

Computer gift helps Northville Youth Assistance tutors

Scott Spielman
Editor

Tutors for the Northville Youth Assistance (NYA) have one more tool to work with as they help out Northville students.

It's a "new" computer, and it's chock full of educational software.

Steve Britten, founder and chief executive officer of Sky-Tech Computers, Inc. and Dr. Jim Payne, a Northville dentist, set the unit up last week at the St. Paul's Lutheran youth home in the City of Northville.

"This is a real collaborative effort," said Mary Ellen King, executive director of NYA. "Being able to use the home is just wonderful."

The parts for the computer were donated through Sky-Tech, and assembled by Payne, who has been trained as a computer technician.

Together the pair has put together more than 50 computers made of donated parts, and given them to children, senior citizens and civic groups.

Payne, who has a dental office

on Center Street, said he doesn't want any credit, however.

"I couldn't do anything at all without these guys," he said as he brushed aside questions.

The 400-megahertz computer comes with 128 megabytes of Random Access Memory (RAM) and a 6.4-gigabyte hard drive. It also features plenty of educational software, from spelling programs and math programs, a word processor and even a map puzzle, which shows children a blank map of the world and allows them to place colored countries in their proper location.

Britten, whose company has locations in Lathrup Village and Oak Park, said the parts come from customers who may have upgraded their home personal computers.

He said he asks them what they want to do with their old parts, and mentions the computer donation program. Some of the first machines were made from spare parts from his old machines.

"When I got word of it, I went scrounging around in my base-



Steve Britten, founder and CEO of Sky-Tech Computers, helps set up a computer for Northville Youth Assistance, which provides tutors and mentors to students in the Northville area. Photo by Scott Spielman

ment," Britten said. The computer is available for tutors at the home, in a corner of a room dedicated to the youth assistance program. Pastor Chris

Fairbairn said it's a good fit. had proved a good partnership

"We're really glad they're here. It's nice for Sky-Tech to put education first," he said, adding that the youth home and NYA relaxed atmosphere for the kids to learn in."

Auditors say Plymouth is in good financial shape

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deficit from last year is the built-in fund which is \$9,000 in the

