



## Where do all those recycled computers go, anyway?

Well, many of the computers donated by corporations to Overbrook grantee Per Scholas are fully reconditioned and used by another nonprofit, Comp2Kids, to outfit every teacher and student at a Harlem middle school with a computer. The project makes both teaching and learning easier and more efficient while giving the students the 21st century technology skills they will need to compete in the labor market they will face when they finish school.

Per Scholas collects computer equipment cast off by corporations and other large institutions. They sort out the best Pentium III computers to recondition for reuse and find various alternate uses for much of the rest. Only that which is truly end-of-life goes through their recycling machine that shreds everything and sorts out the various materials for recycling.

Comp2Kids is an all volunteer organization that has been working with the parents and teachers at Roberto Clemente middle school at 135th Street and Broadway to upgrade technology training. Over the last 3 years Comp2Kids has raised over \$250,000, enough to purchase 550 computers from Per Scholas and supply each teacher with a laptop and each student entering the 6th grade with a home computer. After computers are distributed to the next entering class this fall, every student who requests a computer will have received one.



Above is a Comp2Kids volunteer helping a student learn the basics of using his new home computer

Distributing the computers to the students is an elaborate process that includes two days of training for the students and their parents. At the last distribution event on April 30<sup>th</sup>, students received their computers, but first they came to school on three consecutive Saturdays with at least one parent to learn computer basics. Over 100 Comp2Kids volunteers, tech savvy folks from companies like CSFB, Bearing Point and Bank of America, showed 250 students and their parents how to set up the equipment and how to use the software and the Internet.

Together Per Scholas and Comp2Kids reclaim used computers and help middle school students build the skills they need to succeed in higher education and on the job. As Per Scholas President Plinio Ayala says, "The future success of these students represents a tremendous return on investment for all the foundations that support our work."