

PR.138
3rd March 2005

New learning opportunities for local children

Computer donation to help develop the literacy skills of children with learning difficulties

Bolton COG (Children's Opportunity Group), a charity caring for the needs of children with learning difficulties, is set to improve access to computer-based learning opportunities thanks to a free donation from two local companies.

Bolton COG is accepting PCs donated by Çedilla Systems, a leading local computer services company, and Alexander & Co, an established firm of chartered accountants based in Manchester. The contribution consists of 20 PCs, which will be loaded with software to help children improve their literacy and build confidence.

Bolton COG already owns some computers to help children with conditions such as autism and ADHD (Attention-Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder) to improve spelling, reading and writing skills. The donation will bring the total number of computers available to children to 23. Software is loaded onto the PCs which allow children to interact with the programs to improve communication and interaction skills. All of the donated computers will have sound cards and the ability to run programs using sound and visual stimuli suitable for children with learning difficulties.

"Previously, we only had a handful of computers for over 66 children" commented Nicola Pearcey, President of Bolton COG. "Many of them were missing out. Now, all of our children will have access to learning facilities throughout the day".

"We plan to let children use these facilities at the Centre or at home" continued Nicola. "If the home environment is suitable, we are considering allowing the children use of some of the PCs at home. This will enable children with additional needs, who may struggle to get to the Centre on certain days, to make the most of our resources. It will also allow them to work and develop at their own pace, without the pressures or distractions of a peer group."

The PCs were originally the property of Alexander & Co, and will be rebuilt by Çedilla Systems. Çedilla will clean the machines of any redundant and confidential information, restore them to a good-as-new condition, and install them at the Bolton Centre in April.

“We are delighted that we were able to help a local charity like Bolton COG” explained Mike Dickson, Managing Director at Cedilla Systems. “We specialise in Microsoft Business Solutions software, but up until recently, we rarely got involved in PCs and hardware. But since the launch of our Infrastructure division, we now install new PCs and servers, which gives us the opportunity to re-deploy those computers we replace. As the computers belonged to Alexander & Co, they were instrumental in helping us make the donation”.

Stephen Verber, partner at Alexander & Co, commented: “We have recently invested more than £100,000 in new hardware and software. We are delighted that the old machines could be put to good use and that some many children will benefit in the future.”

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About Bolton Children’s Opportunity Group

Bolton COG began in a very small way in October 1979, and its aim was to provide help and support for Under Fives with special educational needs and their families, by providing a stepping stone between home/playgroup and or nursery. It enabled children with and without special educational needs to play and learn together. It gave parents the chance to meet others with similar problems.

About Cedilla Systems:

Cedilla Systems Ltd are based at Waterfold Business Park, Bury, and specialise in the development and implementation of tailored business software solutions for small to medium sized businesses in the UK. Cedilla’s success has been built on the powerful Navision software range, an ERP software package from Microsoft Business Solutions which is sold and supported in 108 countries worldwide. Cedilla is a Microsoft Gold Partner for Business Solutions, staffed by certified professionals dedicated to providing customised solutions, training and support services.

About Alexander & Co

Established in 1976, Alexander & Co is a forward thinking accountancy practice, providing an extensive range of accountancy, taxation and corporate finance advisory services to a range of entrepreneurial clients.