

GIVE BIG!

A letter from Mark Crafts, recipient of the first ever BIG Star Lifetime Achievement for Community Service Award.



Hello SFBIG'ers,

I recently received an emergency message from the San Francisco Unified School District asking for SFBIG's **immediate** help and am therefore reaching out to you.

As many of you know, **Give BIG!** is our community program that brings low-cost refurbished computers to kids and schools in our area. **Give Big!** has been working closely with the San Francisco Unified School District – helping them meet some critical needs within their network of schools 60,000+ computers across schools and community centers. The District's challenge is simply staggering and enormous. To streamline efforts and make giving as easy as possible, sfBIG has set up a form at www.sfbig.org/give_big to make it easy to DONATE NOW!

Very unfortunately, SFUSD's challenge got much, much tougher last Friday when they suffered a crushing blow to the heart of the District's IT offices. Here is an excerpt from Director Erik Heinrich's message detailing the events:

*"Due to construction contamination, our Desktop Support Dept. & TRC (Technical Resource Center) have been displaced, and all their hardware has been quarantined. Based on preliminary 3rd party Hazmat assessment, **the majority of our stored desktop computer inventory prepared over the summer for school opening will be lost.** We can only keep hardware that was enclosed in boxes, which is*

not much. We anticipate that a conservative estimate of 200 computers will be destroyed. We will also be losing a number of IT staff laptops (HP 8730W), spare components (RAM, hard drives, DVD drives, LCDs) and even some of our tools (hard disk duplicator).

Basically anything with vents/openings where the airborne contamination may enter is considered non-salvageable. We are not allowed into the building to perform an accurate inventory for several days while containment of the space is completed. I will send you more specific details as they become available but if you have any means to help us with some inventory of desktop/laptop computers in short order, it would be immensely appreciated."

There is some good news. Our GIVE BIG! program is poised and ready to replace computers for the School District. Our partner ComputersforClassrooms.org specializes in delivering school-ready systems to schools and low-income families in need. They can provide systems to SFUSD for as little as \$90-\$125 per system with your help and contributions.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Please contact us immediately @ givebig@sfbig.org or go to www.sfbig.org/give_big if you can offer any of the following items to help SFUSD:

- **Monetary Donations for Replacement Computers.** 500 replacement computers can be obtained from ComputersforClassrooms.org for approximately \$50,000.
- **New or Used Computer and Networking Equipment.** SFUSD has lost essentially everything in their headquarters. If you or your company can offer technology to help them rebuild their operation, they will need it. This can be new or used equipment.
- **Your Time and Expertise.** Many of you within BIG have special expertise and technical talent that can help SFUSD through such a disruption. Please volunteer.

sfBIG'ers, if there was ever a time for us to step up for our local Bay Area kids and schools, it's now. Certainly, in this wonderful community of sfBIG, there are some people and companies who can Give BIG! Please stand and deliver, and contact us if you can help in any way.

SFUSD's Immediate Needs:

- Replacement computers for schools (P-a, 512 MB Ram, Runs Win XP SP3)
- Replacement computers for SFUSD staff (HP 8730W laptops)
- Spare Components (RAM, Hard Drives, DVD Drives, LCDs, etc.)
- IT Tools (hard disk duplicator)

Kind Regards,

Mark Crafts

It takes a village. Thanks for reading.

sfBIG