Technology for the People

PCIG-KLUG

October 13, 2011

Steve Conners – First Career

- BS Mechanical Engineering, UW Madison

- Business Analyst & Programmer
  - ADC Telecommunications, Business Analyst
  - Mayo Clinic, Systems Analyst
  - Conners Technology, Owner and Principle

- IT Director
  - Jemni Technology
    SDVOSB, Mentor Protégé with xpedx (Int'l Paper)

Steve Conners – Second Career

▸ **Legal Assistance of Olmsted County**
  ◦ Server rebuild, web, database, general tech support

▸ **United Way of Olmsted County**
  ◦ Technology Solutions Committee, DPI radius search

▸ **Mediation & Conflict Services**
  ◦ PC replacement, board member

▸ **Ability Building Center**
  ◦ Volunteer Program Manager, IBM Celebration of Service

▸ **BEAM**
  ◦ MN Rising, Plone support, Grant proposals

ABC – Ability Built Computers

- Began at United Way as Compuswap

  - Established 15 yrs ago

  - .2 FTE staff from United Way

  - 400-500 computers annually

ABC – Transition

▸ United Way staff member changing positions

▸ United Way leadership re-evaluating the program's strategic importance

▸ Stepped in to run the program for 3 months [May 2010]

ABC – The First Year

‣ Taking over

‣ Business as usual

‣ Moved to ABC [Sept 2010]

‣ Ramped up production – doubled output

‣ IBM's 100 yr anniversary – 150 PC's for $25

ABC – The Next Year

‣ Expand sales efforts

‣ Expand production capacity

‣ School contracts

‣ Technology in the community & jobs for people with disabilities

‣ Ability Technology Services

ABC – Eligibility Guidelines

‣ School (public or private, must be on DOE list)

‣ 501(c)(3) non-profits

‣ Low-income famility (280% of poverty)

‣ Individiuals with disabilities

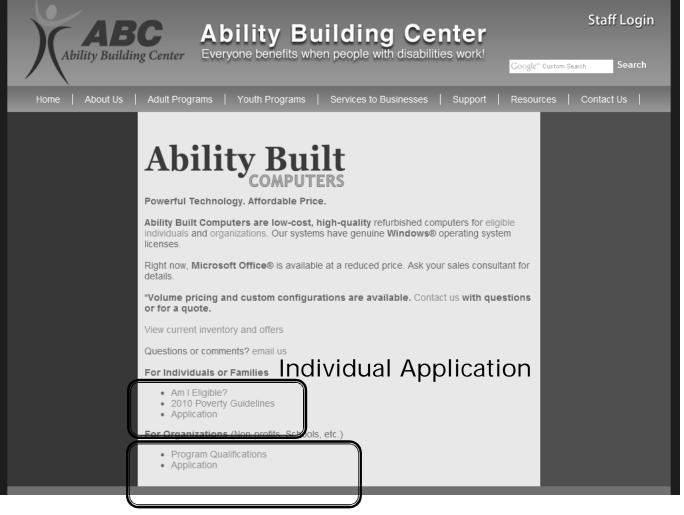‣ No O/S, Linux, limited commercial systems

ABC – Equipment Available

▸ **3Ghz 1GB P4 systems** $75
- ◦ CPU, 15″ monitor, keyboard, mouse
- ◦ 2GB RAM   +$10

▸ **15″ Flat Monitors** $25
▸ **17″ Flat Monitors** $45
▸ **19″ Flat Monitors** $65

▸ **Odds and ends – varied**
- ◦ Printers, routers, servers, faxes, etc.

ABC – www.abcinc.org

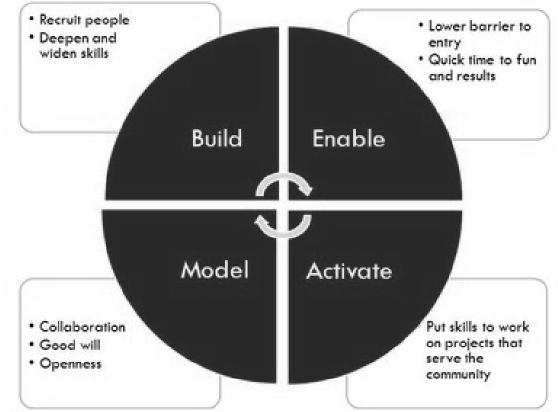Indvidual and Organizational applications available.

ABC – Applications

BEAM

‣ **B**uild, **E**mpower, **A**ctivate and **M**odel the use
  of IT skills to serve the community better

- Recruit people
- Deepen and widen skills

- Lower barrier to entry
- Quick time to fun and results

Build

Enable

Model

Activate

- Collaboration
- Good will
- Openness

Put skills to work on projects that serve the community

BEAM – The Team

- Initiated by:
  - Al Lun

- Joined by:
  - Steve Conners, Eldon Nelson, Kim (Kevin) Sin, Ashok Patel, Steve Courts, Collen Maddox, Pradeep Nambier, Mark Adafin, George Thompson, Jenny Gile, Rich Hartmann

BEAM – The Tools

▸ Web Content Management
  ◦ Plone

▸ Cloud Services
  ◦ Google Apps, YouTube

▸ Hardware in collaboration with ABC

BEAM – The Projects

- Diversity Council Collaboration Center – DC3
  - http://diversitycouncil.middlewaygroup.com/

- Y Mentor
  - https://ymap.middlewaygroup.com/

- MN Rising
  - http://mnrising.middlewaygroup.com

- Rochester Public Library – Multilingual Video

- Entertainment Software Association Grant

What Can *YOU* do?

- ABC
  - Find homes for computers
  - Buy computers!
  - Help build PC's
  - Find work for Ability Built Computers' trainees
- BEAM
  - Contribute to development (join BEAM!)
  - Provide leads for projects
  - Start your own Plone site

What Can _WE_ do?

▸ Collaborate to provide Linux training
  ◦ Basic usage, Plone, Apache, Samba, Ventrilo

▸ Sell pre-configured Linux hardware

▸ Provide file/print/web servers for non-profits

▸ Support community efforts, projects with specialized knowledge

What Can _I_ do?

▸ Are there additional areas where we could support the community?

Technology Volunteer Association

▸ Why?
- Make a difference
- Follow my passion – service, technology, business
- Leverage specialized knowledge (Days of Caring)

▸ How?
- Potential collaborators, customers, volunteers, supporters and funders
- Build a business plan – confirm the need
- Serve now!