

When Jeff Mawhirter started volunteering on the Pikes Peak Habitat Family Partnership Committee, it was with the hope that some day he could find a way to marry his passion for technology with his passion for the families Habitat serves. To Jeff, the deep disadvantages of growing up in the digital age with no computer and no internet are obvious. Work, education, communication, and business have all oriented themselves around the efficiency and capacity of technology. To be without it, is to be shut out from success.

This past year, Jeff's dreams of helping Habitat families with his computer expertise were finally realized. One Economy Corporation, a non-profit organization that has made it their mission to assist low-income families in accessing vital technology, offered Habitat for Humanity the opportunity to participate in their AT&T AccessAll program. For all families that moved into their homes between 2006 and 2008, One Economy has provided free Dell computers, Microsoft Office 2003, and 2 years of free dial-up internet.

Jeff has been busy making the rounds to our families. He personally installs each computer and educates recipients on usage and internet safety. The computers and internet have opened doors for the families that those of us who take technology for granted probably never realized were closed.

Education and self-betterment have been made available at the stroke of a key in the comfort of the living room. Single moms who were struggling through online classes in the hour allotted at the library, now have sufficient time to complete their classwork without the worries of childcare and the price of gas. Children can get online homework help, research science projects, and type book reports. A woman, whose sister is battling cancer, can now keep in constant contact with her through email.

All these things have been accomplished by the power of technology, technology that is largely inaccessible to the substantial sector of our society we call low-income. We are thrilled to be a part of the solution and thank the One Economy Corporation and Jeff Mawhirter for all their hard work.