Major Overnight Delivery Company Recycles Hardware: Benefits Nonprofits, the Environment and Their Bottom Line

Partner Name:

Major Overnight Delivery Company

Location:

USA

Partner Since:

2006

Industry:

Transportation

Aidmatrix Applications:

SCM—In-Kind Donations Management

Program:

Technology Hardware Recycling Program

Humanitarian Challenge

This major overnight delivery company found that each year they were retiring thousands of PCs, printers, copiers and other office technology in order to provide more efficiencies to their staff with newer models. However, they were acutely aware of the environmental impact of this disposal process on our landfills. Thinking smartly, they decided to investigate how this slightly-used equipment could benefit humanitarian efforts and thereby eliminate the environmental impact.

Solution Benefits

- Environmental: Offsets approximately 25,000 lbs annually from disposal in landfills
- Nonprofits: 120+ charities receiving 11,000+ donated, recycled hardware saving money with new efficiencies
- Donor Bottom-Line: Eliminates disposal costs

Business Case

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, about 2.5 million tons of electronic waste were disposed of in 2007, including computers, printers and hardware. Gartner Research estimates that each day 130,000 personal computers are thrown out from U.S. businesses and homes. In an increasingly "green" world, most people understand the negative environmental impact of throwing away instead of recycling. Technology recycling programs help keep the equipment out of landfills while benefitting worthy nonprofits and eliminating donor disposal costs.

Turning Surplus into Aid

Starting in late 2005, employees from this major overnight delivery company, who had previously helped Aidmatrix on other humanitarian projects, began to turn their efforts to how their company could use Aidmatrix to turn their surplus technology into aid. After seeing the potential to connect the computer hardware with eager recipients, Aidmatrix created the Technology Hardware Recycling Program in 2006, and this overnight delivery company began posting their donations to this online website. Nonprofits could now view the donated equipment in their neighborhoods, accept it, and get in touch with the donor to receive it—all done online. It began with only 30 computers in the first month. It has now grown to an average of 400 pieces per month. So far, more than 11,000 donations have been made, valued at over $1.5 million.

Putting Technology into Grateful Hands—Domestically and Internationally

It is more than just hardware. Many nonprofits do not have the capacity to take a machine and refurbish it. So Aidmatrix partnered with Community MARs (Microsoft Authorized Refurbishers) who equip the machines with software and operating systems, and give them to nonprofits, local schools, and churches.

"Before I connected with Aidmatrix our technology program was just a vision; I had no idea how we would get the amount of computers needed to further our mission, which is to recycle, refurbish and educate our community and the world about technology and to help bridge the digital divide...Thanks to Aidmatrix our vision is now a reality," stated

aidmatrix®
Right Aid. Right People. Right Time.™

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Christ'l Lawrence, the director of Internet Technologies at **All Nations Deliverance Ministries** in Granite City, IL. All Nations Deliverance Ministries received more than 200 computers in 2008 through the program.

The Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley in Chandler, AZ, was able to upgrade their outdated computer lab with 18 computers from the program. The old computers were hindering the learning environment for their kids, says Jesse Shumaker at the Boys and Girls Club. "The effectiveness of the upgraded computer lab has made the systems and software run much more efficiently."

Computer Mentors Group, Inc., an organization in Tampa, Florida, that is "dedicated to the mission of closing the Digital Divide in our community," states their Program Manager, Christian Silva. In 2007 alone they received more than 140 computers through the system that were primarily used for youth and adult literacy classes. Many youth and adults were given computers and therefore found a passion for the technology field.

Mercy Corps is an international relief and development organization, building programs in over 35 countries. They received more than 275 computers from the Aidmatrix program domestically and took them to El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, and even Mongolia, to set up computer labs for local schools and community centers. "We are planning the first of what we hope will be many 'school-to-school' partnerships, linking students and teachers in Ecuador and El Salvador with their counterparts here in the US… We are very excited about this new program development, and it would not have happened without [Aidmatrix's] generous support," stated Matthew Schwartzberg, Senior Material Aid Officer.

Computers Without Borders is another international MAR, based in Virginia. They took computers to Uganda, Mexico, Haiti, and Cambodia to equip those international communities with resources to build education facilities and learning centers. They received more than 200 computers from the Aidmatrix portal to date, and these computers all went to directly support growing communities with limited means for resources. These are all computers that would have been disposed of if they had not been connected to people in need.

Bridging the Gap
According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an estimated 30 to 40 million PCs will be ready for end-of-life management each year for the next few years. There is both enormous surplus of useful technology and enormous need for technology in developing communities. Because donors can now be linked to nonprofits in need through the Technology Hardware Recycling Program, the result is less waste, less hassle for the donors and more resources for nonprofit organizations eager to do good work for our communities.We look forward to a time.

"Thanks to the Aidmatrix platform for aiding us in our needs and connecting corporations with good causes."
Christian Silva
Computer Mentors Group, Inc.

If you are a corporation that would like to participate in the Technology Hardware Recycling Program, or are interested in how you can partner with Aidmatrix, please contact us at info@aidmatrix.org

"We look forward to a time when one arena will be synonymous with bridging the digital divide by hosting a site where affordable properly licensed refurbished technology is easily accessible to every eligible non-profit and underserved individual on the planet to help them achieve their potential."
Michael Colvin
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