

## Oak Park Firm Donates 80 Computers to Chicago High School

### <<Versión en Español p05

As owner of Azure Horizons, an Oak Park-based computer-consulting firm, Keith Carrizosa is an expert in bridging communication networks.

Recently, though, he served as a link for another kind of connection arranging for one of his clients to donate 80 computers to Roberto Clemente High School. The donation has already begun providing students with significantly more hands-on computer operations and trouble-shooting experience than was previously possible in the classroom.

John Quinn, a computer network instructor at the school, said the computers provide a major educational boost to the 140 sophomores, juniors and seniors that he teaches.

"The kids lit up like Christmas trees when they saw these computers," said Quinn. "This has already generated a lot of interest and a lot of excitement."

Last year, when Roberto Clemente had 20 computers available for networking instruction, four students came just short of gaining A+ certification. This type of designation is a key career step for those embarking on a career in the computer services industry.

With the influx of donated computers, Quinn is confident that many students will develop their knowledge

and skills to be able to gain A+ certification. His goal this school year is to have at least 20 students reach the certification.

"Being A+ certified will increase their chances of employment in the [present] market," said Quinn. "These computers are going to have a huge impact on the students. It is going to give them hands-on experience fixing the computers and installing operating systems."

"This will also enable me to keep them on track and get them motivated to stay on track to get their A+ certification and move right into the A+ networking program," Quinn added.

Gaining A+ certification has an immediate economic benefit for higher education. The University of Illinois awards \$8,000 scholarships to students for each year they maintain the certification, Quinn said.

In September, Carrizosa found he had a surplus of older computers that one of his clients, PLS Financial, no longer needed. He brainstormed for ideas on how to find use for them.

Through a friendship with the spouse of another teacher at Clemente, Carrizosa contacted Quinn to see if he would be interested in receiving the computers. Quinn accepted immediately.

PLS Financial brought the computers to the Azure Horizons office.

There, with the help of his son, Brian, Carrizosa spent 60 hours over the next month evaluating which ones could be re-used, as well as how each would best be deployed by the high school.

"Most of the computers we received from PLS Financial were being used as workstations," said Carrizosa. "Through the years, components failed and as a business decision, about one-third of these computers are replaced every year."

Of the computers that Azure Horizons received, only about 5 percent functioned without any problem. The remainder had missing pieces, which PLS Financial used to keep its other inventory functioning.

At today's market value, the computers would cost about \$400 apiece. Between their value, and the time that the Carrizosa took to assess them, the donation amounted to about \$40,000.

For Carrizosa, the effort has been well worth it. He knows that he is playing a role in helping students attain a skill they can use immediately after graduation, or as a steppingstone toward a degree in the information technology field.

"I have had plenty of people help me along the way," Carrizosa said. "Passing along a fraction of the assistance that I've received has been so rewarding." ■



**Rewarding Gesture** - Instructor John Quinn and three of his students assess some of the computers donated by Keith Carrizosa.

## La Piel Perfecta

CENTRO AVANZADO DE LASER

Pelo, venas, lunares y manchas.  
Reducción permanente con láser

LA PIEL PERFECTA

1272 WINSTON PLAZA | MELROSE PARK, IL 60160  
(708)615-7546

**\$50** de descuento  
por cualquier  
servicio con  
este coupón

**Blanqueado**  
de  
dientes **\$380**

## Martinez Carpet

**Carpet Cleaning • Sale • Installation**  
**Furniture cleaning • Hard Wood Floors**

Car & Van Interior Cleaning

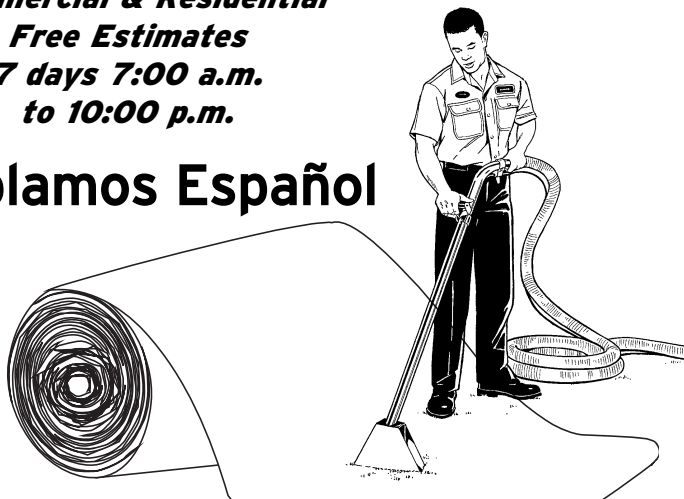
Limpieza, venta e inslatación de alfombra y limpieza de sofás

Commercial & Residential

Free Estimates

7 days 7:00 a.m.  
to 10:00 p.m.

Hablamos Español



**(773) 836-2088**

## HIS & HER'S

BARBER SCHOOL, INC.

5355 W. MADISON ST.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60644  
TEL: (773) 261-2099  
FAX: (773) 261-2066

**CLASSES ARE**  
**STARTING NOW!!!**

Full and Part-Time/Day and Evening  
Don't wait!

**TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE**

Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed Sunday & Monday

~ Committed to Serving the Community ~