



## Annual Report 2010

10119 Windhorst Road  
Tampa, FL 33619

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### History

The Computers for Kids program began in 1996. The first lab opened April 4, 1996 at Northlakes Recreation Center. The program goal is to accept computers donated by businesses, and the general public, refurbish them, and then make them available for use at county recreation facilities.

### The Initial Plan

The plan was to focus on a non-formal recreation model for after-school computer labs.

The department provides a supervised and supportive environment that encourages youth to play computer games that have an educational component. This strategy is based on the interest most children have with computer games. The program also draws attention to the benefits that can only be achieved by using computer technology.



## Present Day Status

Today the Computer for Kids program maintains 598 pieces of equipment this includes 299 desktops and 299 monitors, including keyboards and mice at 38 recreation centers throughout Hillsborough County. Over the past year all of the desktops have been replaced with Intel Pentium 4 Central Processing Units (CPU) or AMD Athlon 64 CPUs. They contain 512 or higher Mega Bytes of memory. All the Cathode ray tube (CRT) monitors have been replaced with liquid crystal display (LCD) monitors.

The current allocation is indicated below:

Location	Total Desktop Computer	Location	Total Desktop Computer	Location	Total Desktop Computer
Alexander	6	Evans	6	Palm River	4
All People's	10	Gardenville	20	Perrone	6
Apollo Beach	6	Jackson Springs	8	Providence	6
Balm	1	Kenly	4	Riverview	6
Bellamy	6	Keystone	7	Roy Haynes	4
Bethune	4	Keysville	3	Temple	8
Bloomington	6	Mango	2	Thonotosassa	9
Brandon Community Center	5	Morgan Woods	7	Timberlane	6
Brandon Playground	5	Mort	10	Turkey Creek	15
Carrollwood	15	Northdale	16	University	6
Carrollwood Meadows	4	Northlakes	6	Valrico	6
Country Place	10	Nuccio	5	Westchase	7
Egypt Lake	10	Nye	19	Winston	15



Thonotosassa Lab



Westchase Lab

## Promotion

The Computers for Kids brochure was updated, printed and distributed throughout the county recreation centers. The Parks, Recreation and Conservation web site under the services and Computers for Kids link has also been updated, and can be seen at the following web address:

[www.hillsboroughcounty.org/parks/recreation/computersforkids.cfm](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/parks/recreation/computersforkids.cfm).

New Computers for Kids usage rules were created and the signage was produced and distributed as well.

## Financial Plan

The Computers for Kids is under a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) program supported in most part by “Friends of the County Parks” an organization that supports the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department. The Friends has approved a budget of \$1,500 to assist with the management of the Computers for Kids program. Anyone wishing to contribute to the program can do so with computers or money to the “Friends of the County Parks”.

## Support

At present there is a full-time Personal Computer Specialist assigned to the program. The duties are to refurbish, maintain, inventory, repair, and replace parts on all hardware used in the Computer for Kids program. In addition this staff person is a system administrator and installs software on all computers. Maintenance to the labs and software updates are completed quarterly to encourage a continuing learning experience.

## Completed Program Goals:

Securing and installing Microsoft Office or Open Office software on each computer

Provide repair solutions within 24 hours - Completed

Replace all the tube monitors with LCD (flat screen) monitors - Completed

Secure a vehicle for transporting equipment and making lab visits - Completed

Update all processors to Pentium 4 or equivalent - Completed

Upgrade all operating systems to Windows XP - Completed

Maintain regular maintenance schedule - Completed

Create new database for inventory and repair ticket tracking – Completed

## New program goals

- Internet access at each recreation site
- Networking the labs for file and print sharing
- Update/replace 126 desktops

## Looking Ahead and moving forward

Technology continues to advance along with software and operating systems. There is a combination of Pentium 4 or AMD 64 desktops at recreation centers. Currently 126 do not have the graphics capability to run the current educational or game software. These computers have been indentified and will be scheduled for replacement as donations to the program are made.

Some of the previous goals for the Computer for Kids program have been met and some were redefined or changed for more viable alternatives that save money. One example was the goal to have Microsoft Office at each workstation. This was partially accomplished. Some desktops were equipped with Microsoft Office and some contain Open Office. The switch was made in order to cut cost of software licensing. Open Office is a free and open productivity suite that functions much like Microsoft Office.

The Computer for Kids program will continue to provide the best possible refurbished computers and equipment based on the donations received.



Winston Lab