Press Release
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"Junior-level technicians"

Graduation Day awards 19 aspiring youth with 'Certificates of Accomplishment' in computer technology from Computer Village

July 15, 2012 – St. Louis, MO – A profound sense of achievement filtered through John Knox Presbyterian Church July 13 as 19 youth flashed hearty smiles as graduates of Computer Village's computer technology program.

The four-week "Intro to Computer Hardware and Operations" summer computer camp at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 13200 Halls Ferry Road in Florissant gave youth hands on learning opportunities on how computers work.

Not only did the students learn about the workings of computers, they also got to take the machines home with them.

Arnett Combs and his daughter, Micah Lacy, 13, who was one of the graduates, hands and arms were loaded with a computer system she earned from the program.

"I think this is a good deal. My family has been killing my laptop at home," Combs said.

The computer building program, in its second year, is sponsored by North County Church United (NCCU) and John Knox Church with funding support from Toyota and Bodine Aluminum. Laclede Gas Co. donated the computers to this program and as well as to other Computer Village initiatives. The students come from Florissant, Blackjack, St. Ann, Berkeley, Ferguson and Hazelwood.

"To see these computers go out (from Laclede Gas) and see what they end up being used for is remarkable," said Audre Chesnutt, senior user support specialist with Laclede Gas. "It's all for the kids. This is so wonderful."

Students in the Computer Village computer building program learn details of what and how these machines work. (Soaring High Media Group photos)

Kelly Wimbley, a computer science programmer and class instructor proudly called his students "junior level technicians"

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Computer Village graduation
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"By dismantling a computer, they're learning the vocabulary of the various parts and how each part works and how to build one – not just being an end user," Wimbley said. "They're learning how to be junior level technicians"

Computer Village is a community based, not-for-profit 501(c) (3) corporation dedicated to teaching personal computer skills, advance technology and technological job skills training to urban communities and the undeserved from ages 4 years to 104. Computer Village has programs that also include solar energy, robotics, hazardous material training, bio-technology and computer repair.

Arnett Combs, left, and daughter, graduate 13 year-old Micah Lacy with Don M. Holt of Computer Village

As founder and executive director of Computer Village, Don M. Holt believes this program serves as a "mind stretching experience" for young minds and opens the door to endless career possibilities in the future.

"We're here to expose youth to career opportunities by providing stimulating enrichment programs to add depth to their overall education," Holt said. "The minds of the children in the program are like sponges, absorbing every detail of the workings of computers and the technology behind it.

"These kids are poised to add their creative imprint to future advances in computer technology. Mark my word."

Many of Computer Village's learning centers charge no fees to individuals and families that attend the main facility just north of downtown at 1451 Mullanphy Street.

Computer Village serves more than 600 clients weekly, housed in churches, community centers, schools and shelters in 22 locations throughout the area, including four sites in metro east. The agency operates an extensive outreach program that provides on site computer and technology training for after school, summer school welfare to work and adult education programs.

Computer Village works in collaboration with other non-profits and receives funding from grants, corporate contributions and its fee-based programs such as computer repair and sales, and small business computer training programs.

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More about Computer Village

Website: www.cvillage.org

Computer Village overview

Profile of Don Holt, Executive Director, Computer Village