

Please join us on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 1:00 pm as we donate our first group of refurbished computers to low-income families.

Beginning at 1 pm on Thursday, October 15, 2009, the YWCA's Cultivating Grant County (CGC) refurbishing program will be giving its first group of refurbished computers to low-income families who applied and were selected by a special committee that based qualifications on income and need

Through the help of a BrightHouse Networks grant, NetLiteracy of Indianapolis donated some of the testing equipment needed and operating system licenses for these computers; individuals, organizations and businesses within Grant County donated old computers and parts; and Dick Miller, IT Coordinator for the YWCA and volunteers refurbished them.

BrightHouse Networks and Net Literacy of Indianapolis have been a tremendous help in getting this program started. In 2008, NetLiteracy donated computers to the YWCA for Grant County computers labs and made it possible for the YWCA to obtain computers from the state to help Marion Community Schools start their refurbishing program for students and classrooms. First Option, a local trucking company owned by Doug & Dean Brankle picked up the large shipment of computers for the school and delivered them to Five Points Mall, where the mall management donated a large space to store them, and the Grant County Sheriff's Department's Inmate program unloaded them.

The YWCA is now a Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher, which allows them to purchase Microsoft operating systems at a low cost to install on future refurbished computers. They are also working with the Family Self Sufficiency program of the Marion Housing Authority to supply some of their clients with computers and classes to aid them in advancing their job skills.

YWCA Cultivating Grant County's goal is to work with organizations within the Grant County community to help educate our workforce. Other partners that have helped with the Cultivating Grant County program include Action, Inc, Family Service Society, Marion Housing Authority, Marion Public Library, St. Martin DePorres Center, Grant County Rescue Mission, Indiana Wesleyan University, Taylor University, Ivy Tech State College, Harrison College, Total Computer Solutions, Marion Community Schools, Tucker Area Vocational Training Center, City of Marion, Marion Community Science & Technology Center, Clarence Faulkner Center, Marion Grant County Senior Center, Gas City Library, Grant Blackford Mental Health Center, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Boys & Girls Club, and the United Way of Grant County.

For a complete list, please visit our website at www.ywca.org/marion, scroll to bottom, then click on Computer Refurbishing Program (at the bottom)

The YWCA is a United Way agency.