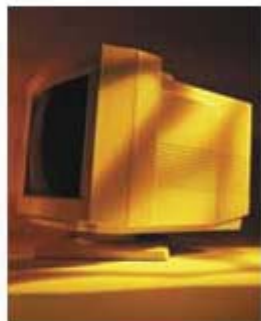


Project SKY unites students from all over the United States in the cause of education and outreach. We give computers to kids.

That's right. It is really that simple.

Project SKY arose from the national need to close the divide between those who have access to technology and those who don't. It represents a collegiate community's response to a failure of pandemic proportions in our communities.

The U.S. Commerce Department's 1999 report, *Falling through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide* documents how information tools such as the personal computer and the Internet are increasingly critical to economic success and personal advancement. This report also demonstrates that minorities, low-income persons, the less educated, children of single parent households, and persons living in urban and geographically isolated regions are particularly in need of increased access to information resources.



Collecting Older Computers and...



In response to this need, Project SKY collects older computers, with processors 300 MHz and higher, for refurbishing. Project SKY then repairs,

cleans, updates and otherwise makes donated computers suitable for use. We install the necessary software to make the computers we donate worthwhile to those to whom we give them.

Giving Them Away

Project SKY works closely with its partners to find optimal placements for donated machines -- whether that be a community center, school, community non-profit, or individual family. We like to think a computer is an opportunity -- We're giving them to those who have only precious few.

The Project SKY initiative is at its heart, grounded in the common sense notion that computers are not only here to stay, but will soon be the single most important tool any person can possess.

Knowing this, we believe all children deserve access to the tools needed to succeed. They deserve the chance to learn and the opportunity to achieve in life. Personal computers with internet access give every child an equal chance to research, to compose, to understand, and to familiarize him or herself with the essential tool of this century.

We believe that every child's horizon should include a computer.

Indeed, a computer represents the single most likely tool that a student could lack. When other kids in class can turn in nicely formatted, typed reports with several internet sources, instructors do not necessarily take into account the advantage unrestricted access to technology can bring. We can all relate to the difficulties of working on "borrowed" time in computer labs, in libraries, or on the computers of friends.

The Writing on the Wall (Numbers At Duke Alone)

Nearly 25% of the North Carolina's children live in low-income households, with 19% at the poverty level.

Children growing up in low income communities are 7 times less likely to graduate from college than their peers in higher income communities.

The number of children living in single-parent households is on the rise, up from 25% in 1990 to 33% in 2000. In Durham, almost 31% of households are led by a single-parent.

North Carolina children living in households in which no parent has full-time, year round employment rose from 25% in 1990, to 30% in 2000.



Project SKY team members are enthusiastic undergraduates who are committed to making change through practical approaches to closing the digital divide. They are informed, capable, and surprising.

So what can college kids do?

They can capitalize on the unique confluence of opportunities that universities allow. We write grants, lobby for change, and work to bring computers to everyone.

But what does it mean for students to give other students access to the tools they need to succeed in education and in life? Well, it means they work tirelessly, fearlessly, and quickly. On a shoestring budget our student volunteers assemble computers from the scratch, and get them into the hands of kids who need them, foregoing pay, rewards, and sleep in the process.

Project SKY relies on these students members to lead, volunteer, and advocate for this initiative

Yet, there's no doubt Project SKY is more than just a student-run charity. We are a vibrant, ever-changing collective, always striving to improve. With our close partnerships to Universities, we are as strong as any non-profit. And because students make up our core membership, we employ the talents and skills of hundreds, sometimes thousands.

Nevertheless, support from individuals, corporations, foundations and government funding agencies allow us to expand our activities.

And all of these partnerships ultimately move us closer to our goal of seeing every child's horizon includes a computer.

Learn more about Project SKY online, visit <http://www.projectsky.org>

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