



Kathy Braund with some of her students.

Cast-off computers go back to school

Kathy Braund first heard of Dr. Jim Payne when the surplus personal computer she put out for her garage sale languished unsold. Then, someone suggested that if she couldn't sell it, she might consider giving it to the dentist in town who fixes up old computers and donates them to charitable causes and worthy individuals. So, she did. That was last May.

Little did Kathy know that she would shortly learn firsthand the value of Dr. Payne's old computers when she accepted a new job as librarian and media specialist for a small parochial school in the area.

The school, Our Lady Queen of Peace elementary school in Harper Woods, Mich., is typical of many small private schools that survive on a tight budget through the devotion of parents, the determination of teachers, the perseverance of parishioners, and the goodwill of the occasional donor. When Kathy first arrived there, she discovered a library and a computer system plagued by a dearth of serviceable equipment and assembled into a hodgepodge without any network capability or even reliable Internet access. On inquiry, she also found a fiscal condition lacking in funds to improve the situation. That's when she thought of Dr. Payne again. She wondered if maybe the good dentist would see fit to bring his technical talent and resources to bear for the benefit of this small institution.

NEW LIFE FOR OLD MACHINES

As luck would have it, Dr. Payne had just picked up a fresh load of surplus computers from ThyssenKrupp Materials NA in the Renaissance Center in Detroit. (See "This dentist does Windows," *Whatsnews* — Summer 2003.) These computers were literally "just what the doctor ordered" to equip a first-class computer laboratory and library media center, so Dr. Payne agreed to lend his help to both ladies — Kathy Braund and Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Last summer, Dr. Payne and his associates finished upgrading and rebuilding the old TKMNA computers and installing them *just-in-time* for the beginning of the new school year in September. The new (old) computers, combined with a wideband Internet connection donated by Comcast cable television, now provide the school's students with a valuable new resource to supplement their educational opportunities. One they would not have had without the generosity and caring of all involved.

Thank you all. ■



Do these computers look familiar? Computer teacher Deborah Bryant helps a class of fifth-grade students with their lessons using donated TKMNA equipment at Our Lady Queen of Peace elementary school.