

Cardinal Carter's E-waste day benefits local, national and international causes



By Jeff Doner

Students in the Free the Children Club at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School are working hard this week to get the word out about their second annual E-waste event on May 31.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the students will be at their Bloomington Road school (just west of Yonge Street) collecting everything from VCRs to broken laptops to help raise money for three charities.

'This is an annual fundraiser that we're doing to raise money, but also it's to help the environment,' said Grade 11 student, Madeleine Prater. 'People can bring in their old electronics that don't work, anything from printers, to cell phones, batteries, basically any electronics that don't work.'

This year the school will be raising money for charities, one each at the local, national and international levels.

Rose of Sharon Services for Young Women is a charitable organization that provides support and services to prenatal and parenting young women and their families throughout York Region.

The national charity will be 'One Lap Top Per Child' which is an initiative to support the education of aboriginal children in Northern Ontario communities. The program helps students gain access to tablets and laptops for children in school.

As their international initiative, the school is raising money for Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda that enables orphaned and vulnerable youth to realize their potential by providing them with a safe and secure living environment, health care, education and necessary life skills.

'We've talked to people in the school and people in the community and from what I can tell, everybody is pretty excited about it, especially knowing that the money is going towards not just one charity, but multiple charities,' said Grade 11 student Ramona Silva.

'It's a bit ironic, especially with the 'One Lap Top per Child,' that we're bringing in old, broken laptops and technology and helping to give other children elsewhere new technology. It's definitely something that people have been very receptive to and I think it's going to be very successful.'

The program has also helped to raise money for students traveling to Kenya and India to help build schools.

The students are encouraging anybody to come out to the school and drop off their unwanted electronics to help out the cause. Last year they collected over 18,000 pounds, which raised money to help build a school in Baarind, India.

This year they have upped their target to 25,000 pounds and need a lot of help to reach it. The group will receive \$0.04 per pound from ARTEX, a fully certified e-waste collector and processor under the Ontario Electronic Stewardship Program.

?Last year I didn't think we would do as well as we did,? Prater admitted. ?I didn't think we would be able to fill these two huge totes and I was like, ?how are we going to fill these?' but we did and it was absolutely amazing. I'm definitely confident we'll be able to get two this year and hopefully an overflow, because we are doing all we can to?get the school and the community involved.?