

Laptops for KidZ Places First of the “TD Bank Dozen”

Orleans, MA – The [Laptops for KidZ](#) project of the [Masonic Angel Foundation](#) has placed the first of the dozen IBM ThinkPad’s donated by [TD Bank](#) last week. This article is the first in an exclusive Cape Cod Today series that follows each of the “TD Bank Dozen” laptops.

The Truro Central School requested assistance in providing a laptop for a child who has a condition that causes great difficulty in communicating. Using Johnson-Meyer’s “[Boardmaker Plus](#)” software, the school staff will be able to construct “sign boards” for the child to use as he builds his ability to communicate, over time. The ThinkPad will also run other computer-based learning activities geared towards this child’s unique needs. The school had the funding to purchase the software but there was not a home computer available on which to operate the software.

This laptop was placed in Truro by the King Hiram’s Masonic Angel Fund chapter that serves children in Provincetown and Truro. MAF volunteer John Lundborn, acting police chief in Truro, recently delivered the computer to Principal/Superintendent Brian Davis. King Hiram’s Masonic Angel Fund will celebrate its tenth anniversary this September. King Hiram’s was the third Masonic Lodge to sponsor a chapter of the Masonic Angel Fund that was first established at Universal Lodge in Orleans back in 1998. The Masonic Angel Foundation oversees 142 chapters in twelve states,

Established in March, Laptops for KidZ (LFK) places laptop computers with local schools to be sent home with children who would not otherwise have computer access outside school hours. LFK tries to focus on situations where there is a demonstrated educational need for which the school has a plan that involves use of a computer to address that need.

For the technically inclined, the “TD Bank Dozen” are IBM ThinkPad T41 notebooks with 512 MB RAM, 34 GB hard drives, 1.6 GHz Intel Pentium M processors and Belkin PCMCIA WiFi cards. Each machine has a 14 inch display and a DVD-ROM drive. TD Bank’s Larry Squire was introduced to the Laptops for KidZ program by [Cape and Islands United Way](#) president Richard Brothers.

As with all activities of the Masonic Angel Foundation, the program's volunteers never know the identity of a recipient child. All transactions are conducted at arm's length with the school professionals working as a go-between to preserve privacy. LFK does not accept direct requests from potential recipients. All requests must come through a school or other partner agency. LFK computers are configured in English and are only available to legal residents of the United States. The TD Bank laptops will be placed between Plymouth and Provincetown through local Masonic Angel Fund chapters.

LFK accepts functional notebook computers. "Functional" means that the laptop will power up and is accompanied by its proper AC adapter. LFK does not accept donations of desktops,

monitors or any Apple product. Donations to the 501(c)(3) Masonic Angel Foundation, Inc. are tax deductible.

For more information about the Laptops for KidZ program visit www.laptopsforkidZ.org

