



Digital Divide Initiative



Members from the Geek Squad were on hand to troubleshoot and repair problems

Computer Upgrade Day Helps Area Households

It's not often that you can have your computer upgraded by experts at no charge, yet that was the case on Saturday November 8th at the PPL Learning Center. Over 30 households brought in their computers to have viruses removed, add additional RAM and get new software.

Experts on hand to serve the participants ranged from concerned community members and CTEP Americorps members, to technicians from Best Buy/Geek Squad, ING Financial and Wells Fargo. PPL Staff provided support for the event.

The participating families recieved their computers from the Digital Divide Intiative's Computer Take Home Workshops over the past year. Many of the families came to get new educational software added to their computers.



Technical volunteers added RAM and installed CD Burners.

DDI Contributes to the World Community Grid.

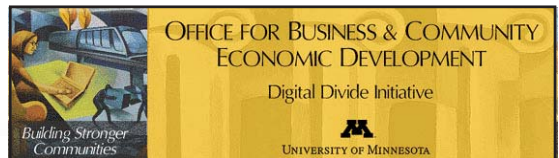


The Digital Divide Initiative is a partner with IBM on the World Community Grid (WCG). World Community Grid's mission is to create the largest public computing grid benefiting humanity.

Grid computing joins together many individual computers, creating a large system with massive computational power that far surpasses the power of a handful of supercomputers. Because the work is split into small pieces that can be processed simultaneously, research time is reduced from years to months. The technology is also more cost-effective, enabling better use of critical funds

Check out this touching "I Dedicate" video montage, which says it all!

www.worldcommunitygrid.org



The Digital Divide Initiative builds bridges to opportunity through innovative partnerships to bring technology to underserved populations.

The mission of the University of Minnesota's Office for Business & Community Economic Development is to contribute to the economic growth and development of Minnesota communities.

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**World Community Grid turns 4
and we couldn't have done it without You**



DDI Joins Computers For Youth Affiliate Network

The Digital Divide Initiative has joined the Affiliate Network of Computers For Youth (CFY) based in New York. CFY's Affiliate Network helps other organizations benefit from CFY's knowledge and experience in improving the home learning environment of low-income children. Formed in 2006, the Network was developed in response to requests for advice and assistance from organizations across the nation. The Network provides members with the products and services to more efficiently implement their programs while increasing the depth of services offered to their constituencies.

DDI will be adding CFY software for middle-school students to its list of pre-installed software on computers donated to low-income families. The software includes titles on Math, Language Arts, Music and more.



Family registers to obtain CFY software at Computer Upgrade Day



Vusi Zulu loads CFY software on participants computers during Computer Upgrade Day

“This will really add additional value to the computers that we place in homes” stated Ken Nelson, DDI supervisor. Now we can serve a wider age range with a greater variety, he added.

CFY's program purposefully focuses on children in their middle school years because these are the years when:

- * Children begin to disengage from academics
- * Parents begin to feel less capable of helping with increasingly complex homework assignments
- * Research shows the steepest decline in academic achievement

CFY's innovative approach supports parents as learning partners, connects classroom learning with the home, and creates educational opportunities for the entire family.

CFY's work is built upon three principles supported by the research literature and our own experience:



All families want their children to succeed.

Low-income parents value their children's academic achievement just as much as do high-income parents.

All families can play a role in their children's success.

The factor in the home that most strongly influences a child's intellectual development is cognitive stimulation—not the education or income of the child's parents, as is commonly assumed. With proper support, all parents can be powerful contributors to their children's education.

All families can harness the power of computer technology to improve their children's lives.

When provided with the proper technology—a computer designed as a home learning center, for example—children can become self-directed learners, avid readers, excited mathematicians, and responsible citizens.

Are you looking to build your business.... or are you starting a business?

If so, the SME Toolkit may exactly what you are looking for! The SME Toolkit, brought to you by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank and IBM is designed especially for new and growing small businesses. In the United States, the SME Toolkit site was specifically

developed to assist Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American and Women-owned businesses with basic business tools. Whether you have five minutes or five hours, you can find the tools, content, resources and more to serve your needs.

The SME Toolkit was the topic for the Office for Business and Community Economic Development's Brown Bag Lunch series held on Tuesday November 11th. For more information contact Roxanne Johnson, Graduate Student Intern with the Digital Divide Initiative at 612-624-8597 or email: john3718@umn.edu.

She would be happy to make a formal presentation to your group(s), and share additional information on the SME Toolkit and how to take advantage of its offerings.



¡TradúceloAhora!

Opening a world of services and information for Spanish speakers

Imagine for a moment if the flood of emails you receive daily suddenly became an indecipherable series of fonts and symbols. Unfortunately, this scenario is a reality for many Spanish-speaking individuals with limited English skills. It's a situation that is especially frustrating for parents when it comes to online correspondence with their child's school.

IBM's ¡TradúceloAhora! (TranslateNow!) is an innovative solution. Using IBM's WebSphere® Translation Server software, DDI partnering agencies are accessing ¡TradúceloAhora! to not only translate web sites from English to Spanish automatically, but also to translate emails bidirectionally (English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English).



You can test drive the software at www.traduceloahora.org

DDI staff can issue a passcode allowing individuals to access and use the powerful website. If you are interested contact Ken Nelson at 612-624-8783.

Join the Digital Divide Initiative on



for Computer Upgrade Day

The Digital Divide Initiative

Office for Business and Community Economic Development

2221 University Ave SE #120

Minneapolis, MN 55414

9:00 - 11:30

Computer Upgrade Service Activity
Poster-making activity

11:30 - 1:00

MLK Birthday Party
(Potluck-bring a dish to share)

1:00 - 4:00

Computer Upgrade Service Activity
Poster-making activity

Register for the event at www.theddi.org



Dr. King believed each individual possessed the power to lift himself or herself up no matter what his or her circumstances – rich or poor, black or white, man or woman.

Whether teaching literacy skills, helping an older adult surf the Web, or helping an individual build the skills they need to acquire a job, acts of service can help others improve their own lives while doing so much for those who serve, as well.