

Neighbors Link Updates Computer Network

By Joan Potter

Two creative and generous 15-year-old young men and a volunteer computer professional have donated their time and expertise to setting up a new computer network at Neighbors Link that will allow us to take full advantage of our new donor database system.

Greg Skloot and Jeremy Blum, both sophomores at Byram Hills High School in Armonk, run their own computer repair and website design business, Armonk Computer Solutions, which they started a year ago. As an offshoot of their business, they rebuild old computers and donate them to charitable organizations. Last year, they offered them to a Mount Kisco church. This year, their rabbi at Congregation B'Nai Yisrael, Seth Limmer, suggested they make their next donations to Neighbors Link.

They are also making our computer classes even more productive by,

repairing and replacing some of our broken and worn-out computers, installing a wired network throughout the center and replacing the computers when necessary. Eventually, they plan to offer free, rebuilt computers to individual students.

"Their timing was perfect," according to Marilyn Shapiro, Neighbors Link's development director. Greg and Jeremy volunteered their services around the same time Neighbors Link was about to acquire donor database software. The installation necessitated a long-overdue upgrade in the center's computer equipment and network.

Working with Art Weisentheel, a Information Technology professional



Greg Skloot and Jeremy Blum

from Mount Kisco, the two boys designed and installed a wired computer network. Mr. Weisentheel became involved in the project after responding to a notice in our newsletter asking for a volunteer with database management skills.



Art Weisentheel

Both Greg and Jeremy have spent many hours volunteering at our center. "The people there are all very nice," says Greg.

"We've really enjoyed the whole experience," Jeremy adds.

"What's so great about these kids," says Carola Bracco, executive director at Neighbors Link, "is that they have decided to reach out to the community and apply their skills in a meaningful way. Without them, I don't know how we would have gotten this done." ♦