

Rockland Family Shelter Executive Director Carolyn Fish expressed gratitude for the program, saying, "Because of Verizon Wireless' Hopeline Program, lives are being made safer. Our clients now have the ability to quickly access assistance using the cell phones provided by Verizon." Last fall, in addition to phones, Verizon gave Rockland Family Shelter a \$25,000 grant that the agency is using for programming and training in the new women's training center. Verizon Communication Foundation has matched this amount, raising the total donation to \$50,000. If you or someone you know is being abused, call the Rockland Family Shelter Hotline at 634-3344. You are not alone. Someone cares and can help.

Computer Re-Use

In another compassionate re-use program sponsored by RCSWMA at the HHW Facility, Rockland PC User's Group, Inc. will collect your old computer equipment, refurbish it and put it to good use. You will have the satisfaction of knowing your old computer will help to bring someone into the 21st Century -- giving that person the tools to be computer literate today, and preparing them for tomorrow's more technical world. Computers are donated to a family, student, senior citizen or organization in the Rockland County area who cannot afford their own computer. For 15 years, PC Users Group has been dedicated to public education and community service relating to the PC. "Our members come from all walks of life and levels of computer experience," said PC Users Group Director Hank Feingberg. "People call us the 'group with the big hearts,'" he continued. "Most of our volunteers are retirees who give freely and generously of their time to help better the lives of others. People-to- People, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the Rockland County Department of Social Services are some of the local organizations that have helped PC Users Group find recipients."

People-To-People operates a food pantry for needy families and, as People-To-People Program Director Carol Galione points out, "When families are struggling for food, computers are a real luxury. But children in all families need computers for schoolwork. People-To-People and our families are extremely grateful for the computers we get through this program. It makes a huge difference in the lives of hundreds of children and families here in Rockland."

The PC Users Group has won awards and recognition from the Rockland County Legislature, the NYS Assembly, the Rockland County Department of Social Services, Town of Clarkstown, Senator Morahan, Town of Ramapo, and the Rockland Independent Living Center, among others. PC Users Group is one of the first MAR's (Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher) appointed in the United States.

Every Day is Earth Day

The HHW is open year round, and at the RCSWMA, every day is like Earth Day. On any day of the year, the staff and administration of the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority are working to keep our environment healthy and beautiful. Your curbside recyclables are processed for re-sale, municipal solid waste is responsibly shipped and disposed, school children visit and learn about the environment, and yard waste and biosolids are made into useable compost. RCSWMA staff research new programs and earth friendly initiatives – and discuss the feasibility of cutting edge technologies like biofuel alternatives, solar augmentation for HVAC, anaerobic biodigestion of MSW, and other developing industry initiatives that may one day be a part of every day life here in Rockland County.

So, this Earth Day, be good to the environment: dispose of your household hazardous waste at the RCSWMA HHW Facility, and while you are there, please be mindful of our compassionate re-use programs, and consider giving your unwanted items to these and other re-use programs.

Contacts:

Verizon – David Samberg, 365-7212
PC Users Group – Hank Feinberg, 352-7111

Rockland Family Shelter – Carolyn Fish, 634-3344
People To People – Carol Galione, 623-4900, ext. 208