



Wednesday, October 29, 2003

OU donations benefit students, seniors

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Thanks to the generosity of Oakland University's **Property Management** Office, students at St. Martin de Porres High School in Detroit have a new journalism lab and residents at the Brandon Senior Center in Ortonville are entering the computer age.

In September, Oakland donated tables, chairs and 30 computers to de Porres for its lab. The following month, the seniors received 20 computers OU donated for refurbishment. The furniture was turned over to Property Management after new tables and chairs were purchased for the journalism lab in Vandenberg Hall, and the computers were older models no longer supported by University Technology Services. Still, the computers are capable of handling e-mail, word processing and Internet surfing.

"We weren't able to reuse those items, and they were in storage for about two years," said Linda Price, office assistant III in Property Management. "Faculty from de Porres contacted us because they were looking to create a lab for their students, and a volunteer who works on refurbishing computers for seniors contacted us on behalf of the senior center. The students were extremely pleased and we've been asked to keep de Porres in mind for future donations. Many of the seniors are shut-ins who are learning how to send e-mail to stay in touch with loved ones and play games like cribbage and poker. They couldn't believe they were getting free equipment."

The donations also represent a cost savings for the university. It costs about \$20 per unit to recycle a computer. All software is removed from the equipment before a donation is made.

"It makes us feel good to make donations like this," Price said. "We know technology changes quickly and equipment becomes outdated. But these donations brought to the forefront the needs of some areas of our society. Donations also give the community a positive impression of OU, and people will think of us as they benefit from the equipment. There's no reason this equipment has to go to a landfill."

Property Management also offers surplus equipment free to university offices and sells used furniture to the community. Most equipment is in working order. All items are released or sold as is. For a list of available equipment, visit the **Property Management** Web site.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Article Start Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2003