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For Release January 10, 2005

Salem CyberSpace Offers e-Training to Non-profits

Verizon makes \$7,500 available for computer training grants to MetroNorth Non-Profits

Salem, Mass., January 10, 2005 - Salem CyberSpace, a nonprofit computer technology learning center, has received funding from the Verizon Foundation to provide technology e-training scholarships to the staff and clients of area non-profit organizations.

Salem CyberSpace, through its TechWorks Partner Program, has been providing training to Massachusetts-based non-profits since 2003. Current TechWorks Partners include Catholic Charities - North, Girls' Inc of Lynn, Citizens for Adequate Housing in Peabody, North Shore Elders of Danvers and St. Joseph's Food Pantry in Salem.

All Massachusetts-based non-profit organizations are qualified to apply for e-Training scholarships once they are approved as a TechWorks Partner. Preference for scholarships will be given to 501 (c) 3 charitable organizations. Each organization is limited to a maximum of four scholarships per year. Scholarships pay for up to 75 percent of the cost of the training. Organizations should apply on line at www.salemcyberspace.org/techworks.htm.

“With these Verizon grants, we now can offer scholarships to help defray the cost of training for many of the area's non-profits. They are increasingly dependent on computers but lack affordable access to training, making it difficult for them to use the latest software applications,” stated Linda E. Saris, Director of Salem CyberSpace.

The Verizon Foundation supports training in new technologies for non-profits so that they can deliver their services more effectively, according to Pat Harty, Verizon's Regional Director of Public Affairs. “We are pleased to offer Verizon e-Training

scholarships for a wide range of courses through Salem CyberSpace for non-profits located in Metro North,” she said. “Verizon is committed to helping non-profits enhance their capacity through new technologies.”

One of Salem CyberSpace’s clients, St. Joseph’s Food Pantry of Salem, Mass., uses computers extensively for administration and food inventory tracking. “Our food pantry depends on many dedicated volunteers. However, as our food inventory systems become more computer-based, we need to train our volunteers and staff on how to use the computer. Salem CyberSpace has been a wonderful partner in providing our volunteers and staff with basic introductory skills, as well as more advanced PC Repair skills. We highly recommend their training,” said Veann Campbell, Director of St. Joseph's Food Pantry.

While Catholic Charities is a large, established organization, it only recently began to require all staff to use Microsoft Outlook for managing calendars and meetings. “We called on Salem CyberSpace to help us with Outlook training in our Boston offices, as well as our Catholic Charities North offices,” said Ann Schwartz, Training Coordinator, Catholic Charities. “They also have served as a valued advisor, as we figure out how to best integrate computer training into our organization.”

About Salem CyberSpace and North Shore Community Action Programs

Salem CyberSpace (www.salemcyberspace.org), located at 98 Lafayette St. in downtown Salem, is an initiative of North Shore Community Action Programs (www.northshorecap.org), a 501 c (3) nonprofit organization. NSCAP is the designated anti-poverty agency serving Salem, Peabody, Danvers, Beverly and 25 cities and towns north of Boston. Its mission is to help low-income people become economically self-sufficient while encouraging the larger community to recognize and eradicate the social and economic barriers that stand between poor families and their economic independence. The goal of Salem CyberSpace (SC) is to help low-income and

unemployed people, as well as the organizations that serve them, learn new computer skills to effect positive change for themselves, their families and their communities. The CyberYouth effort provides academic tutoring and digital arts-based experiential learning to build technical skills, self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills that will lead to improved academics and future education and career options.

Salem CyberSpace works in collaboration with six other community agencies including Salem Harbor Community Development Corporation (www.shdc.org), North Shore Career Center (www.detma.org), Salem Access Television (www.satvonline.org), Point Neighborhood Association, Salem Public Schools Title 1 Program, and Grace Church (www.gcis.org)

About the Verizon Foundation

The Verizon Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications. Verizon Communications Inc. is one of the world's leading providers of communications services. Verizon Foundation last year awarded over 21,000 grants totaling more than \$70 million to charitable and nonprofit agencies that focus on improving basic and computer literacy, enriching communities through technology, creating a skilled work force, encouraging employee volunteerism, and finding solutions to combating domestic violence.

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