



For information:
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WWW.FREEGEEKMICHIANA.ORG

COMPUTERS
INTERNET
EDUCATION
THRU RECYCLING

Mission

FREE GEEK Michiana is a South Bend, Indiana, based non-profit organization that recycles used technology and provides computers, education and access to the Internet to those in need in exchange for a few hours of community service.

Goals

1. Divert obsolete computers and peripheral devices from the solid waste stream and ease pressure on the environment.
2. Refurbish donated obsolete computers and peripheral devices and extend their useful life.
3. Provide job training and job skills to volunteers who do the refurbishing.
4. Distribute ready to use refurbished computers to low income individuals and families.
5. Recycle unusable devices and components in the most environmentally responsible manner available in our area.
6. Provide refurbished computers to the FreeLab and FreeLan programs.

Programs

FreeBox

FREE GEEK receives donated used computers, refurbishes them and makes them available to low income families and individuals in exchange for community service at Free Geek. The computer systems we create (FreeBoxes) are loaded with the GNU/Linux operating system and Free Software application programs: word processor, email client, web browser, file manager, etc.

FreeLab

FREE GEEK develops *community technology centers* (computer labs) utilizing refurbished FreeBox computers. The labs are sponsored and supported by collaborating organizations. People use the labs according to the regulations of the sponsoring organization. Free Geek instructors will teach classes in beginning, intermediate and advanced computer subjects at low cost. Minimum class sizes apply.

FreeLan and Nerds4Nonprofits

FREE GEEK offers computers, local area network installation and maintenance, software, custom programming and support for nonprofit organizations working with low income families and individuals. Volunteers from the recipient organization can be trained to handle very low level tech

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support. Free Geek contractors will deliver advanced support services. Organizations may negotiate in-kind contributions to Free Geek in lieu of payment.

FreeWire

FREE GEEK sees the necessity of community-owned and controlled networks. Every neighborhood should have easy and inexpensive access to a community network and the Internet. Free Geek envisions wireless neighborhood networks fanning out from neighborhood FreeLabs. FreeWire will be the last program Free Geek institutes as it is dependent on the successful implementation of the FreeBox, FreeLab and FreeLan programs.

Donations

Volunteer. We need help demanufacturing, rebuilding and refurbishing computers and many other tasks. Volunteers are eligible to take training courses when they are available and receive free or discounted parts and merchandise from FREE GEEK. Call Tom Brown at 574-298-2706 to volunteer.

Donate your old hardware. FREE GEEK accepts any computer and any computer related hardware, in any condition. If you are donating equipment that is known to be broken or a computer older than a Pentium-3 PC, we do ask for a donation to help with our processing expenses.

There is a \$15.00 disposal fee per monitor, working or not, no exceptions (includes computers with built-in monitors).

Drop off your donation. Drop off your small computer donations on Tuesday or Thursday evening after 6:30 PM, at the FREE GEEK warehouse in the South Bend Warehousing and Distribution building, dock 113, at Marcus Drive off Lafayette Blvd, just south of the intersection of Bronson and Lafayette in South Bend, Indiana. Call us to schedule large drop-offs so we have volunteers to help.

Call for pickups. FREE GEEK does not have a regular pick up service. We pick up only:

- when volunteers are available;
- if the computers are Pentium-2 or better and are mostly in working order; and
- if you have a dozen or more computers to donate.

Otherwise drop off your donation on Tuesday or Thursday night at our warehouse as described above.

Donate money. Ask us about our plans and our needs.

Enroll in a School Based FreeBox Class

Lincoln Primary - Daisy Navarrete, FACS, (574) 283-8960

Muessel Primary - Joann Fisher, FACS, (574) 283-7800

Perley Primary - Contact Nicole Smith, FACS, (574) 283-8735

Wilson Primary - Contact Carol Sanner, FACS, (574) 283-7400

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