Good*TALK*

"Windows 7 Pro, 4 gigs of memory, for $80? What a deal!"

— Gregory Williams (at right), on the computer systems 501technet supplies to area nonprofits

501technet is a program of the Tulsa Community Foundation that offers affordable technology products and assistance to Oklahoma nonprofits. 501technet's services include providing refurbished computer hardware and equipment; network advising; and desktop support. 501techtet has been able to assist more than 100 nonprofits.

The **A+ Certification Training** course at Goodwill's Tulsa *WORKS* gives students basic skills for computer repair or a career in IT. Completion of the class is equivalent to 6-9 months of IT experience, with an eye toward passing the A+ exam.

In a new collaboration, Goodwill's A+ students volunteer at 501technet. The students gain valuable hands-on experience and 501technet gets needed help refurbishing equipment.

We chatted with **Dave Rose**, refurbishment program manager at 501technet, and **Gregory Williams**, Goodwill A+ student.

Rose / *Courtesy photo*

Rose on partnership with Goodwill

"It's been phenomenal, so helpful."

"(The volunteers) have picked it up so fast, they're so good, super helpful. It would've been me doing all this if not for them."

"The other day, Greg taught me something I've never seen. … I said, 'I didn't know that was a way to do it.'"

"It's one thing to learn in class, another to put your hands in. You have to solve that problem."

Williams on experience at 501technet

"Work here has its perks. You get to see stuff, things you've never seen before."

"You get to research, find out what it is, and what it does. … I'd never see a RAID card."

"The educational experience, I consider that kind of the major perk of being here."

"(I) … probably go through about 12 (computers) a day. … The biggest order so far was 19, between me and Ray. … It depends on how much you have to do."

Williams on the A+ class

"(My wife) happened upon the ad on Craigslist. She saw it, and was like 'Really?' She called me up. She told me 'Goodwill has a computer course, for free!' I called that afternoon. They said 'we got class starting Monday.' "

"God bless the class! It was a lot of what I knew but not formally … . Yes I was doing things right; now I know the reason why."

"With the knowledge you can start own business: salvage, networking, building computers, maintenance. So many aspects you can do, so many ways to go."

— Interview & photo by Modisane Kwanza for Goodwill Industries of Tulsa