Computer Ministry

Mike Ponder, one of our Magnolia Point neighbors, has served on The Computer Ministry of Grace Anglican Church for the last several years. Here's some of the good work this ministry is doing.

How do you identify those in need of a computer?

Today, after ten years of helping students, we work

directly with Social Workers and Guidance Counselors in Clay County Schools. Our partnership with Social Workers and Guidance Counselors allows us to help the most needy students, without needing to access personal information of the family or students. Here is just one recent story from one of our Social Worker partners: "I had a student last year, a senior, homeless, and brilliant. His goal is to be an astrophysicist. He was accepted to the University of Tennessee, which is quite an endeavor for a homeless student. He needed a good laptop as well as many other items, including warmer clothes. With the help of the Computer Ministry, he received a nice laptop that will meet his needs for the next few years. This student never asked for anything but knew that he had to accept some help to make his dreams become a reality. Along with new suitcases, clothes, and dorm items, his laptop will help him break the cycle of poverty in his family and begin a new chapter for all those that come after him."

What do you look for in donated laptops and accessories?

We accept donations of laptops, Chromebooks, laptop cases, and computer parts. Laptops that had Windows 7, 10, or 11 installed are the best for refurbishing. Donations of money are also accepted for the purchase of laptop accessories, batteries and keyboards, and software licenses. The Ministry is a licensed Microsoft Refurbisher, and that allows us to purchase Windows 10 and Windows 11 licenses at a low price. We can also accept Android tablets, provided the owner removes their own accounts and data from the devices before they donate them.

What is involved in a typical laptop refurbishing?

For Windows laptops we remove/destroy all data that is on the laptop. We can do that without having any personal information. We sometimes replace the hard drive and then purchase and reload a new copy of Windows and other software for the student to use.

We have volunteers in our ministry who follow specific checklists and procedures to remove, format and replace hard drives and other parts, clean all laptop surfaces, and ensure quality control.

How do you manage the expenses for the parts you might need?

Of course, obtaining donations of laptops that are still in good condition keeps refurbishing expenses low. We maintain a stock of recyclable parts that we have recovered from older laptops such as power supplies, hard drives, cables, keyboards, and laptop bags. We always use available recycled parts when possible. The purchase of other needed parts and accessories has been made possible by generous donations to the Ministry through Grace Anglican Church.

How are you staffed and funded?

All of the staff are volunteers, and currently we have six active volunteer staff. We are funded exclusively by our generous donors. Equipment donations can be dropped off at Grace Anglican Church, 5804 Hwy 17, Fleming Island, FL 32003. Monetary donations can be dropped off or mailed to the above address, designating the Computer Ministry as the recipient. Here's thanking you in advance!

If you'd like to contact the ministry, our lead and primary contact is **Walt Button**. He may be reached by phone at **904-505-9220** or by e-mail at **computers@graceanglican.church**.