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Chesapeake Regional Tech Council Announces “Tech Out the Light House” Campaign to benefit The Light House Homeless Shelter

09.01.2010 – ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Chesapeake Regional Tech Council (CRTC) announced the launch of a 30 day "Tech Out the Light House" Campaign reaching out to CRTC members and the community at large to provide much needed technology equipment, consulting and training for the new Light House Homeless Prevention and Support Center.

Campaign Date: August 31 - September 30, 2010

As the greater Annapolis area anxiously awaits the opening of the much needed new Light House Homeless Prevention and Support Center, the Chesapeake Regional Tech Council (CRTC) has stepped up to assist with raising the funds, equipment and support needed for the technical aspects of the new facility. Time is of the essence-- the new shelter is planning to open to the public in October— so the 30 day "Tech Out the Light House" Campaign will encourage CRTC members and tech-minded individuals throughout the greater Annapolis community to donate in one of three ways:

The 3 “asks” of the tech community:

1. Donating Funds toward a list of specific tech needs – this is an ask for monetary donations and would go directly through the shelter’s capital campaign fundraising site through eTapestry (<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/FriendsoftheLightHouseShe/OnlineDonation.html>). Under gift information donate towards “New Shelter” and in the memo section please write, “Tech out the Shelter”. We will use these funds to purchase computers for our Job Resource Center and throughout the new building.

2. Time – The Light House is also asking for a donation of time to assist in the install and/or maintenance issues of the IT within the shelter. Those companies who are interested in donating time would be

directed to contact Holly Mallonee via email at mallonee@annapolisLightHouse.org to discuss needs and talents and try to make a match. The shelter looking for a group of volunteers who would be able to set up all of our new computers and software once the building receives its Use and Occupancy permit.

3. Equipment – although it is not ideal, the shelter is open to any companies that might want to donate gently used PCs or peripheral products. Small amounts of equipment open up another host of issues with internal and networking compatibility, however, the shelter will absolutely entertain any equipment donations as well. The only requirement is that the PC's can run XP on a windows server. Again, Holly Mallonee would assist with this.

Last month on the NBC Nightly News they noted that homelessness is up 30 percent since 2009. (http://dailynightly.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2010/08/11/4870031-its-about-the-economy)

The new facility will provide support to 45 men and women as an emergency 90 day shelter offer 5 family apartments as transitional housing, act as a resource and support center offering education, job training, and life skill services, and now, finally, offer chronically homeless people a day center where they can receive basic human services. The current shelter has 15 beds. There will be nearly 60 computer terminals inside the building for shelter staff, family apartments, day center visitors, and single long term visitors so that they can access job search information, do research, and have a place to contact their families. The shelter directors have compiled their list of needs with the assistance of a consultant. Now they need to find the funding for it.

According to CRTC Executive Director Kris Valerio, "The mission of the CRTC is to energize and propel the advancement of technologies with the exchange of ideas, expertise and business and partnership opportunities. Since the Light House is specifically in great need of technical assistance— both in terms of financial donation and training support— it just made sense that the fastest growing tech community in the region should lend the power of the network to this important cause. We would love to be able to say that our member companies single handedly wired the new homeless shelter so that thousands of people each year have a chance at making a better life for themselves!"

This initiative is being chaired by CRTC Social Media Marketing Chairperson Liz Thibodeau of Take One Digital Media, liz@take-one.net and the creative work on the campaign is being donated by member company The Sutter Group. According to Liz: "This campaign represents everything the CRTC is about – technology, community, growth, and optimism."

The list of equipment on the shelter's Wishlist follows:

The Wishlist:

13 ThinkCentre M58 Personal Computers (\$649) \$8,437
13 22" PL2210MW Widescreen LCD Monitors w/ speakers (\$220) \$2,860
40 HP SmartBuy Thin Client (\$282) \$11,280
40 19" HP SmartBuy Widescreen LCD Monitor (\$163) \$6,520
40 ThinkCentre M58 Personal Computer Workstands (\$79) \$3,160

Estimated Total Need: \$32,257

About Chesapeake Regional Tech Council

Founded in 1992, the Chesapeake Regional Tech Council (CRTC) energizes and propels the advancement of technologies with the exchange of ideas, expertise and business and partnership opportunities. The CRTC is a resource for visibility, connections, knowledge and education for technology companies in and around the Annapolis-Washington-Baltimore area, attracting new technology companies to the region and helping emerging technology companies grow and prosper in this increasingly dynamic environment. The CRTC is a non-profit membership organization supported by a grant from the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation and enabled by membership and annual sustaining sponsorship. More than 250 businesses from the Annapolis-Washington-Baltimore area are members of the council, including many of the area's well-known leading technology companies. For more information go to <http://www.chesapeaketech.org> . For more information, please contact Lauren Buffington at 410.222.7410, ext. 129 or lauren@chesapeaketech.org

About The Light House Shelter

The Light House serves as a beacon of hope to Anne Arundel County's most fragile neighbors. For over two decades they have been steadfast in their mission of rebuilding lives with service and compassion by providing shelter, preventing homelessness and empowering people in Anne Arundel County as they work to become self-sufficient. <http://www.annapolisLightHouse.org>

For more information, please contact CRTC Social Media Marketing Chairperson Liz Thibodeau of Take One Digital Media, liz@take-one.net