A PCUG COMPUTER CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE

(HAPPENINGS IN OTHER COMPUTER CLUBS)

Long Beach IBM Users Group, Long Beach, California

For more than two decades, the Long Beach IBM Users Group has been committed to supporting its local communities, including schools, libraries, hospitals and religious institutions. Giving back to the community in the form of donating computers, setting up systems and training individuals has given our members opportunities to participate in many worthwhile programs.

During the '80s, the Club installed two MAC computers in the Victoria Elementary School library, built a database program of all school software and established a checkout system for the software. In addition, Club volunteers worked in the classrooms for a semester assisting teachers with computer instruction. Our members worked with the Long Beach VA Hospital, Manual Arts Therapy department. We donated a computer for patients and trained staff and patients on its use and we also gave the department full access to the Club's private Bulletin Board System.

Our community service continued with a strong presence into the '90s and included the following projects: building three computers and installing a network for the rectory offices at Saint Maria Goretti, Catholic Church; designing a database program for record keeping by the Long Beach Police Department and helping the coordinator at San Miguel Avenue School with the design and installation of the schools first computer lab. The Computer Lab Project was so successful that two years later, our members helped to upgrade the lab with new equipment while distributing the old computers to classrooms. We still had more community work to do as the Club upgraded all the existing computers for the City of Lakewood's Chamber of Commerce, built and installed 25 computers at Franklin Middle School, and as part of "Net Day 1" in 1997, wired William F. Prisk School for Internet and Intranet access. In addition, working with the Long Beach Greater Girl Scout Council, the Club donated three complete computer systems including modems, printers and all software to be used as prizes for a Council Essay Contest.

As we approached the end of the century, the Club continued to reach out to many worthwhile groups. Our members solicited and received a large software donation that we in turn distributed to many schools and other computer clubs, including Bellflower Adult School and the Long Beach Senior Center. We also upgraded a computer system, added two computers and networked the system at the Tichenor Orthopedic Clinic for Children. Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation used their donated computer system for grant writing and to develop educational curricula.

Computer donations and assistance to schools continued with the new century, including donating 10 computers to Saint Norbert School and wiring grades 6, 7 and 8 to give students' Internet access. Other schools that greatly benefited from the Club's generosity and expertise included: Towne Avenue School, Long Beach City College for the disabled student program, and Hamilton Middle School who created a program that allowed needy students to earn a computer through working at the school.

In 2003, the Club worked with the "Educate the Children" foundation at Jefferson Middle School. We installed and configured donated Windows software and networked printers to be used by various classrooms.

In 2004, the Club was contacted by Caroldale Learning Community School to offer support after a suspicious destroyed several classrooms. We donated several computers and parts that they could use to rebuild their equipment.

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