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Purchase a new computer? Dist. 15 wants your old one

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In a time when computers become obsolete nearly minutes after they're removed from their boxes, figuring out what to do with the old machines can be cumbersome.

Palatine Township Elementary District 15 has the answer.

The school system will host its fourth annual computer recycling event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today and Friday at the John G. Conyers Learning Academy, 2800 Central Road, Rolling Meadows.

All the computer equipment collected will be donated to the Assistive Technology Exchange Network, a program of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago whose mission is to increase access to computers and technology for students with disabilities throughout Illinois.

Conyers Learning Academy social worker Don Sommerville said those worried about having personal information taken from the old machines have nothing to worry about. The exchange network uses a special program, he said, to completely clear out all information stored on the hard drives.

"This is very safe and secure," Sommerville said.

During the event, the school is also collecting durable medical equipment to benefit children and adults with permanent or temporary disabilities.

In the past three years, the efforts yielded about 40 tons of computer-related equipment that were recycled to benefit students with disabilities and protect the environment from potentially

District 15's computer and medical equipment recycling event

District 15 is hosting its fourth annual recycling event today and Friday. Items collected will be donated to the Assistive Technology Exchange Network. Among items to be collected:

- **Computer equipment**, including PCs (Pentium or higher), CD-ROM drives, Apple (G3 or higher), peripherals, printers, software (originals only), monitors, communication devices, modems, switches, keyboards, hard drives, mouse and cables, 3.5 disk drives, fax machines and cell phones
- **Medical equipment**, including canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, standers and therapeutic equipment.

Source: District 15

harmful waste. This year's goal is to collect more than 15 tons of equipment.

Monetary donations also are being accepted. Checks should be payable to Assistive Technology Exchange Network, 7550 W. 183rd St., Tinley Park, IL 60477 or can be dropped off at the event.

All equipment and cash donations are tax deductible. A donor acknowledgment form for tax deductions will be provided at the time of donation. For more information, contact Sommerville at (847) 963-3450 or via e-mail at sommervd@ccsd15.net.

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