

MIRA Computer Project



Barb Devlin, Rosa Rubio, Jackie Farrell, Franklin Briceno,
Mayor Debi Goettel, Jean Fox, Denny Fox

In early November 2013 key Richfield Rotary members met with MIRA board and staff members to discuss the possibility of upgrading their computer lab. MIRA is a 501c3 organization serving Latino families

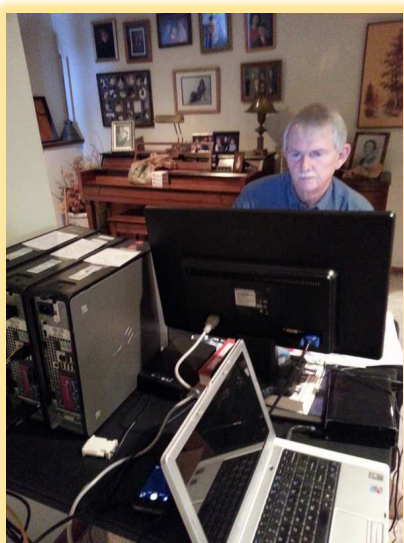
in the Richfield area with a resource center, sewing classes, computer literacy classes, tax preparation help and English classes. MIRA had a computer lab filled with antiquated slow computers with old technology running on an operating system that would soon be obsolete.

The Richfield Rotary Club partnered with several local companies to complete this project. Over 50

computers came from Haworth Marketing + Media; 40 Monitors came from a grant

from the Best Buy Foundation; some keyboards and mice came from Metro Dental Richfield, a grant for software came from the Richfield Rotary Foundation, individual

Rotary members gave funds for licensing, and Rotarian Denny Fox provided over 300 hours of technical assistance.



Denny Fox doing his technical
"magic"

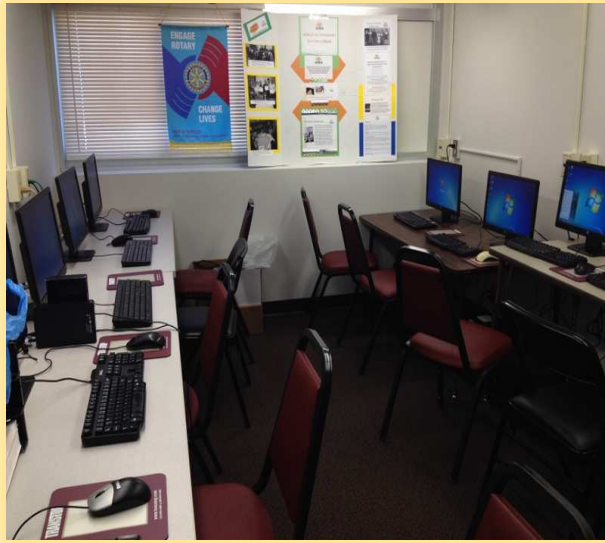


Denny Fox, Darcy Ellarby and Franklin Briceno at Haworth
Marketing + Media

As a result, the computer lab is updated and classes have begun. It is a dramatic change.



Antiquated equipment ready to be recycled



Updated modern computer lab



Franklin Briceno, Maria, Gustavo, Teresa, Raul, Geronimo, Yolanda, Rosalinda, Maday

On Monday, March 10 Richfield Rotary distributed the first computers to a recent graduating class. Recipients expressed gratitude and shared their excitement about how they will use their new family computers.



Maday

Maday said, “when I told my kids we were getting a computer they were so excited especially my 13 year old son. He knows it will make his middle school work easier and it will be better for me to access school records and track his progress. I never had an email address before so now I can also keep in contact with my family members in Mexico.”

Gustavo learned how to create a resume in his class and now he is excited that “now I can apply for jobs online. I never used a computer before; having one at home now will help me to practice everything I have learned.”



Gustavo

Rosalinda is “so excited and grateful because now I can practice everything I have learned and help my kids with their homework, and look for a job!” And Yolanda is “happy to be able to email with teachers about my kids. I also volunteer in school so now I can talk directly with teachers about how to help in the class.”



Rosalinda and Yolanda

Teresa is so grateful because “I have started my own cleaning business and now I can do mailings and create flyers to market my business. And I can find directions to know where I am going. Everything will also be easier and faster now finding information about the things I need for my family.”



Teresa

Franklin Briceno, MIRA Executive director, says “Our goal at MIRA is to offer programs that empower participants through education and promote self-sufficiency. This project will go a long way to help us achieve that.”



Back Row—Denny Fox, Barb Devlin, Marlene Evenson, Milton, Geronimo, Gustavo, John Devlin. Front Row—Franklin Briceno, Yolanda, Maday, Teresa, Maria, Raul, Jean Fox