



Director of Recreation Lillian Teska, Keith Kelley, who arranged for the computer donation, and Port Chester Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre residents Betty Fader of Harrison and William Peterson of Port Chester at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the facility's Internet Café Wednesday.

Nursing home residents to become computer savvy

BY CLAIRE K. RACINE

The Port Chester Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre celebrated the opening of "The Internet Café" at their facility on High Street Wednesday. The "Café" includes three computers donated by CompuCom in Ossining and soon will include webcams allowing residents to Skype their family and friends who have been discharged home.

The Centre provides both long- and short-term health care including 24-hour skilled nursing care and short-term rehabilitation. Administrators hope all residents will make use of the "Café."

In order to ensure that residents can fully utilize the new computers, two workers from Family Services of Westchester will begin holding twice weekly training sessions in September.

"Our job is to make sure the seniors of Port Chester have what they need to help them have a good quality of life," said Rosalie Hines, the Family Services of Westchester program director. Teaching them how to use computers is one way to help improve their lives, she said.

Lillian Teska, the director of therapeutic recreation and volunteer services at the Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre, came up with the idea for the café along with the assistant director. Both of them have worked in centers with computers before where they were quite successful. They started brainstorming about

how the Centre could acquire some computers when they remembered that the husband of Tanya Kelley, a fellow employee, worked with computers. Keith Kelley was only too happy to help.

CompuCom was going to get rid of several computers, Keith Kelley said. "I thought it would be a good idea to donate them."

Residents will be able to use the computers to Skype and email friends and family as well as for varied tasks such as making greeting cards and banners.

Teska hopes the "Café" will draw more residents out of their rooms and allow them to socialize with their fellow computer users. "This is a chance to get more residents involved in activities," she said.

"I know I will use the computers for communicating," said Port Chester resident Rhonda Tuton. "My friends in Germany and France know how to use Skype and I'll learn and be able to talk to and to see all of them and my family. I'm really excited about this."

Five-year Centre resident Betty Fader, formerly of Harrison, is also enthusiastic.

"I want to learn how to use the computers," she said. "All my kids and friends know how."

When asked if she, too, would use Skype, Fader laughed and said: "Why not? I'll try."



Port Chester Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre residents celebrate at the ribbon cutting ceremony for their new Internet Café by throwing confetti.

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