Leaders:

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Meeting Times: Wednesdays 6-7:30pm

Meeting Location: Westminster-Thurber Community  
717 Neil Ave, Columbus, OH 43215

Objectives:

To be a reliable resource for solving the technological needs of Westminster residents.

Semester Goals:

- Work with every resident who comes with an issue each week, leaving none for following week if possible
- Grow a large and reliable volunteer group to help achieve our first goal

Project History:

The Westminster Computer Classes project started in fall 2007. Initially, in the 2007-2008 school year, the ECOS impact was pretty small. Our work in the classes consisted of a TA-like role. Westminster residents would teach the class and two ECOS volunteers would walk around and help the students when they had trouble. The residents enjoyed having us around, as we gave a slightly different perspective on the class material. At the end of the 10-week program, Westminster asked ECOS to step in and teach the classes. Starting in Fall 2008, ECOS had the responsibility of revising the teaching manual and teaching the classes for the 10-week program. Thanks to a handful of volunteers, the first three years were a great success. The focus has shifted from teaching predetermined materials to helping residents with their current and individual technology needs. Now the project has much more of “office hours” setup.
Time commitment expected of project members:

There is no expected time commitment. Come by when you can! We can always use your help!

What’s in it for you?

- Developing people skills, patience, and become good at explaining and teaching
- Get to meet some very interesting and nice people who managed to live and work in a world before computers!

Project Specific Information

Each week ECOS members hold “office hours” in the Westminster Retirement Home Computer Lab where residents can come and ask computer-related questions. Sometimes residents use the computers in the lab, sometimes they will bring a laptop with them, and sometimes residents will ask volunteers to come upstairs to address a question/problem with their personal desktop computer in their apartment. Volunteers can choose to only answer questions in the lab if that is what they feel most comfortable with. Questions range from basic (how to print) to advanced (do they need to update their operating system), but we can text each other for backup or advice if we need some tech help ourselves. Feel free to drive yourself or you can carpool with the project leaders. Just shoot us a text! Be sure to sign in and out at the front desk of the retirement home upon arrival and departure.