

A new and better kind of recycling

The vision of one person guided others to try something new

SUE-ANN WARD

A wonderful partnership has developed between HARRRP and Siemens Canada Limited. As part of the Siemens Canada Caring Hands platform, Siemens has developed a project that puts 3 year young very good quality laptop computers into the hands of Hamilton residents struggling on low incomes.

Siemens' employees are volunteering their time and expertise to wipe clean and load licensed software onto laptops previously used for business purposes by Siemens staff. The computers are then being delivered to HARRRP to use at its community centres and after school programs. At HARRRP's discretion, the laptops can also be sent home with HARRRP program participants, or provided to other not-for-profit organizations which can use them to benefit their clients.

The goal of HARRRP's "Community Computers"

program is to ensure that neighborhood residents have the equipment and education necessary to develop information and communication technology (computer) skills that will enhance their employment opportunities and quality of life.

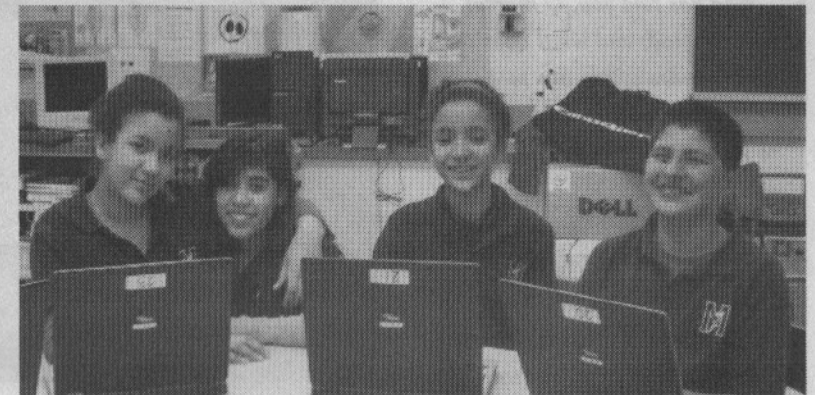
In the past, Siemens Canada disposed of hundreds of laptops each year. Old laptops were shipped to a recycler, and Siemens paid the recycler 20–55 cents per pound to process the equipment. Siemens also paid up to \$25.00 per laptop to wipe the hard drive clean, run diagnostics, and market the used equipment. The revenue from these refurbished units was shared by the recycler and Siemens.

ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Philip Schaus came to HARRRP with an idea for a new and better kind of recycling. He and his colleagues, Otto Rathke and Chris Campbell, spear-headed the development of new

processes that would put high quality laptops into the hands of people trying to survive on low incomes. It involved enlisting support from Siemens' information technology and legal departments, and recruiting skilled Siemens employees as volunteers who would wipe clean the laptop hard drives, install licensed software, test the units, and deliver them to HARRRP. Siemens Canada has a history of supporting the local community through its corporate citizenship, and it employs generous and innovative individuals willing to give of their time and talents.

An added bonus of this individual and corporate generosity is that the charitable tax receipt that HARRRP is able to provide to Siemens is actually more valuable to Siemens than the net revenue previously received from the recycler. There are benefits for everyone involved. People have access to technology that can enhance their lives. Siemens realizes its desire to be a good



corporate citizen. Not for profit organizations have computers that enable them to better serve their constituents. Siemens' volunteers enjoy a sense of fulfillment. Philip's vision is realized. Win, win... win win win! One person can make a difference.

It would have been easier for Siemens to do things the way they had been doing them for years. Their usual method of disposing of their unneeded laptops had been working for them. It was the standard method used by similar corporate entities. But the vision, generosity, and determination of one person inspired

and guided others to try something new and potentially more advantageous to Siemens and others in the community. Lives are being positively impacted.

Through this initiative, Siemens Canada Limited is making an important and unique contribution to the community development work happening in Hamilton.

The Reverend Sue-Ann Ward is Co-Rector of Grace Parish, Waterdown and St. Luke's Palermo Parish, Oakville and Executive Director of HARRRP. She can be reached at sueann.ward@gmail.com