



# Wilderness Technology Alliance

*Pioneering Character and Technical Education through Service Learning*

Quarterly Newsletter Eastern USA Winter 2008

## **WildTech / CCNV Celebrates!** *Join the party at the World's First Technology Company Managed & Operated by the Homeless*

*WildTech/CCNV is located in CCNV, the largest homeless shelter in the United States, just three blocks from the US Capitol. WildTech starts by training the homeless in technology skills. They then gain work-based learning experiences by providing technology products and services to other shelter residents and low-income community members.*

*Initial enterprise activities include electronics recycling, refurbishing PCs and training*



WildTech staff members began the 2007 Christmas season with a very successful Christmas party on Wednesday, December 19th. WildTech shared its success using proceeds from operations to host close to 50 people. Some of the more musically inclined spent much of the evening caroling to residents of the shelter.

Most thought this could not be beat, but the best was yet to come! On Christmas day, WildTech staff members coordinated with Kevin Sheehan, owner of Uncle Dave's American Bistro. Kevin prepared over 400 meals and delivered them to the shelter. Margaret Meyers, Tony Brown, Donald Page and others from WildTech/CCNV spent Christmas night feeding the homeless near the doorstep of the US Capitol building. And they just kept arriving, estimated at over four hundred, from shelters, under overpasses and from areas across downtown Washington DC. They lined up in the stairwell, at times over four flights tall! Some waited for hours, but not a word of anger was spent. When all was done, a couple of trays of string beans were thrown away. The rest was consumed. Some got seconds. But there was enough food for everyone



**Corporate Supporters of the Quarter**



**VERIZON really cares about people in need.**

Check out their record for social responsibility. They continually rank at or near the top in supporting non-profits and those in need.

In fact, Verizon just provided the WTA's Seattle office a \$15,000 grant!

Imagine the possibilities if "giving back" became even more strategically important for companies.

As consumers, we could change the world! Think about this the next time you need telecom services

## Wilderness Technology Alliance

Eastern US Office:  
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## Classes for those in Need

*WildTech/CCNV just completed its first 12 week technology training program for members of the homeless community. Thank you to our volunteer teachers for a job well done: April Parker, Maurice King and Deborah Robinson.*



A new series of classes is scheduled to begin on January 22nd, 2008. The following five classes will be taught once a week for 12 weeks. To sign up, call Tony Brown at 202-290-9951

- Intro to computers, MS Word and MS Excel
- Computer refurbishing (leading to A+ certification). This class provides the skills needed to repair and refurbish computers.
- E-Commerce. Learn the skills needed to buy and sell on eBay, create eStores and more.

## FREE Pentium-4 Computers with LCD Flat Panel Monitor *with \$99 Training class*

For a limited time, WildTech/CCNV is offering non-profits and low income residents of Washington DC a two hour training class in computer technology. All who complete the class get a FREE refurbished Pentium-4 computer system to keep. Systems include:

- Pentium-4 Desktop or Tower system
- 1.6 - 2.8GHz Pentium-4 processor
- at least 256MB of RAM
- 10 Gig or larger hard drive
- 1.2MB floppy and CD-ROM drive
- 17" or 19" LCD flat panel color monitor
- keyboard and mouse
- Microsoft Windows XP, Open Office and more

For more info or to sign up, call Tony Brown at 202-290-9951

### WildTech Volunteer Showcase



#### Deborah Robinson

joined the WildTech/CCNV team from the very beginning. She is a beautiful lady with a very positive attitude, a great writer (she already wrote two grants for the WTA!) and man-oh-man, can she cook! In fact, she almost single-handedly put together the entire WildTech Christmas party!!!

However maybe the most amazing thing about Deborah is her willingness to sacrifice for others. By some measures, she does not have a lot, but in her friendships and the measures that really matter, Deborah overflows!!!

PS...Congratulations with your new job!

#### Thank You Volunteers!

The people below are acknowledged for their tremendous donations of time and effort to the WTA's Eastern operations last quarter:

#### Donated 25-50 hrs:

-Arthur  
-Florence Copeland

#### Donated 50+hrs:

-Lou August  
-Monique August  
-Tony Brown  
-Larry Gaither  
-Maurice King  
-Margaret Meyers  
-Donald Page  
-April Parker  
-Deborah Robinson  
-Carol McSween-Brooks  
-LaKeisha Washington

## **WildTech Goes Wild!**

*The Wilderness Technology Alliance leads the homeless on a high-adventure mountaineering expedition*

Guides from the Wilderness Technology Alliance led a group of homeless people and volunteers to Great Falls, Maryland for a wilderness teambuilding expedition last fall. For some, it was their first time out of the city in a while. For most, it was their first time ever mountaineering.



The brave participants were not swayed by National Park brochures indicated the route was for experts only (though the guides were nervous!). Team members scaled rocky crags, jumped crevasses and some even swam in a raging river. But all had an incredible experience. So incredible in fact, that a caving expedition for the homeless is now planned for the winter of 2008.



**Thank you!**  
To many others  
donating less than  
25 hours

**WTA President  
elected to the  
Executive Board  
of the CCNV**



Lou August was elected as Board Secretary during the recent annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV) shelter. Lou says "it's due to the amazing WildTech/CCNV staff and volunteers, who give relentlessly and perform miracles on a daily basis." The CCNV is America's largest homeless shelter with a capacity of over 1300 residents. It is located just three blocks from the US Capitol Building in Washington DC.

### **"Wild" Wish of the Quarter**

Last quarter WildTech derived amazing teambuilding benefits of a mountaineering expedition. This quarter we want to continue growing through a caving trip in West Virginia.

WildTech is looking to take a group of homeless people deep into a remote and deserted cave to challenge our senses and build our team. If you want to donate to this event, know a guide or have connections, please call 206-595-4247.

## WildTech in Washington DC Public Schools

*The WildTech program is currently being piloted in  
McKinley Technology High School*

The WTA is currently engaged in a pilot project with McKinley Technology High School to bring technology enterprise business and entrepreneurship skills to Washington DC youth. WTA vista member Larry Gaither moved over to McKinley last fall and is leading the project. The eight students engaged in the project at McKinley will each receive a free Pentium-4 computer system at the conclusion of the pilot project.



## Baltimore Update

The first Saturday of every month classes are held from 10am until noon in the EBTRC in East Baltimore. People that successfully complete the class receive a free computer system. For more information or to register for the class, call Monique at 301-879-3331.



- Aug Class: 8 people trained & got a free computer
- Sept Class: 3 people trained & got free computer
- Oct Class: 3 people trained & got a free computer
- Nov Class: 8 people trained & got a free computer
- Dec Class: 15 people trained & got a free computer

### WildTech/CCNV Calendar

**ELECTIONS:**  
WildTech/CCNV will elect a governing board for the chapter on January 10th, 2008 at 6pm in the WildTech room in the CCNV.

**BI-WEEKLY WILDTECH** meetings at the CCNV 425 2nd St. NW, DC  
- Thur, Jan 10th, 6pm  
- Thur, Jan 24th, 6pm  
- Thur, Feb 7th, 6pm  
- Thur, Feb 21st, 6pm  
- Thur, Mar 6th, 6pm  
- Thur, Mar 20th, 6pm  
At the CCNV in DC

**CLASS SCHEDULE:** See articles in this edition.

### WildTech East Baltimore Calendar

\$69 training classes that include a free Pentium-3 computer system  
- Saturday, Jan 5th  
- Saturday, Feb 2nd  
- Saturday, Mar 1st  
**To enroll, call  
301-879-3331**

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## Why You Should Support WildTech/CCNV



### **CCNV shelter & WildTech/CCNV**

*Homelessness is a huge issue across our nation. It is often perceived that drug abuse or behavioral issues are the leading causes of homelessness, yet unemployment is by far the leading cause.*

Over 70% of the residents at the CCNV shelter are unemployed and over 95% are under-employed. With the lack of affordable housing, they have nowhere to turn to except the shelter. In addition, studies have long indicated that technology access and skills are divided along racial and economic lines. Nowhere is this more evident than in the CCNV shelter. Very few residents have technology skills, in a world where most jobs are obtained on the Internet and performed on a computer. WildTech-CCNV was created to help end this. Join us and be a part of the solution!

- WildTech-CCNV empowers the homeless with technology skills, work-based learning experiences and a paycheck!
- Our country is built on the entrepreneurial spirit that is demonstrated by the homeless at WildTech-CCNV!
- We challenge government agencies, corporations and non-profits to consider WildTech-CCNV to dispose of their surplus electronics, provide them with refurbished computers, or even their technical training!

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