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**2009 in Review**

In 2009 we gave out more than 2,000 computers to low income families! That means 6,000 people now have access to a computer in their home. We also provided 440 hours of phone support, trained dozens of workers and reused almost 100 tons of computer equipment.

**Business Services**

PCs for People now offers FREE pickup and electronic recycling. Learn more on page 3.



*Linda M. Kilander, Principal of Jefferson Elementary school in Mankato, MN, stands with PCs for People founder Andy Elofson at the PCs for Kids donation drive.*

**PCs for Kids Pilot Program a Success**

PCs for People launched an Elementary school pilot program called PCs for Kids. The goal of the program is to partner with local elementary schools to provide an opportunity for every child in the school to have a home computer.

On Earth Day 2010, a computer donation drive was held at Jefferson elementary school in Mankato, MN. The drive collected about 40 working computers from families who had children attending Jefferson. Weeks later at parent-teacher conferences, parents were asked if their child had access to a home computer. If they did not, the teacher provided them a voucher for a free computer that had been refurbished from the Earth Day drive.

Having a computer available for home use provides a significant advantage in accessibility to information and educational opportunities. According to an article by Robert W. Fairlie in the October 2005 issue of Economics of Education Review, teenagers who have access to home computers are 6 to 8 percent more likely to graduate from high school than teens that lack access to a home computer.

Throughout the 2010-11 school year, we plan to partner with additional public schools to try to refine our the program. We are hopeful that PCs for Kids can become a permanent program that PCs for People can use to help more families gain access to computers at home.

## Recipient Spotlight

While being in the PCs for People office everyday, I hear inspiring stories of how our organization is helping families gain access to computers in their homes.

In early 2009, I met Tom and Mary. They are a visually impaired couple living in St. Paul. Their computer had broken and they were unable to afford another one. Being legally blind, Tom and Mary rely heavily on each other to accomplish simple day to day tasks that many of us take for granted. Things such as catching the bus and crossing streets made going to the library to use computers much less than ideal, and driving was obviously out of the question.

They had decided they would have to get use to life without a home computer, but one day a friend told them about PCs for People. Tom and Mary decided to give it a try and

called for more information. When they called they were a little discouraged to add their name to a 300 family waiting list, but decided to try anyway.

Less than a month later they received a call from PCs for People that their computer was ready for pickup. Excited, they took the bus, and the driver made sure they got off at the correct stop. They knew they needed to cross the street and head south about 1 block, but were unsure exactly how far to go. After a business owner and someone on the street pointed them in the right direction they thought they had made it into the right place.

As they entered PCs for People's front door, Mary commented to Tom, "Do you think we made it to the right place?". Since they were unable to see the stacks of monitors,

keyboards, computers, printers and other electronics I assumed it was an attempt at humor by someone impressed by the setup.

I almost replied with a slight chuckle, but as I glanced up from helping another customer I noticed Tom holding Mary's arm and both of them were using walking canes.

I could tell it had been a slight struggle finding the place and they were still not sure of their whereabouts. I finished with the customer ahead of them and after a couple minutes of paperwork Tom and Mary arranged for a ride home and left with their new computer.

I've been asked several times, being visually impaired will they be able to fully utilize their computer? The answer is a resounding yes. Mary is completely blind, however Tom is able to see objects if they are very close to him. For Tom, we were able to customize his computer to have the largest screen and text sizes available so he could utilize his new computer. For Mary, even though she may never be able to see the screen, advances in assistive technology and software such as, screen readers, talk and type and braille keyboards allow her to be as productive as any other computer user.



Casey Sorensen  
Executive Director of PCs for People

*Tom and Mary, a visually impaired couple, receive a computer from PCs for People*



## New Service Offered to Businesses

PCs for People is offering a new corporate recycling service to businesses donating working computer equipment. In addition to free pickup of computers, we will also offer to take away non-functional equipment. Starting immediately, this service will be offered free of charge.

PCs for People end-of-lifecycle computer management is extremely simple, cost efficient, helps those in need and is more efficient than recycling. Many companies pay per pound and pickup fees for recycling companies to handle their PC assets.

## Pawn America Donation Drive

On Friday July 9th and Saturday July 10th we partnered with Pawn America to host a free recycling event in Rochester, MN. The event drew almost 250 cars donating more than 10 tons of computer equipment. This means we will be able to provide over 100 families and 300 people with a home computer!

“Something sitting in someone’s closet is going to bring the world to someone’s fingertips, to someone who’s never had that before. That’s what it’s all about,” said Dan Kealey, Director of New Business Development and Community Affairs, for Pawn America.

## Blandin Foundation Partnership

In the Spring of 2010, the US Department of Commerce announced that the Blandin Foundation and nineteen coalition partners received a \$4.7 million grant award on behalf of rural Minnesota communities. PCs for People was one of those nineteen partners. During our two years of involvement with this program, we will distribute 1,000 computers to families in rural Minnesota.



The goal of the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) coalition is to bring a network of resources and support to rural Minnesota individuals and communities - Especially those unemployed and seeking employment, small businesses, coalitions of government entities, and local leaders.



Large banner hanging on the outside wall of Pawn America in Rochester, MN.

## Give to the Max Day

On November 16, 2010 GiveMN.org is hosting Give to the Max Day. If you make a cash donation that day to PCs for People there is a chance your money could go much further.



Throughout the event, an individual donor will be randomly chosen every hour to have \$1,000 given to the charity that received the donor’s original donation.

Please consider giving a cash donation to PCs for People on November 16. Visit our website at: [www.pcsforpeople.org/donate](http://www.pcsforpeople.org/donate) and click the Donate Now button.

We give out hundreds of computers for free every year. This is great for our program recipients, but not so good for our budget. All financial donations are used for scholarships to pay for low income families computers when they have nothing to give. For every \$50 donated one family will receive a fully refurbished computer, with software and warranty at no cost to them.

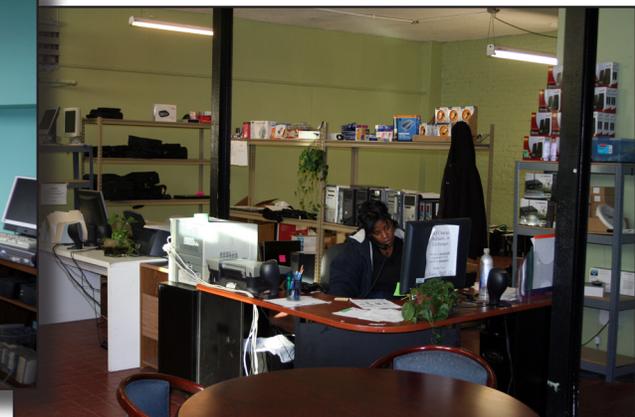
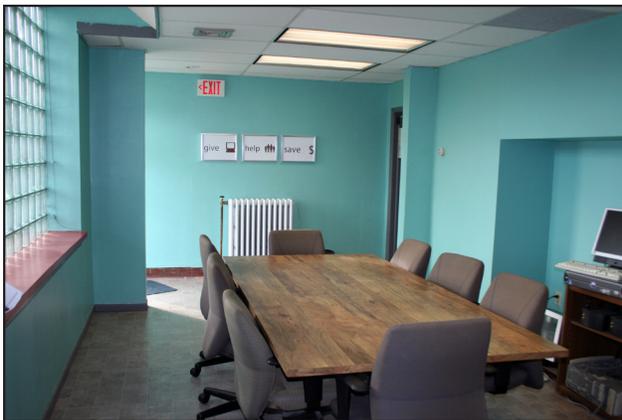
## We Moved!



*(Left) Our reception area at the new office complete with comfortable seating and an expanding collection of toys for kids. (Right) Our old reception area that was cluttered with monitors and PCs ready for distribution.*



*(Left) Computer storage at our new office at 1481 Marshall Ave in St. Paul. The new office has over five times the square footage of the previous office. (Right) PCs for People workers work between stacks of donated computers at the old office.*



*(Left) Our new office has a conference room to hold meetings away from the noisy refurbishing areas. (Right) Recipients are now welcomed by a spacious front desk area. This new space has room for a second receptionist when the office gets busy.*