



**2012 Don and Rosemary Vial Awards
for Digital Inclusion:
Outstanding Performance by an
Organization Nominee**



**Oakland Technology
Exchange West**

Reusing the past...building the future
www.otxwest.org

Mr. Bruce Buckelew started the Oakland Technology Exchange (OTX) and Oakland Technology Exchange West (OTXWest) over 15 years ago. During that time, OTX/OTXWest has refurbished and placed in Oakland school, homes and nonprofits over 33,000 computers. Home computers come with family training and free tech support. OTXWest led the effort to establish the GetConnectedOakland.org organization and website in 2011, bringing together over 20 organizations in Oakland that are involved in closing the Digital Divide. OTXWest has established over 40 public access computer labs in Oakland in YMCA, City of Oakland Recreation Centers, Boys and Girls Clubs and numerous churches and other non profit organizations. Don Vial was also very involved in the environment. According to the EPA, refurbishing a computer, rather than manufacturing a new one, saves the environment \$670 or environmental impact. OTXWest has “saved” the environment over \$20,000,000 in environmental impact.

OTXWest is the only known organizations that offer a free home computer to every middle and high school student in a major city. OTXWest also offer opportunities for adult community members to “earn” a computer by volunteering or buy a very low cost, fully functional computer. OTXWest has devoted himself to ending the Digital Divide in Oakland in an environmentally friendly way. OTXWest is also very involved in the process of using technology to solve achievement problems in the Oakland Public Schools. OTXWest has placed over 33000 computers in Oakland homes, schools and non profits while educating the public, mostly low income Oakland families, on the benefits of computers and broadband. Bruce has worked entirely as a volunteer, contributing over 30,000 hours of his time.

OTXWest have formed many partnerships with everyone in Oakland from the Mayor (see the announcement video of the GetConnectedOakland.com campaign on our website www.otxwest.org), to the Oakland Unified School District Superintendent of Schools Tony Smith, the City of Oakland Parks and Recreation, YMCA and many others. Over the past 21 years, Mr. Buckelew and OTXWest have worked with principals in dozens of Oakland schools to provide technology access to students who wouldn't otherwise have access.

Both directly and through other Oakland organizations, OTXWest has been a consistent leader in providing computers, training and technical support. Bruce and OTXWest work closely with the schools in Oakland to provide training and free home computers to families in low income neighborhoods. OTXWest not only provides training in its facility, but also in the schools themselves. The GetConnectedOakland.com campaign is targeted to bring together low cost technology service providers with service organizations in Oakland that have clients in need of access to computers and the Internet. This set of partnership extends the reach of OTXWest and provides access to such groups as foster care youth, incarcerated youth, those returning to Oakland from incarceration and others.

OTXWest has been featured in many newspaper and television reports and interviews. OTXWest has produced and video and manual on how to start an organization like OTXWest and has led webinars on this subject. Long ago, OTXWest discovered that there were two problems with a common solution: the Digital Divide and the e-waste stream. By building a state of the art refurbishing organization, both issues can be addressed with one solution. Don and Rosemary Vial were passionate about addressing both issues.