentation to interested parties along with Michael Lewis, the head of the Harlem Wireless Initiative.

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