Old computers for use in Indian schools

volunteers before they are transferred to the shipping agent.

Casey Singh of SNR International has been the shipping agent for the organization since its inception and provides shipping at a substantially reduced rate. Four shipments have already been made.

Dr. Suresh Devasahayam, IIT (Mumbai) wrote this about one of the PCs received: "One PC was given to the village high school in Kattabettu village in the Nilgiris. This is the only high school in a distance of about 10 kms. The high school strength is about 400 and the primary school has about 200 students. The students are from the neighboring villages. The headmaster, Natarajan, was very enthusiastic and made himself available on a Sunday. The headmaster has also on his own solicited donors to give the school cupboards, a small PA system, etc. He obtained a voltage stabilizer for the PC. One of the teachers' son has done a diploma in computers and has volunteered to help the children."

S. Nanda, IIT (Kharagpur), has given feedback on use of another PC. "The students who are borderline in intelligence but have speech problems are able [to convey] their desire for using the toilet, food, drink by typing on the computer."

The Rice students are already collecting computers for the fifth shipment. They are also developing a list of potential recipients

Computer donation — Priya Parthasarthy, Prasanna Gandhi, Sameer Siruguri, all FOYM core group members and Rice students, with donors Venugopal Menon and Sharad Kulkarni.

including schools in Hyderabad (Balika Nilayam), Madras (Nandini School, Vishwa Vidyalaya) and six schools in Uttar Pradesh. Several Houston area individuals and companies have recently donated computers, including Star Pipe Products which donated three computers.

FOYM's focus is towards the transfer of equipment and expertise so that children in such parts of the world will have a better future. FOYM also collects books (mainly technical) that are shipped along with the computers. These books are donated to Vivekananda Seva Mandal that maintains an engineering library for needy students in Mumbai. FOYM has been ship-

ping books along with computers starting with the third shipment.

FOYM volunteers also work with a Rice University initiative called Cyberspace, aimed at imparting computer skills to children from low-income families in Houston. If your family, company or organization has one or more computers which it no longer needs, please contact FOYM at Rice University to donate it.

Call Sameer Siruguri at 713-348-2842 or email siruguri @rice.edu or foym@ruf.rice.edu/ ~foym.

Donations are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law.