



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA ANNOUNCES \$100,000 TECHNOLOGY GIFT TO PARTNERSHIP FOR LA SCHOOLS

In a first-of-its-kind gift, L.A. SHARES donates hundreds of computers, printers, TVs, digital cameras, laptops and office furniture to the six Partnership schools

LOS ANGELES – Delivering computer and electronic equipment to meet the basic needs of technology-deprived schools, Mayor Villaraigosa today announced a \$100,000 donation from L.A. SHARES and its corporate donors for the Partnership for LA Schools.

“Six months ago, we said the Partnership for LA Schools would flood its classrooms with the resources and attention they desperately need,” Villaraigosa said. “Today, I am proud to open the flood gates, with a \$100,000 gift to our six schools.”

This is an unprecedented gift from L.A. SHARES and its corporate donors. Normally, L.A. SHARES distributes its goods through a lottery system on an item-by-item basis to non-profits and schools throughout Los Angeles County.

This large-scale, packaged donation to the Partnership for LA Schools is a first-of-a-kind gift that represents L.A. SHARES' commitment to and support of Mayor Villaraigosa's school reform efforts.

"L.A. SHARES knows how great the need is because every day we are in touch with schools and non-profits looking for equipment and materials for their programs," said Bert Ball, Executive Director of L.A. SHARES. "Its wonderful to be able to fill that need by distributing things that businesses no longer need to people who will make good use of them and, in so doing, keeping it out of our landfills."

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L.A. SHARES worked with five corporate donors – The Endeavor Agency, Northrop Grumman, Sony Corporation of America, The Walt Disney Company and Edison International – to package a gift that would specifically benefit the six schools within The Partnership – Roosevelt and Santee high schools, and Hollenbeck, Stevenson, Gompers and Markham middle schools.

In addition to dozens of VCRs, CD-Roms and modems, some of the donated equipment from L.A. SHARES and the corporate donors include:

- 120 computer workstations with flat screen monitors
- 300 printers
- 115 MP3 players
- 31 televisions, including several plasma screens
- 24 camcorders and 25 digital cameras
- 19 laptop computers
- 210 office chairs
- 238 boxes of binders

"When teachers and parents voted to join the Partnership for LA Schools, they also voted to end a long pattern of being underserved. This donation from LA SHARES and Mayor Villaraigosa is the first step to providing students in the Partnership with the resources they need to give them a competitive edge in the classroom and the workplace," said Councilmember José Huizar.

Beginning with this initial \$100,000 donation, the Mayor Villaraigosa and L.A. SHARES have committed to work with teachers and principals at the six Partnership schools to draw up a comprehensive list of each schools needs for equipment, supplies and technology.

One goal of this ongoing needs assessment will be to broaden the business community's awareness and involvement in meeting the needs of public schools.

At Roosevelt High School, where the Mayor made today's announcement, more than 4,400 students and 200 teachers work off of largely out-dated computers and software badly in need of upgrading.

More than two-thirds of the Boyle Heights school's computers are at least five years old, with some technology so old that the school district no longer supports it. In one of the school's computer labs that received an upgrade in the past year, half of computers are still 10 years old.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, students in low-income families are almost twice as likely to have access to a computer at school than at home, while minority students rely heavily on school as their single point of access to computers and the internet.

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L.A. SHARES is a non-profit that receives new and used office equipment and supplies from local businesses and redistributes the items free-of-charge to non-profits and schools throughout Los Angeles County.

Since 1991, L.A. SHARES has worked with over 1,000 local companies to give away more than \$120 million worth of goods and materials to over 2,500 organizations throughout Los Angeles.

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