

Guyanese kids to benefit from new fully equipped computer center at Cove and John Ashram

Compliments of Zara Realty and others

Students who attend the Hindu College and the Cove and John Ashram will now be able to advance in the world of technology thanks to Zara Realty of NY, Jay Subraj and Sarwan Kumar. Because of their unselfish contribution these kids time can now better spent at the Pranav Computer Training Centre, (at Cove and John Ashram), which was officially declared open last Friday by Prime Minister Samule Hinds in the presence of Minister of Labour Manzor Nadir and other dignitaries. Before Friday, computer was just a word to the kids. The Ashram had not one single computer. The group contributed 22 Dell dual core CPUs with 19-inch flat screen Dell monitors, five network printers and other accessories. There are another eight computers in transit for the training centre. Additionally, a total of 1100 feet of expandable cable was installed as part of the project by Jay Sobhraj's son, Amir Sobhraj and his nephew Tony Subraj. The building which was rehabilitated received new electrical wiring with newly acquired equipment. Mr. Tony Yassin was responsible for shipping the computers free of cost.

The centre was dedicated to the memory of the parents of Mrs. Sobhraj and Mr. Sarwan Kumar who were both alumni at

the Hindu College and wanted to give back to the institution and Guyana.

In a Kaieteur News article this week Jay Sobhraj was quoted as saying, "This is a dream come through for many." According to the article, the IT initiative at the training centre, as well as network design, general setting up and operational aspect of the facility was done by, Naresh Singh, another US-based Guyanese and information technologist. Singh, like others took time out to give one week of his time to this project. He conducted some computer technology training workshop covering topics from the micro processors to the design and builds out of a local area network and expressed surprise at the way in which the some two dozen students under his supervision were able to grasp the technical skills and knowledge of the workshop in a short time.

A computer instructor has been hired to facilitate training programs for a year which Zara Realty will be paying for.

"These programs include an initial 40-hour basic PC technician program, the A+ certified, basic computer skills for adults, and one program streamlined for children."

It is open to the general public, and already a computer club has been formed with the



R to L Mr and Mrs Jay Sobhraj PM Samuel Hinds and Naresh Singh.



Tony Subraj right with Prime Minister Sam Hinds center and his cousin Amir Sobhraj left at the PM office.



The Computer Lab at the Cove and John Ashram.

aim of spreading IT awareness nationwide.

Singh sees Guyana as not just an outsourcing location for call centre services, but opines, "Guyana can become a major supplier of back office IT support, given the advantage of speaking English."

He said that there should be more focus on hardware and software engineers on the local shores.

According to Singh, among his objectives for being part of the development of the centre is to support the educational

institutions in their preparation for computer studies at the CXC level.

And Tony Subraj, in an invited comment said, "I hope the donation of these computers helps in developing the country in bringing it closer to the world in the area of technology". Like his Uncle Jay, he said that this was just the beginning adding that they are in discussion with GTI in upgrading their facilities as well. He also told us that before the center opened last Friday there were no computers.

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