

**RRR COMPUTER**  
**2018-2019**



**COMMUNITY  
SERVICE  
PROJECT**

Zeyu Wang

YEAH EDUCATION  
**CALIFORNIA**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Purpose of Project</b>	<b>2</b>
Statement of Project Goals	3
Service to Community and its Citizens	3
<b>Planning and Development of Project</b>	<b>5</b>
Planning	5
Development	6
<b>Implementation of Project</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Benefits to and Impact on the Community</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Evidence of Publicity</b>	<b>11</b>
Event Promotion	11
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>15</b>

## Purpose of Project

The Yeah Education PBL Chapter worked with RRRcomputer to recycle computers and give students from low-income families computers. This approach reduces the amount of e-waste produced, and at the same time, gives computers to students who do not have access to computers. RRRcomputer provides our fellow PBL members with the opportunity to contribute to Bay Area community while participating in this projects. The main purpose of our project is to support and implement their mission of recycling and reusing computers to provide computers for students who cannot afford to pay for new computers.

It is shocking to know that in the United States, an estimated 6.9 million tons of electronic waste (42 pounds per person) was generated in 2016, with most of the electronic waste going directly into the trash. In addition, the United States does not have a national law governing e-waste, leaving the issue to the states (Larmer, “E-Waste Offers an Economic Opportunity as Well as Toxicity”). Those statistics and facts have made us realize that without legal constraints, people are discarding electronic products and causing increased pollution from electronic waste. There is a need for people within Bay Area community to work together and stop the further increasing number of e-waste generation. Through this project, we hope to inform the general public that the old electronics at their homes are valuable and can contribute to a good cause.

## Statement of Project Goals

Our member of the Yeah Education Phi Beta Lambda believe in community service; therefore, we created specific goals for this community service project:

1. To build community participation.
2. To develop a sense of citizenship and social responsibility.
3. To inspire individuals to think about what happens to those in need.
4. To help students establish a confident and self-reliant attitude towards life through sincere assistance and kind teaching.
5. To cultivate people's awareness of environmental protection, and teach them how to recycle and utilize waste electronic products.
6. To promote people's understanding of how to deal with waste electronic products in the community.
7. To encourage and attract more partners to join our projects and contribute to creating good communities.

## Service to Community and its Citizens

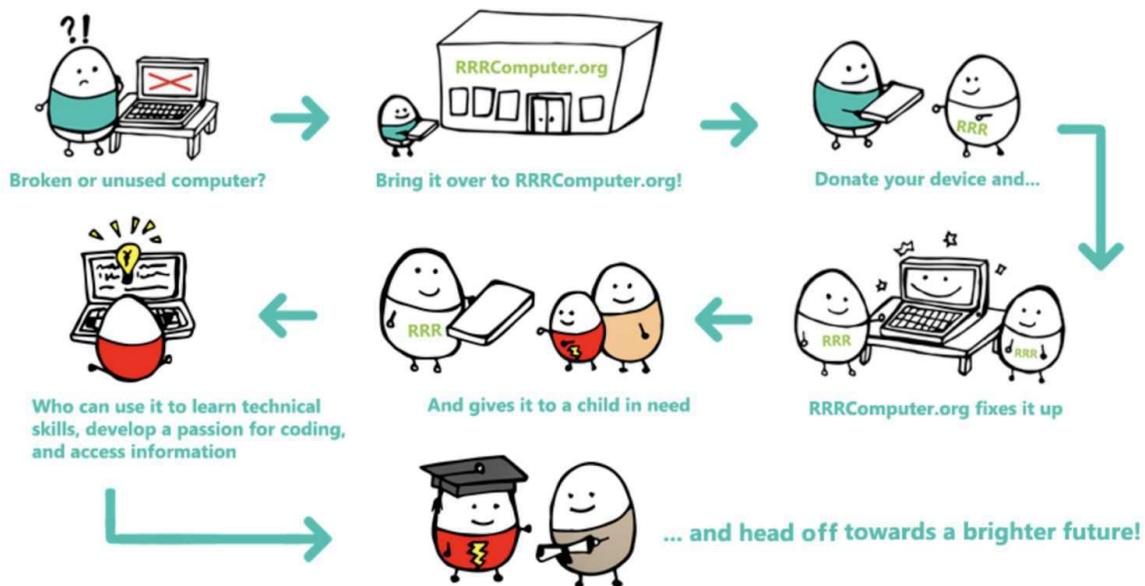
RRRcomputer is a non-profit organization whose vision is a world where all children are prepared for the digital future. Their mission is to promote digital inclusion by repurposing computing devices for the next generation. They believe that in



this era, technical literacy is becoming more and more important to the success of the growing workforce, especially in the thriving technology industry in the San Francisco Bay Area.

However, many students lack the resources they need to buy a computer and the training they need to use their computers. Not only that, the rapid growth in technology consumption and turnover results in the generation of tons of hazardous e-waste per year in the United States.

Since its establishment, RRR Computer links underprivileged children to computers, the Internet and digital training. The organization transfers refurbished devices, that would otherwise be recycled or discarded, in order to turn e-waste into a life-changing opportunity for young people in the Bay Area. In addition, they provided the youngsters with programming classes to help them to prepare for the increasingly digital future.



In addition to support all the work and mission of RRRcomputer, our team also pay attention to the families who have received computer assistance from RRR computer. Being able to use computers at home not only benefits the children's learning ability, but also helping

parents support their children to complete their homework. Therefore, our mission is to recycle used computers to help families who are unable to purchase computers to improve their children's learning and increase their participation in the children's learning process. In addition to these two aspects, this process helps to develop the social responsibility and mission of our team members and all the workers involved in the project.

## Planning and Development of Project

### Planning

During our first Yeah Education - PBL meeting, we brainstormed ideas about how we can contribute to make the community better. Some of us pointed out that there are many students who come from low-income families that cannot afford the cost of computers. These students have a strong demand for computer in studying, especially for the STEM majors like computer science and engineering -- which need computers to learn about the technology. Even though the Bay area is known for its prosperous development, many people are still living below the poverty line. The income inequality is a serious problem in the San Francisco Bay Area. Students from middle the upper class usually get new computers within a few years and throw their old computers in relatively good condition. We were seeking the chance of helping the students from low-income families. After researching, one of our group members figured out that we can work with RRRcomputer, a non-profit organization in the San Francisco Bay Area which promotes digital inclusion by repurposing computing devices for the next generation. Its mission statement stated on its website catches our eyes immediately: "RRRComputer.org promotes digital inclusion by repurposing computing devices for the next generation."

RRRcomputer needs volunteers to collect the data and advertise. Since most of us major in economics, we can apply the knowledge that we learned from our school to work with RRR computer. As a result, we found working with RRR computer was the most in line with the spirit of PBL, and all of our group members agreed with the suggestion of working with RRRcomputer. Their mission aligns with ours, and we were confident that volunteering with RRRcomputer could definitely benefit the community and provided resources for the children in need.

## Development

The overall project was to help reuse resources and provide learning devices for a particular group. Our members believed that we had the obligation to be environmental friendly and bring equal learning opportunity to the children. So we needed to increase the impact of RRRcomputer and collect the old computers from donors as much as we could. To achieve this goal, we divided our work into two stages: outreach and donation drive.

Firstly, we connected with clubs in our colleges during club rush. Some of us were from Berkeley City College, and some were from Costa Contra College. For the members from Berkeley City College, we connected with the president of the BCC Computer Science Club. The club owned lots of old computers with some small problems that they did not use anymore, and the officers had no idea about how to deal with these computers. After talking with Computer Science Club, they showed their strong willingness of donating their old computers to RRRcomputer.

At Costa Contra College, we found there were many old computers stored in their college's library. Those old computers could not be used due to the outdated programs, and they occupied lots of useful space in the school's library. Our members decided to speak with the Dean of the school library about computer donation. When the Dean of the school library heard about our organization and our idea, she was very excited and said the school's library was willing to pay for the old computers' delivery.

Besides reaching out to the school organizations, we also set up donation drives on campus and encouraged students to donate the old computers to RRRcomputer. We contacted with one of the team members at RRRcomputer about our idea on organizing a donation drive at our school, and he was so grateful about it.

## Implementation of Project

On the week of 11.13, we organized the donation drive at Berkeley City College for 3 continuous days. We arrived on campus and set up the table at 10:30PM. The donation drive last for 3 hours. Thanks to our promotion beforehand, some students stopped by our table, donated their old computers, and some of them donated electronic devices and hardwares that could be reuse.

Besides the computers we collected at the donation drive, we were also responsible for



transporting the 20 computers donated from the Contra Costa College Library and the BCC Computer Science Club to RRRcomputer. The biggest challenge for us was to organize the delivery of the computers. As that was the first time we delivered such a big amount of electronic devices, we wanted to make sure that nothing goes wrong. If we dropped the computers accidentally, the workers of RRRcomputer might have to put extra energy and time on repairing. In order to avoid this problem, we asked people who had the experiences of delivering the computers to help us finish delivering. RRRcomputer provided us with large plastic boxes with lids and packing foam for packing the computers.

We arrived at Contra Costa College Library at 10:00 am on September 17th, and started to pack the computers. After careful packaging and careful transportation by the staff and our team members, the 14 computers were shipped to the RRR computer company at 11:50 am. Subsequently, the transportation work of BCC was equally smooth. So 20 computers were shipped to the RRR computer at 3 pm. We also relayed the statistics on computer information, the expectations of the BCC Computer Science Club and the Contra Costa College Library computer owner to the RRR computer. Meanwhile, we were grateful for the RRR computer for providing us with this platform to participate in the recycling of used computers. Our team members learned how to pack and transport computers, and we also enhanced our hands-on ability and social responsibility.

## Benefits to and Impact on the Community

Together with RRRcomputer, we were able to create huge impact on the community. Firstly, we raised the attention of e-waste issue. The pollution of e-waste is becoming a serious

social problem and causing harmful effects to our community. The donation drive we organized helped acknowledge the need for recycling in electronic devices. Dealing with an old computer is complicated. When recycling a computer which is out of use, the workers had to take all the parts apart and deliver them to different departments. Many discarded computers were still far from their deadline, and that caused a waste of resources. After we collected old computers from the donation drive, RRRcomputer would fix them, handed them out to the people who need. Therefore, it decreased the e-waste by increasing the resource recovery and utilization.

The project brought many positive side effects. For instance, the donation of the old computers provided more space for students activities in school. In Costa Contra College, the old computers occupied lots of useful space. I noticed that when the students prepared for the events, they had to avoid the places where computers can interfere with their activities. The old computers also brought lots of dust and decreased the air condition in the building. When we took all the old computers from Costa Contra College, the library became clean and bright.

The old computers we collected gave opportunities for students from low-income families to change their lives. Computers became a necessary appliance for schools, especially for some STEM majors such as Computer Science. Although many schools' libraries allow students to borrow laptops from the libraries, there are great restrictions on when and where students can use computers. That could be a significant drag on student achievement. Through RRRcomputer, students from low-income families are able to have their own computers at home, that will be beneficial for their success and achieve social equity. This helps them to easily conduct computer-related subjects, give them opportunities, and develop their talents.

The most significant impact is that we have increased the visibility of RRRcomputer, and expanded the public base of computers donation. During our donation drive, many students noticed our actions and asked about our project. After explaining our work and our mission to them, many students showed the strong interest in volunteering for RRRcomputer and donating their old computers. This did not only increases the influence of RRRcomputer, but also benefited the community as a whole.



## Evidence of Publicity

### Event Promotion

To promote our donation drive, we designed flyers to inform the students about this meaningful event and posted the flyers on the notice boards around campus with school approval. In addition, we also sent out emails to our classmates and made announcement let more students know about this meaningful event.

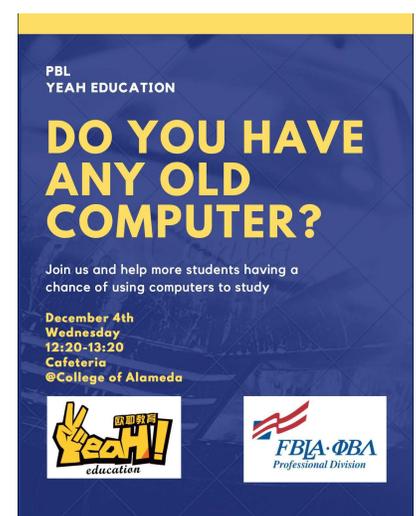
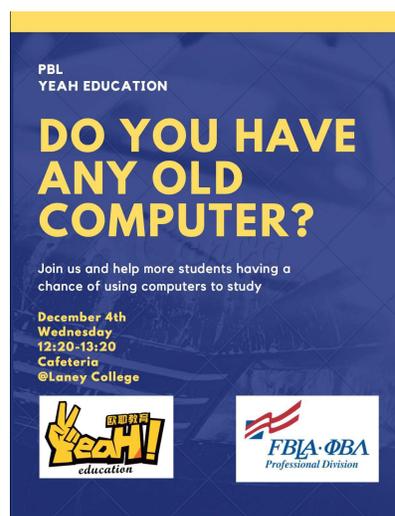
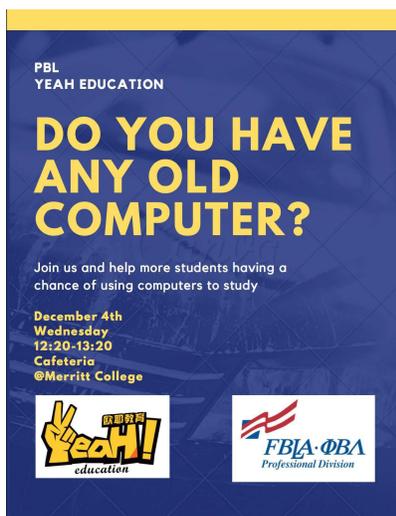
With our help, RRRcomputer has successfully recycled and repaired more than 300 used computers, which are currently available to 86 customers. A further 430 people were therefore affected. These students are enjoying the knowledge and convenience that the computer brings to them because they are helped by the RRRcomputer. Some of our PBL members enjoyed working with RRRcomputer so much that they decided to become a long-term volunteer. They applied their knowledge and helped refurbish old computers.

After collecting old computers in Berkeley City College and Contra Costa College, we wanted to attract more students to participate in our project. Then, we connected with the Associated Student of Berkeley City College(ASBCC) and asked them for help. After talking



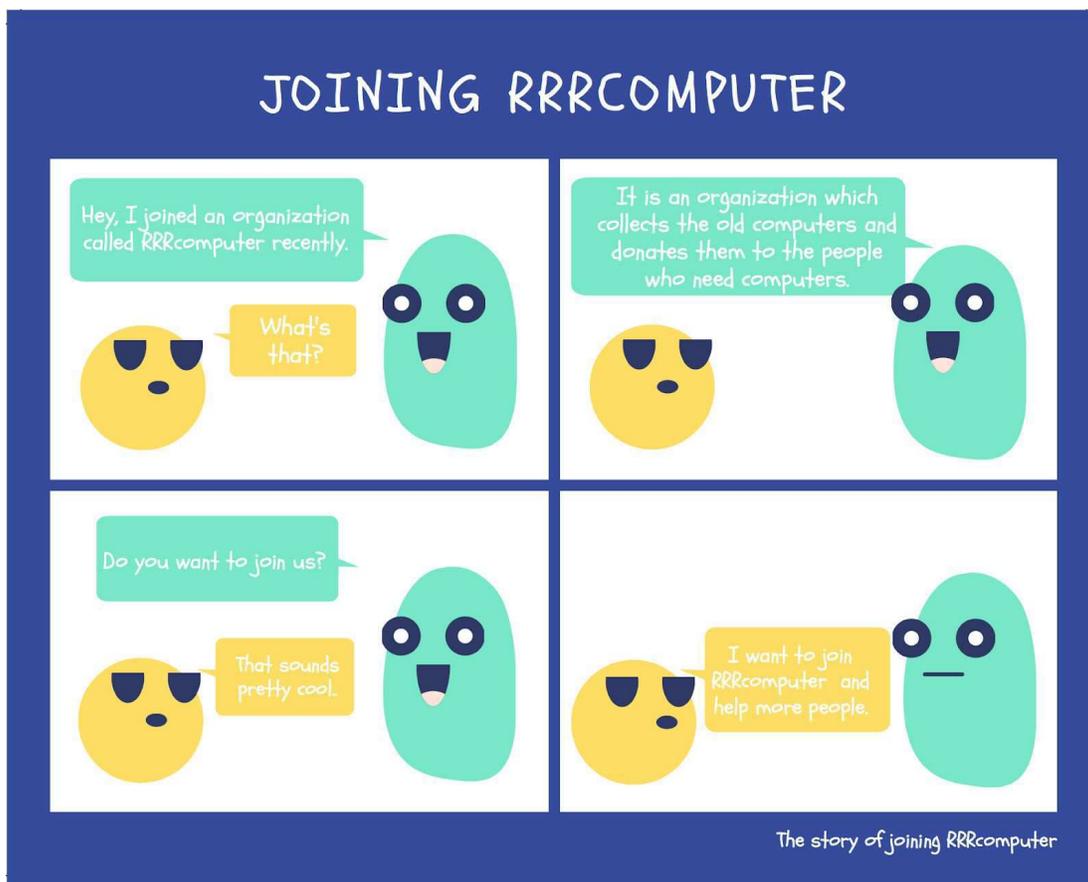
about our purpose, the president of ASBCC suggested us to be contacted with Associated Student of every college of Peralta district, which includes Berkeley City College, Laney College, College of Alameda, and Merritt College. Then, we decided to hold events in every college of the Peralta district to let more students get involved in RRRcomputer. We made flyers and presentations to spread the information about RRRcomputer in the events. During the events in every college of Peralta district, we let more students know what Phi Beta Lambda is and engage them to do something that can help others who need help in our community. The following three pictures are the posters that we handed out in each college of Peralta district.

To engage more PBL members to join our project and reach a bigger audience outside our chapter, we planned to contact other chapter officers and asked them to get their members involved. From the experiences of previous events, we felt the most useful thing to engage more members to join RRRcomputer is to ask the current PBL members who join RRRcomputer to bring their friends to be in our project. During California PBL, we met lots of PBL members from other chapters. Then, we handed out the flyers of our Community Service Project and told them to bring their friends to join RRRcomputer and help more students in need.



“My daughters attend a tech school, so all their school work is on computers. My twin daughters use the computer daily. The computer allows me to better support them with their homework.”

-From Computer Donation Recipient



## Conclusion

Some people use computers to understand the world, and some people use it to change the world. Our chapter's desire is to give back to the community and prepare all children for the digital future of the world. RRRcomputer aims to help poor children who cannot afford to buy a computer by accepting donated used computers and regenerating them, which giving them a chance to change their lives. Our PBL chapter members are so grateful that we are able to work with RRRcomputer and able to help the low-income families to gain access to resources that they could not afford. We believe our community service project is able to raise the attention of the general public on how to recycle and reuse electronics, as well as the issue in poverty.



## References

Larmer, Brook. *E-Waste Offers an Economic Opportunity as Well as Toxicity*. July. 2018. The New York Times. 1 March. 2019

<<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/05/magazine/e-waste-offers-an-economic-opportunity-as-we-ll-as-toxicity.html>>