

# Everyone Wins with Wincycle

Where do old computers go? Since there's not a computer heaven, many times the answer is "the dump." But a new organization in Windsor, VT., called Wincycle hopes to recycle many old, functional computers and make them available to individuals in need, educational institutions, and non-profit charitable groups.

Bill Hochstin, the materials management coordinator at Dartmouth College, thought of the idea as increasing numbers of computers and high tech electronic gear faced disposal. "Because of our disposal policy and several solid waste regulations, no personal or research information can be lost or

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compromised, no electronics can be landfilled, we own the electronics until they are either sold or completely recycled, and the cost for real and complete recycling is based on weight/volume," he says. "So this made me think about ways to reduce the amount of weight being processed."

Bill began the search for allies to start a non-profit and founded Wincycle in November of 2002. "Bill saw the need for a place that would take old equipment and do something good with it," says Jesse Foote, manager.

## WHY THEY DO WHAT THEY DO

Wincycle—named by Ed Wishinski, volunteer sales manager—benefits the community in two ways. The organization is available to dispose of non-functional computers and equipment in an environmentally responsible fashion. (There is a per pound fee.) In some cases, working parts are saved for use in repairs and the remainder of the equipment is broken down for disposal.

"We hope to have WinCycle become a regional resource where businesses and individuals can confidently get their old electronic gear out of the waste stream and into a reuse or recycling pro-



gram," says Hochstin, who also founded the Dartmouth Recycles! program in 1988. "We want to reach out to the community and educate interested schools, businesses, and individuals about the problems associated with improper disposal."

Not all computers are junk—some, like a 7100 Power Mac or a PC with 133 megahertz, just lack Internet and email capabilities. Many are completely usable and, once the volunteer technicians at Wincycle get their hands on them, ready to go to schools and non-profit agencies. In just four months, computer equipment has been sold or donated to 15 schools including Lyme, Enfield, and Oxbow, NH and Springfield, Winooski, Hartland, and Windsor, VT. The Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD), the Windsor

Area Community Partnership, COVER Home Repair in Lebanon, NH, the Live Art Folklife Center in Montpelier, VT, and the DREAM program in White River Junction, VT, are a few of the non-profit organizations that have received technology from Wincycle.

## MORE THAN JUST COMPUTERS

In addition to computers, Wincycle collects, repairs, and sells (at a discount) office furniture such as desks, file, cabinets, and chairs. Foote was pleased to note that DHMC recently donated 3,000 square feet of office equipment from a warehouse on Bank Street Extension. "It was furniture shared over the years by offices, stored 'just in case' and then forgotten," says John Leigh, recycling and waste management coordinator at DHMC and Wincycle board member. "By offering this equipment to nonprofits like Wincycle, DHMC is continuing our tradition of community service. We want to support any organization that improves the quality of life of a community in need of assistance."

Wincycle also plans to help individuals and organizations overseas. "I am especially interested in developing educational programs and partnering with the Tucker Foundation to support some of our international charitable efforts like Dr. Bill Young's work in the Guatamala clinic," says Hochstin. "We hope to soon see WinCycle providing medical equipment, old linens, computers and supplies, along with a cadre of well trained volunteers from the Tucker Foundation who can deliver and set up the equipment."

*Interested in learning more about Wincycle? Contact them at (802)674-6320 or click on <[www.wincycle.org](http://www.wincycle.org)>.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DHMC Blood Donor Program

#### Summer Hours

The need for platelets, plasma and whole blood peaks in the summer. To accommodate busy schedules, the Blood Donor Program will keep the following summer hours: Monday and Tuesday, 7AM to 4PM; Wednesday, 12:30 to 8PM; and Thursday and Friday, 7AM to 4PM. To set up an appointment, call (603)650-6416 or email [DHMC.Blood.Program@Hitchcock.org](mailto:DHMC.Blood.Program@Hitchcock.org).



### July 1, 12 NOON to 1:30PM

#### Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Support and Education Group

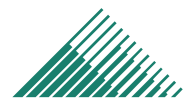
Each session begins with a 30-minute presentation on a topic related to dementia and its impact on the caregiver. The next topic is "Genetics of Alzheimer's Disease." Meetings are held in the Weiss Room at Clinic Reception Desk 5D and are free and open to the public. Call (603)650-5804 for more information. The Support Group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Upcoming topics include "Care Management" (July 15), "Risk Factors for Alzheimer's Disease" (August 5), and "Community Resources" (August 19).



### July 12

#### Audrey Prouty Memorial Century Ride and Fitness Walk

Join bikers, walkers, runners, sponsors, businesses and volunteers for the 2003 Prouty. The Prouty began in 1982 when DHMC oncology nurses sought a way to honor Audrey Prouty, a courageous and inspirational patient. The annual event benefits research efforts at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. To volunteer or to register, visit [www.TheProuty.org](http://www.TheProuty.org).



DARTMOUTH-HITCHCOCK MEDICAL CENTER

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DHMC is a charitable organization and has a financial assistance policy.