The following is a sampling of organizations who received Free Geek computer donations and 4 testimonials:

Africa Bridge
Alberta Co-operative Grocery
American Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter
Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia NW
CardioStart International
Casa de los Amigos
Cedar Mill Community Library
Global Assistance
Green Building Services
Growing Gardens
Habitat for Humanity ReStore
Human Solutions
Immanuels heart Church
Insight Out Theatre Collective
JOIN (Pdx)
KBOO Foundation
Love Makes a Family
Meadow Park Middle School
New Energy Movement
Northwest Somali Community Organization
Oregon Peaceworks
Parkrose Middle School
Portland Children's Museum
Portland Indymedia
Post Carbon Institute
Radio Bemba
Reynolds Alternative Middle School
Rising Tide North America
Rock'N'Roll Camp for Girls
SCRAP
Senior Housing & Retirement Enterprises
SJM Autistic Center
Stumptown Stages
Sunshine Physically Challenged Foundation
The City Repair Project
The Domestic Violence Resource Center
The Giving Tree
Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce
Transitional Youth
Washington County Alliance on Mental Illness
Washington County Bicycle Transportation Coalition
Woodlawn School
Youth Employment Institute

<u>TESTIMONIALS</u>

Giving Tree Northwest

For a homeless person, coming in from the streets is only the first step in a long journey. Giving Tree Northwest helps them plot the rest of their course.

"We do everything from life skills training to art walks and movie nights," said Wendi Anderson, president of the organization.

Making the transition from homelessness to having a permanent roof over one's head is far more complicated than many might realize.

"It can be a real culture shock," said Anderson. "Living in poverty can lead to a deep sense of isolation, and many people do not have the skills or resources necessary to reach out and ask for help."

Giving Tree Northwest connects their clients, who run the gamut from teenage runaways to elderly veterans of the streets, with schools, social service organizations, job training, health and nutrition services, and technology.

A donation of six computers by the Free Geek replaced obsolete machines at aging computer labs installed at some of the Giving Tree's home sites.

"We have students who use the computer labs for researching homework, and adults who use it for job searches," Anderson said.

For other clients, particularly some that suffer from mental illness, the computers labs are the link they possess to the outside world.

"It's critical that they have that connection," Anderson said. "A lot of times it makes a real difference in alleviating the depression and isolation that accompanies the transition from communal living on the streets."

Big Brothers, Big Sisters Northwest

In six years, Portland-based Big Brothers, Big Sisters Northwest went from nonexistent to the 12th largest chapter of the nationwide organization.

"We're fortunate to be working in an area that welcomed us with open arms," said Elizabeth Nye, vice president of community relations.

The organization matches adult mentors with children in need of positive role models in hopes of forming relationships that have a lasting impact on the lives of both. Studies

have found that children participating in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program are less likely to use drugs or alcohol, less likely to act violently or skip school, and more likely to earn higher grades.

In 2008, the organization was on track to meet its goal of connecting 3,000 new children and mentors.

Each match requires time from a dedicated case specialist who tracks interactions between the pair throughout the relationship. Four of six computers donated to the organization by Free Geek ended up in county offices where relationship information is tracked. The other two made their way into the hands of the development department.

Because of Free Geek's donation, Big Brother, Big Sisters will be able to serve at least six more children.

"Each dollar we don't have to spend on technology translates into more children served," said Nye.

Youth Employment Institute

For the young adults involved with the Youth Employment Institute, Free Geek is not just the place where the group's computers come from, it's where several of them volunteer themselves.

"It's been a great partnership for us for both of those reasons," said Don Rossington, lead educator at YEI.

Rossington and others at YEI provide GED and workforce readiness training to overcome barriers that might stand in the way to successful employment. In addition to career training programs, YEI offers gang prevention services for young women exposed to such environments and participates in graffiti clean-up efforts throughout Portland.

Computers donated by Free Geek replenished the organization's computer lab, which is used for teaching workplace technology, testing and a variety of other functions.

Since forming a partnership with Free Geek, clients of YEI have been making weekly trips to volunteer for Free Geek performing tasks associated with recycling and rebuilding electronics and computers that end up as donations.

Many of YEI's clients look forward to the weekly trip to Free Geek, Rossington said.

"Not only has Free Geek gives our clients access to the technology that they'll work with as employees, they've provided access to workplace environments by welcoming them as volunteers," he said. "We're incredibly thankful for the opportunity."

Growing Gardens

There are many ways to combat hunger, but only one that gets to the roots of the problem – gardening.

Growing Gardens of Portland directs its resources to installing and promoting home and community gardening projects in hopes to encouraging self-sustaining practices that end hungers.

"We install and support gardens for low-income households," said Deborah Lippoldt, executive director. "The service includes providing training, seeds, classes and mentors for up to three years."

Twice a year volunteers head out into the community to install two 4-by-8-foot garden beds at households on their client list. Growing Gardens also sponsors after school gardening clubs and offers cooking classes to clients looking for ideas when they're ready to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Growing Gardens' first contact with Free Geek, was simply as a recycling center for old electronics and aging computers, but the organization recently took delivery of its first Free Geek donation.

The computers are being used to replace outdated models used to keep track of clients and their stage in the Growing Gardens program.

"The donation will permit us to be more efficient and more reliable," said Lippoldt. "It will allow us focus on getting gardens installed for the people who need them."