



# Wilderness Technology Alliance

*Pioneering Character and Technical Education through Service Learning*

Quarterly Newsletter **Eastern USA** Summer 2007

## WildTech / CCNV

*The World's First Technology Company  
Managed and Operated by the Homeless*

This summer, the WTA and the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV) began operations of the WildTech/CCNV, a high technology company operated and managed by the homeless. It is located in the CCNV, the largest homeless shelter in the United States, just three blocks from the US Capitol building in Washington DC.



WildTech/CCNV 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. The most experienced homeless staff members provide services to government agencies and non-profits...all at far below market rates! Many are technology professionals with years of experience who have had some tough breaks (it could happen to any of us). Initial enterprise activities include electronics recycling, refurbishing PCs, software application training and more.

WildTech/CCNV actively seeks volunteers, donations and technology training services from individuals, foundations and corporations. We also seek paid work from non-profits and government agencies in Washington DC. From providing refurbished Pentium-4 computers and repairing PCs, to software training classes, networking services, and electronics recycling, please give the less fortunate a chance. The WTA, CCNV and homeless staff members split the revenue from their work. The WTA and the CCNV re-invest their portion of the revenue to sustain the program. *If you need tech services, call us and save money while helping a tech-savvy homeless person!*

## Classes for the Homeless



**Corporate Supporters of the Quarter**

**VERIZON**



**Why?** Verizon is a long-time supporter of the WTA. Even the office furniture at our Seattle Headquarters was donated by Verizon. This summer the 2007 WildTech Enterprise Summit was sponsored and paid for by Verizon. Friends, this is an amazing company!

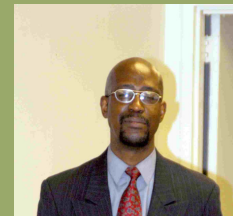
**CISCO SYSTEMS**



**Why?** 10 Cisco volunteers came to the CCNV during the Day of Service and felt so compelled by what they saw that we are now in discussions with Cisco to put a Cisco Academy in the shelter.

**We love you Cisco!!!**

**New WildTech VISTA Member**



Tony Brown joined the WTA team as a VISTA at

Since April, WildTech/CCNV volunteers are continuously conducting classes at the shelter to train the homeless. We are ready to complete our first 12 week session. Classes are conducted in the computer lab on Monday, Wednesday and Friday:



- **Monday:** Intro to PCs taught by April Parker
- **Wednesday:** MS Word taught by Maurice King
- **Friday:** Microsoft Excel is taught by Deborah Robinson.

If you are looking to upgrade your skills or to learn a new one, come join us. New classes start on September 17, 2007.

## East Meets West

*WildTech/CCNV Staff*

*fly to Seattle to help at the WildTech Annual Conference, July 13th-15th in the Cascades*

Thank you to all the attendees of the 2007 Wildtech Enterprise Summit. It occurred July 13-15, 2007, in the beautiful Cascade Mountains site near Leavenworth, Washington. Dan Casey, Director of the WTA's Western Region, as well as Steve Loeb and Jesse Crowther from the WTA's headquarters in Seattle, met up with WTA President Lou August and Larry Gaither from the WTA's Eastern Office, to conduct the second annual Summit.



The goals of the Summit were to learn skills and share best practices in establishing and maintaining a "WildTech" self-sustaining technology enterprise in a school or community center. Students and volunteers involved in WildTech programs learn technology skills and gain work-based learning experiences by providing low-income community members with technology products and services.

During the 2007 Summit, teachers and students from nine school districts engaged in many activities, including technology training and teambuilding. Students took on leadership roles to set up a technology lab, develop technology education projects, and run the camp itself. All participants left with a business plan for operating their WildTech enterprise during the 2007/2008 school year. Pictures from the camp are available at [www.wildtech.org/camp/2007](http://www.wildtech.org/camp/2007)

## How About Baltimore!!!

WildTech/CCNV. His first day was June 19th. Tony is now the manager of IT, responsible for the WildTech tech lab at the shelter, computer refurbishing, training for the homeless and more. Welcome aboard Tony!

### 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:**

- Monsour Ali
- Warren Hall
- Michael Knight

**Donated 50+hrs:**

- Lou August
- Maurice King
- Spero Konstandatos
- Margaret Meyers
- Donald Page
- Deborah Robinson
- Carol McSween-Brooks
- LaKeisha Washington

**Thank you!** also to the many others not mentioned donating less than 25hrs

### Volunteer of the Quarter

**Everyone above, mentioned and un-mentioned.**

Just as the brain is no more important than the lungs, we're all vital to bring life to the body that is WildTech.

### Quiz Question of the Quarter... Who is this Handsome man?



The first 3 people to come to the WildTech Computer Lab at the CCNV with the correct name get a free keyboard pad.

OK Baltimore, chill out, you've got your turn...

Since February of 2004 the WTA has run training classes for low income people in East Baltimore in partnership with the East Baltimore Technology Resource Center (EBTRC). The first Saturday of every month classes are held from 10am until noon. People that successfully complete the class receive a free computer system. For more information or to register for the class, call 301-879-3331.



-May 5th Class: 21 people trained & got a free computer

-June 2nd Class: 15 people trained & got free computer

-July 7th Class: 15 people trained & got a free computer

## 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 80% of the residents at the CCNV shelter are unemployed, and 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 !

### "Wild" Wish of the Month

Washington DC had numerous 100+ degree days this summer and the homeless need a break too! WildTech CCNV is looking to take a group of homeless people on a whitewater rafting trip in Maryland to build teamwork and leadership skills. If you want to donate to this event, know a guide or have connections, please call 206-595-4247.

### WildTech CCNV Calendar

Weekend Introductory computer training classes at the CCNV shelter

- Saturday, Aug 18th
- Saturday, Sept 8th
- Saturday, Sept 22nd
- Saturday, Oct 6th

To enroll, call  
206-595-4247

### WildTech East Baltimore Calendar

\$69 training classes that include a free Pentium-3 computer system

- Saturday, Sept 1st
- Saturday, Oct 6th

To enroll, call  
301-879-3331

## Wilderness Technology Alliance

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