Laptop Donation Project

Instead of tossing your old laptop in a local landfill, why not send it to the Guatemala City Garbage Dump? Well, actually to a youngster living with his or her family in the Dump. Beyond-the-Walls isn't some big, impersonal charity trying to feed millions of starving children in Africa. Rather, it's a small group of people trying to have a real impact on the lives of the 11,000 people (6,500 children) living in the Guatemala City Garbage Dump and making their meager living as scavengers. Three vital aspects of life-changing success and getting out of the Dump are education, innovation, and communication. How can these elements be brought to the people of the Guatemala City Dump? The answer is surprisingly simple: one laptop per family and, eventually, one per youngster.

Here's how it works. It starts with getting the word out through newsletters, e-mail, word of mouth, and a web site. Dave Ahl of SwapMeetDave.com is acting as the collection point for donated laptops. They then go to Raul Caceres of Computer Pro Inc. who erases the old unneeded programs and installs Spanish-language software. Next Betsy Ahl of Beyond-the-Walls arranges to get the laptops to Guatemala using people going there on missions trips. Finally, Potter's House distributes the computers to needy families and tutors them in the use of them.

A really neat thing about this program is that you'll meet, via e-mail, the family or youngster who received your laptop and maybe get a photo of them.

Of course, your donation is completely tax-deductible to the extent permitted by the IRS.

Laptop Requirements
1. Unit must work and must be complete with 110-volt power supply. Carrying case a plus.
2. Hardware: Must be a PC compatible (NO Apple or Mac), 600Hz processor or faster, 256Mb + RAM (prefer 512Mb +), 20Gb + hard drive, CD drive, USB port, WiFi (internal or external).
3. Software: Windows XP Home or Professional or Windows 2000 (NO Vista or earlier versions of Windows). Delete all of your personal files and your e-mail program. Okay to leave on Internet browser, word processing, spreadsheet, database, photo, graphics, and antivirus software.

Donor Name and Address (Tax donation form will be sent to this address)

Name _____   E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____   State _____   Zip _____

Telephone _____   Fax _____

Brand and model of laptop being donated _____

Hardware/Software _____

Laptop Collection Point
David Ahl, SwapMeetDave.com, 12 Indian Head Road, Morristown, NJ 07960