

# October is Computer Learning Month

Computer Learning Month is celebrated each October and is a time for focusing attention on the important role computers, software and other technologies play in our lives, particularly in our children's learning and their future. Computer Learning Month is a time to try new ways of using technology, to learn new technology products, and to share knowledge with others in your local community about how to use technology

## Teaming for Technology (T4T) Computer Learning Month Activities

T4T will have an information booth promoting Computer Learning Month, Teaming for Technology activities and recruiting technology-oriented volunteers to help nonprofit organizations in Southeast Minnesota use technology to help increase their effectiveness.

### Dates and Locations

Saturday, October 6, 2001	Apache Mall	10am - 9pm
Saturday, October 20, 2001	Galleria Mall	9:30am - 5:30pm



Visit the Computer Learning Foundations' Website at: [www.computerlearning.org](http://www.computerlearning.org)

## Teaming for Technology

United Way of Olmsted County  
903 W. Center St. Rm 130  
Rochester, MN 55902

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# Teaming for Technology

Volume 1 Number 1

Teaming for Technology is a national partnership between IBM Corporation, United Way of America and AmeriCorps\* VISTA.

October 2001

## T4T: Making a Difference in Southeast Minnesota

**Formed in response to America's Promise, "Teaming for Technology" is designed to develop strong leadership and technological skills among nonprofit organizations. The program, initially launched in 1997, is currently operating in 18 cities across the nation.**

### Technical Volunteers Program

**Description:** Technology has become an extremely crucial component in the workplace. Nonprofit organizations tend to be "left behind" in the technical realm mainly due to budget constraints and non-technology-savvy staff. Teaming for Technology has partnered with CommunityNet to mobilize technical volunteers to assist nonprofit organizations to better utilize technology. **Contact Person: Ken Nelson 287-1958**

### 1-1 Assistance

**Description:** Teaming for Technology's 1-1 Assistance program is designed to help nonprofit agencies better plan for and assess their organization's technology needs. A Teaming for Technology VISTA volunteer works with each agency throughout the year assisting in technology planning and development as well as helping in finding local resources. IBM supplies \$45,000 worth of computer equipment to be used for the 1-1 Assistance program annually. **Contact Person: Brad Baso 529-4505**

### Quarterly Events

**Description:** Teaming for Technology's Quarterly Events are capacity building workshops and seminars for Executive Directors, staff and Board members of nonprofit organizations. Topics are based on Teaming for Technology's annual nonprofit survey results and have included subjects such as "Nonprofits in the Digital Age", "Technology Planning", "Managing and Recruiting Technical Volunteers" and "Becoming a Technology Savvy Nonprofit". **Contact Person: Brad Baso 529-4505**

### (RAD) Regional Alternative Deployment

The RAD project is designed to deploy useful com-

puter systems and peripherals to non-profit organizations 501 (c)(3) and educational institutions, projects and programs. Many organizations will benefit from equipment being made available due to upgrades from area wide government facilities and businesses. The project follows R3 (recycle, refurbish and redeployment) guidelines, wherein computer systems are assessed and put through one or more of the three aspects of R3. **Contact Person: Ken Nelson 287-1958**

### Young Explorers Program

**Description:** Teaming for Technology is supporting the IBM KidSmart Early Learning Program, which is a comprehensive effort to give preschool children a jumpstart on learning. Its centerpiece is the Young Explorer, a personal computer designed specifically for early childhood, encased in Little Tikes furniture, and loaded with award-winning educational software from Edmark. Teaming for Technology provides support and training for agencies that received the Young Explorer System. **Contact Person: Jason Engelhardt 529-4506**

## Teaming for Technology

### Mission

**To assist health and human service nonprofits in Southeast Minnesota to increase the impact of their work in the communities they serve through effective use of technology.**

**Teaming for Technology is a national partnership between IBM Corporation, United Way of America and AmeriCorps\* VISTA.**



Website: <http://www.uwolmsted.org/teamtech>

Email: [teamtech@uwolmsted.org](mailto:teamtech@uwolmsted.org)

Phone: (507) 287-1958

## IBM Deploys Young Explorer Computers to Local Nonprofit Agencies

Through KidSmart, IBM, has donated over 250 Young Explorer Computer Systems to not-for-profit day care centers and preschools in Southeastern Minnesota.



Teaming for Technology is supporting the IBM KidSmart Early Learning Program, which is a comprehensive effort to give preschool children a jumpstart on learning. Its centerpiece is the Young Explorer, a personal computer designed specifically for young children, encased in Little Tikes furniture, and loaded with award-winning educational software from Edmark.

In most day care and preschool settings, computers are not commonplace. So to enable child care providers to introduce the technology into their programs, Teaming for Technology VISTA's will provide computer training for participating agencies.

IBM through KidSmart provides online and computer-based training along with early learning educational materials, developed by the Center for Children and Technology.

The Teaming for Technology training is part of IBM's commitment to make teachers more comfortable in using technology in their classrooms.

For more information about KidSmart and the Young Explorer Computer contact Jason Englehardt at 529-4506 or Sarah Field at 253-7088

## United Way Launches New Campaign



The United Way of Olmsted County kicked off its 2001-02 fund raising campaign on September 11, 2001. The goal for this year's campaign is \$4.1 million dollars.

Over 250 workplaces are running campaigns to encourage employees to contribute to the effort. United Way funds 34 agencies providing over 70 programs and services to people in Olmsted County.

According to Mary Pat Linton, Director of Resource Development, "by raising our financial goal, we hope to achieve real, measurable changes in our community."

## United Way Selects Agencies to Receive On-on-One Technology Assistance

Teaming for Technology selected six agencies to receive special technology planning attention this year. VISTAs will help assess which elements of these agencies would benefit most from increased technology capacity. Four of these agencies share a common thread; their mission is to assist those living with disabilities. These agencies will benefit from the collective learning experience by learning from one another about best practices within their field. These agencies are Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living (SEMCIL), Abilities Building Center (ABC), PossAbilities, and Home and Community Options (HCO) out of Winona. The American Red Cross - Southeast Minnesota Chapter and The Girl Scout Council of Cannon Valley (in Northfield) will benefit from one another's approach to managing their hundreds of volunteers and service recipients. All agencies will have access to technology planning as well as volunteers and IBM equipment to help carry out those plans.

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### Great Websites to Visit

**[www.computerlearning.org](http://www.computerlearning.org)**: sponsored by the Computer Learning Foundation this site has information on Computer Learning Month activities, contests and a list resource materials.

**[www.techsoup.org](http://www.techsoup.org)**: all types of information on using technology in organizations, bulletin boards, and great links.

**[www.compumentor.org](http://www.compumentor.org)**: excellent site for nonprofit organizations to get neat stuff, low-cost software and relevant information.

**[www.ibm.com/ibm/ibmgives/edc/index.htm](http://www.ibm.com/ibm/ibmgives/edc/index.htm)**: IBM's KidSmart Website: What it looks like to integrate a Young Explorer

## Teaming for Technology Holds Computer Training for Area Child Care Providers

Child Care Resource and Referral (C2R2), The Initiative Fund, IBM and Teaming for Technology (T4T) hosted a workshop on use of the Young Explorer Computer System distributed by IBM. The workshop took place on Saturday, September 22 at the IBM Executive Briefing Center. The workshop covered computer basics, how to set up the young explorers computer, the windows operating environment and an overview of Kids desk, an award winning desktop application for young people. "The response to the training was tremendous", stated Jason Englehardt, VISTA member, "I'm looking forward to future sessions."

"The best part of the workshops was the prizes they gave away for getting right answers", said one attendee. Upcoming workshops will be announced. Call C2R2 for more information at 507-287-2020.



## Businesses Recieve Tax deduction for Donating Computers

Teaming for Technology is asking businesses and governmental agencies to donate their used equipment to T4T to be redeployed to nonprofit agencies.



Many nonprofits do not have the budget to keep pace with the changing technology and in some cases are still using 486-based computers.

This program will enable to organizations be more effective at meeting their mission by using better equipment. We are in need of computer systems (cpu-pentium 1+, monitor, keyboard etc.), printers and scanners are needed in special cases.

Organizations and businesses who give equipment to Teaming for Technology can recieve a tax deduction. Under 501c3 law, the entity recieves credit for remaining depreciation allowances. For more information on this T4T initiative call Ken at 287-1958

## T4T VISTAS Settle In at the United Way of Olmsted County

**Jason Englehardt** hails from Middletown, CT and recently finished his bachelor's degree in economics at Mary Washington College in Virginia. At Teaming for Technology, he leads the Young Explorer Program and is planning a school "techie" volunteer program.

Jason's interests include traveling through the bike trails of Rochester and volunteering with the local high school crew program, where he is now an assistant coach.

He says, "Teaming for Technology is a great learning experience for both local non-profits and the Vistas. Non-profits receive valuable technology training and the Vistas gain great experience with human relations and non-profit management!"

**Brad Baso**, a Minnesota native, recently graduated from Hamline University with a BA in Music. He has had a diverse history of computer support coupled with applied experience in higher education, arts, diversity advocacy and various other organizations. With a strong commitment to and personal interest in nonprofit leadership and organizational structure, Brad will be guiding the 1-1 Assistance program and helping plan the Quarterly Events. In his free time he hopes to take advantage of any number of the high quality community arts ensembles.

**Ken Nelson** joins T4T from South Bend, Indiana. Ken graduated from Indiana University and has worked extensively with computer-based technology. A prior AmeriCorps member, Ken spent the last 2 years managing the day-to-day operations of Northeast Neighborhood Center in South Bend. Ken will be coordinating the Technical Volunteer Program and the Computer Recycling component.

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