

Drive nets 9 tons of equipment

Refurbished, it will go to disabled

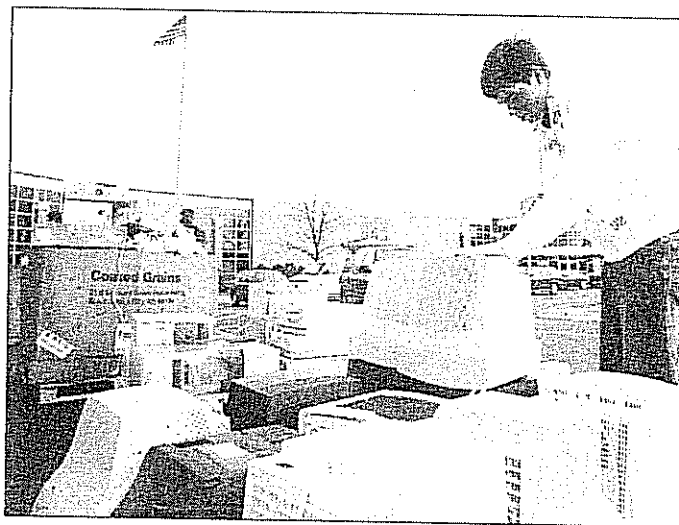
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Glenbrook South High School students collected a record number of old computers and other electronic gear Saturday at a drive to help children with disabilities.

Members of the school's Interact Club, a community service group, worked non-stop during the three-hour morning collection, which took in the equipment for United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago. It was the school's first time holding such a drive, but it yielded the second largest haul in the program's history, said Greg Grill, recycling director for the Chicago area branch of United Cerebral Palsy.

"They had 266 individuals drop off more than nine tons of computer electronics.



Glenbrook South Interact Club member Chris Andrews prepares old electronics for shipping during a recycling event Saturday at the school. More than nine tons of equipment was collected.

— Ruthie Hauge/Staff Photographer

Whatever we're able to reuse will be refurbished, upgraded and adapted for kids with disabilities in the state of Illinois free of charge," Grill said. "The items we collected that we are not able to refurbish will end up going to a recycler for proper disposal, diverting them from landfills.

It was a very good event."

Grill said the timing of the collection after the holidays was ideal because many people got new electronic gifts, and old computers and other devices tend to pile up around the house. People hesitate to throw the items out because of growing con-

cerns that lead and other materials in them shouldn't go into landfills, and because the machines often still work.

"They're not the latest and greatest, but for a kid with a disability who just wants to do simple key-boarding or word processing, that's a wonderful machine for them," Grill said.

With the volume of cars coming into the school's circle drive, students set up an assembly line-style operation with stations unloading and giving out paperwork for tax deductions, said District 225 spokeswoman Diane Freeman.

"There were cars just waiting in line all around the school, but people didn't have to wait in line more than two or three minutes. They had a lot of kids helping out," Freeman said.

Grill said the organization is likely to try to set up an annual collection at the school and may involve other school clubs as well in future drives.