Going Green and Doing Good

Giving New Life to Unwanted Office Equipment and Supplies

What do you do with the monitor you no longer need? Is your IT Department buried in old equipment that could use a good home? Don't know what to do with the mountain of office supplies that are no longer being used? Donate it!

If the equipment still has a useful life, there are many organizations out there—schools and nonprofit organizations—that can reuse equipment no longer needed. TechSoup is one such organization! TechSoup connects nonprofit organizations and libraries with the technology resources (hardware, software and learning) they need to carry out their missions effectively and efficiently. Through their Refurbished Computer Initiative (RCI), TechSoup works with partners to collect used IT equipment that businesses no longer need.

Being a RCI donor is easy. Here's how it worked for us at Blackbaud…a refurbishing partner swings by your office, in our case it was Interconnection, and packs and ships your equipment. They'll take all of your used equipment whether it's working or not. The equipment is stored securely while in transit, and data on the hard drives is destroyed once it reaches their facility. They'll even send you a report detailing the steps taken to destroy the data.

Blackbaud has made multiple donations through the RCI over the past couple of years—including flat screen monitors, laptops, docking stations, power cords, external battery packs, and external hard drives. All we had to do was get the equipment to our loading dock. The rest was handled by Interconnection. If the equipment was not right for their program, they disposed of it in an environmentally friendly way.

When all is said and done, nonprofit organizations receive newly refurbished equipment in excellent working condition with customer service and support from TechSoup, and businesses know their old equipment has been disposed of safely, securely, and charitably.

TechSoup is not your only option. Your local public schools might need equipment for teachers, science and computer labs, or their administrative staff. We all know how tight budgets can be, and this is great way to help out a public school that might not otherwise be able to purchase the equipment it

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needs. Blackbaud's Indianapolis team recently moved to a new location. The team donated much of its unwanted equipment to a local middle school.

Beyond IT equipment, there's the mountain of file folders, file holders, storage items, whatever goes in or on a desk. Our desks and offices are our professional "homes," but what happens if you no longer need that pen holder or your business just changed its branding and you can no longer use items with your old logo? We have an organization in Charleston, Teachers Supply Closet, which accepts donations of new and used office supplies. They provide teachers in Title I schools the opportunity to shop for free at their "store." Teachers can pick up supplies for their students and their classrooms, saving them from spending their own money on supplies their students need in order to be successful in school. Reach out to your local school district or an organization like Teachers Supply Closet if you have items to donate. Chances are someone out there can use your unwanted office supplies.

➤ Visit www.blackbaud.com for more resources.