

Tech-To-Go

Salado Public Library
Salado, Texas

Salado Public Library



Two Groups

▶ Students



▶ Job Hunters



Two Ways to Help

▶ Training



▶ Equipment & Internet Access



Tech-To-Go

- ✓ Laptops available for checkout to library patrons.

Dell Latitude E5500 series



- ✓ Clear Spot 4G Personal HotSpot Internet Access




4G Internet Access. 4 Nonprofits. 4 Less.

www.mobilebeacon.org

Tech-To-Go

▶ What is available:

- Gale Testing and Education Reference



- Brainfuse



- Mango Languages



- In English

- TWDL.ORG



Tech-To-Go

- ▶ What is NOT Available:
 - Facebook
 - Youtube
 - Other social media and game sites

Tech-To-Go

- ▶ Who can use the computers?
 - Students 14 years old and up
 - Job hunters or people looking to change their careers
 - Patron for at least 3 months with no fines and a good record
 - Adults must have a valid Texas Driver License

Tech-To-Go

- ▶ How can they get the computer?

Meet with the BTOP administrator



Complete and sign a contract



Three week check out with one renewal –
further renewals depend upon the evaluation of
the BTOP administrator

What about security?

Factory

- ▶ Computrace by Absolute Software
- ▶ Service Agreement
- ▶ Anti-virus



Library Added

- ▶ Cybersitter
- ▶ Deep Freeze
- ▶ Contract
 - specifies patron responsibility in caring for the computer
 - and a \$20/day fine for overdue computers

So any problems?

- ▶ We have had very few problems.
 - 2 computers damaged With the service agreement both were repaired and back in service within a day.
 - 1 hacker. The computer shut itself down and alerted us. She was the only person banned from the program during the entire 3 years.
 - One computer was stolen from a patron's car. They brought in the police report and case number and we notified Computrace. They handled the case for us.

Minor Nuisances

- ▶ Normal wear and tear. They start to look a little beat up. But they still work!



- ▶ Smokers. We had to find a way to deal with the smell of cigarette smoke.



ESL Classes

- ▶ We wanted to make these computers available to ESL students but we had a hard time getting them into the library.



We decided to take the computers to the students. We were able to reach them through their churches.

ESL Classes

- ▶ They had an existing ESL program.
- ▶ We partnered with them using both Mango and In English
- ▶ We were given a room and a contact within the Spanish language congregation who recruited students.
- ▶ We used our language and our test prep programs

First Baptist Church

St. Stephens Catholic Church

Basic Computer Skills

- ▶ Some students had never used a computer and needed basic skills training.
- ▶ Microsoft Digital Literacy



<http://www.microsoft.com/digitalliteracy>

Results

- ▶ The BTOP program has allowed us to reach out to communities that had been difficult to reach in the past.
 - ▶ Both Tech-To-Go and our classes have met the needs of many in Salado.
 - ▶ Many who were not aware of how the library could help them are now active participants at the library.
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Future

- ▶ We plan to expand Tech-To-Go
 - ▶ We also want to expand the program to younger patrons.
 - ▶ We will continue to participate in the ESL programs.
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THANK YOU

Tech-To-Go