

NEWS RELEASE

Mission WV, Inc.
Frameworks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 11, 2009

Contact: Carrie Robey, FrameWorks
Mission WV, Inc.
304-562-0723
1-866-CALL-MWV

COMPUTER CLASS ENRICHES THE LIVES OF FOSTER CHILDREN Mission West Virginia's BIKISI program a great success.

During the holiday season, Mission West Virginia was able to enrich the lives of foster children who had no family to visit during the holidays. Thanks to a grant provided by the Mollohan Foundation, foster children who live at Stepping Stones, a group home facility for foster children, were able to participate in the Build It Keep It Share It (BIKISI) Program, a youth computer education program that is normally provided in rural WV communities during the summer.

“These young men were not able to visit with family over the holiday” said Susan Fry, Stepping Stones Executive Director, “and the positive engagement, knowledge and priceless opportunity this program afforded them certainly brought a smile to their faces during a time that is very difficult for many of our kids.”

“Since the start of the program, BIKISI has helped over 700 students from every county in West Virginia.” said Matthew DeLong, BIKISI Instructor. “The students I taught at Stepping Stones were like sponges. They soaked up all the information I could give them. After talking with them I can tell they will use this knowledge and their computers to better themselves in life and school.”

The BIKISI Program is a weeklong training that provides youth with the tools, parts, and knowledge needed to build their own computer. During the week they learn basis computer building skills. These include hardware and software installation, trouble shooting, and repair. They also learn the history of computers and how they are used today, computer terminology, and proper care and maintenance. At the end of the training, the student is able to take the computer home with them. BIKISI is a partnership of Mission WV, Inc, the Workforce Investment Board and Regional Education Service Agency (RESA).

To learn more about the BIKISI program or if you would like to find out more information on how you can adopt a WV foster child, please contact Mission West Virginia at 1-866-CALL-MWV or visit their website at www.missionwv.org

###