

Good News for The MCRGO Foundation

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Pictured above
Dr. Payne (L) & Doug Berg (R)

The MCRGO Foundation recently took possession of some donated computer equipment which will be put to good use in its educational and outreach efforts. JDS Computer Donations Inc., through one of its principals, Dr. James Payne (DDS) of Northville, donated a laptop, two complete desktop units, a scanner, printer, and multi-use printer, copier and fax machine. JDS Computers is a nonprofit organization that solicits used computer equipment from corporations, other businesses and organizations, refurbishes and upgrades the computer equipment and then, in turn, donates it to schools and other qualifying organizations and disabled individuals.

Dr. Payne, a practicing dentist in Northville, Drake Davis, a retired psychologist, and Scott Montgomery, a student at U of M Dearborn, have donated computers for the past few years as individuals, and incorporated as a nonprofit organization in September 2003. As individuals and as a corporation they have received almost 3000 computers and untold amounts of peripheral equipment and have donated over 830 refurbished, fully functioning, often networked systems.

Many of the computers are scrapped or ravaged for parts and components when it is determined they cannot give a reasonable time of reliable service or are incompatible with other technology. The operative words are not "old" or "junk" but rather "used" and "serviceable". It takes about 3 computers donated to yield one computer that can be put into service, taking about 20 hours per unit.

Dr. Payne spends his days caring for his patients and tending to his practice. By night and on weekends, he, Davis, Montgomery and a rather motley cast of others become collectors, refurbishers, consultants and benefactors working out of his basement in Livonia. Dr. Payne came to this avocation through a convoluted necessity. Frustrated by the behavior of the systems in his office, he set about learning about computers by taking some classes and working in a local computer sales and repair shop in the evenings. This led to an awareness that organizations have problems disposing of equipment from their upgrades, often scrapping, or selling for pennies on the pound, serviceable computer equipment. More recently, organizations have found that they have to pay to have computers and related materials disposed of. Dr. Payne and his associates can often give serviceable equipment a second life and put them to good use with educational, charitable, non profit or other qualifying organizations or disabled individuals. This is intelligent recycling with a purpose.

Doug Berg, MCRGO Oakland Co. Chair has been a patient of Dr. Payne's for over 20 years. In addition to putting up with each other's bad jokes, they have talked about this ongoing effort and recently, Dr. Payne put Doug and John Ellison, Oakland Co. Vice Chair, to use in a role they are most suited, physical labor collecting and storing donated equipment from local businesses. Nancy Crenshaw, an experienced web page designer, database constructor and MCRGO member, has also given time and effort. All of this led to a discussion regarding the availability of equipment, the MCRGO Foundation and its mission and eventual contact with Carol Bambery, head of the Foundation Board. From there the donation of the equipment followed.

The Foundation will use the computers both in its day to day activities and to support its Eddie Eagle, Refuse to Be a Victim, and other educational and outreach efforts at schools, community groups, churches, and state and local governmental levels. They will enable the Foundation to present better programs and services and to become more of a presence around the state.

JDS Computer Donations cannot help you get rid of that old 386 SX system you have gathering dust in your closet, but computers of a much more recent vintage can be put to use. JDS especially values donations of equipment from recent upgrades at companies and other organizations since they tend to yield multiple computers with similar architectures and basic components. These are particularly valuable for use in schools. Please keep in mind that there are some things that are too old to use. Computers must be at least a 333 Mhz Pentium II or better, but do not necessarily have to work. A donated monitor must work since the cost of repairing one usually exceeds the cost of a new one. All donations of equipment to JDS Computer Donations are tax deductible. It is a 501(c) (3) organization. JDS will also take printers, scanners, ports, cables, mice, keyboards, and any other loose computer equipment.

The work of Dr. Payne, his associates and JDS Computer Donations has been described and highlighted in numerous company newsletters, newspapers, local news casts, and nationally broadcast new programs. For more information you can go to their website: www.jdscomputerdonations.com or contact them at:

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"Thank you!" to JDS Computer Donations and especially Dr. James Payne on behalf of the MCRGO Foundation and MCRGO members statewide.

MCRGO

<http://www.mcrgo.org/>