

Digital Wish Press Kit 2009

What is Digital Wish?

Digital Wish is a vibrant and free resource for teachers who are seeking technology for their classrooms. Visit <http://www.digitalwish.org> for the following resources:

- 43 Digital Wish Grants - [Apply for 43 grants](#) directly from the Digital Wish website with one application.
- Free Lesson Plan Library - [Browse a free lesson plan library](#) that includes extensive ideas on using digital technology in the classroom curriculum.
- Grants Library- [Search a database of grants](#) available from third party sources, which may also help schools find much-needed funding for classroom projects.
- Fundraising Ideas - Explore additional [fundraising ideas](#).
- Printable Letter-Writing Resources - [Run a letter-writing campaign](#) to raise money for technology in the classroom.
- Shopping - Teachers can [shop for technology resources](#) and cast their Digital Wish.
- Teacher Profiles - Create a detailed classroom profile with lesson plans, project ideas, and a classroom **wish list**. [See example](#).
- Donor Class Locator - Donors can click through a series of maps to [locate a local school](#) to make a tax-deductible cash donation or purchase an item directly from a teacher's wishlist. Digital Wish will match every donation with an additional 2-10% in funding.

About us

Digital Wish is...

Digital Wish is on a mission to modernize classrooms and prepare students for tomorrow's workforce.

Your Funding Works Harder

100% of every donation funds classroom technology, and Digital Wish matches every dollar with an additional 2%-10% in funding! Like a gift registry, teachers create "wish lists" of needed technology products and describe how each item will be utilized. Visiting donors can purchase wish list items, or donate money for future technology purchases. All donations are tax-deductible, and resources ship directly to the schools. When schools buy technology products Digital Wish

gives 2%-10% in cash back to schools, and there are never any fees to donate.

Be Part of the Community

Digital Wish empowers you to make a personal investment in the community where you live and work. You can hand-pick local classrooms to support, or browse classrooms by personal interest. Teachers are encouraged to network with other educators across the country, sharing lesson plans, experiences, and advice on teaching in the 21st century. Digital Wish invites the collaborative involvement of local communities, caring donors, and innovative teachers.

Cross the Digital Divide

Every student deserves an equal chance to succeed, which means equal access to resources. Donors can connect with classrooms that are striving to bridge the equity gap. Each donation or product purchase, no matter the size, will put a classroom one step closer to providing the technology that students need to learn and grow.

We're a Non-Profit

Digital Wish relies on foundational grants to fund its overhead, website development, and matching grants. We are proud to be supported by organizations such as the [Draper Richards Foundation](#) and [Flip Video](#). Please make a [donation to Digital Wish](#) and help us to maintain and expand our operations!

Digital Wish Background:

Heather Chirtea, Digital Wish's founder, has over 10 years of teacher training experience, during which time she witnessed firsthand how inadequate technology funding was stunting the American school system. In response, Heather started a \$50,000 grant program with Olympus to put digital imaging equipment into schools, but each term there were as many as 1,950 applicants for only 5-20 grants –the program could only make a difference for a small portion of the classrooms in need. At the same time, the local elementary school where Heather's twins attended was on the brink of closure, but she spearheaded a student letter-writing campaign that raised over \$20,000 in 90 days and saved the local school. After experiencing the incredible impact communities can have when fundraising for schools, and at the same time feeling hopelessly unable to meet the demand for technology grants, Digital Wish was conceived as a mechanism to empower teachers to solve their own technology shortfalls through community engagement.

Digital Wish's website highlights classrooms across the US in need to technology and provides educators with a complete guide to running letter-writing campaigns, technology wish list feature, searchable library of over 50 grant

sources, and fundraising ideas library to aid schools in bridging their technology-funding gap. Since its inception, over 15,000 teachers have added over 5,000 lesson plans, and a vibrant community is maturing.

Digital Wish recently received a high-profile 3-year operations grant from the Draper Richards Foundation, and now partners with Flip Video to provide 2-for-1 matching grants on Flip camcorders for educators across America. Within the state of Vermont, Digital Wish works locally on school reform so that its staff is constantly engaged in the classroom modernization process.

Vermont School Modernization Initiative:

Digital Wish has launched the *Vermont School Modernization Initiative*, a program that will supply Vermont teachers and students with computers and the necessary training and support to implement 21st Century Skills and curriculum in local schools. Digital Wish has brought together educators, administrators, parents, community members, politicians, and business leaders in a statewide school modernization initiative that will define root causes of technology shortfalls, identify new sources of funding, and develop transparent implementation systems. In the 2009-2010 school year we will work with 4-24 elementary schools to put 1:1 computing in their upper grades, with a 5-year expansion goal targeting 55,700 students in grades 6-12 across the state of Vermont. Digital Wish will systematize the process of modernization and develop the infrastructure and programs necessary to usher all Vermont schools through the complex process of adopting modern technology. With the success of this project, we will lay the groundwork for standardized processes for national replication of school modernization strategies.

Background/ Bio-Founder

Heather Chirtea is the founder and Executive Director of Digital Wish, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization on a mission to modernize American classrooms and prepare students for tomorrow's workforce. Similar to a gift registry, educators build technology wish lists and post their classroom stories online, where parents, community members, and local businesses can grant technology wishes through online donations. The many social networking features of www.digitalwish.org have led educators to call it "...a FaceBook for teachers". Digital Wish received a prestigious fellowship award from the [Draper Richards Foundation](#) to fund the first 3 years of start-up operations.

Through her work at Digital Wish, she spearheads the *Vermont School Modernization Initiative*, a program that is integrating 1:1 computing in classrooms across Vermont. In an unprecedented cooperative effort, she's secured endorsements from the state associations for principals, superintendents, school boards, teacher's unions and 6 regional training centers,

as well as funding for the first 4 pilot school in the program. She's striving to automate elements of the school modernization process and then share the methodology nationally through Digital Wish's social network.

Heather's foray into charitable work began by setting up a \$50,000 educational [grant program](#) with Olympus, which progressively grew larger each year due to overwhelming demand. Based on the success of that program Digital Wish developed a steady stream of fundraising resources, technology project ideas, and grant programs to help schools prepare for 21st century teaching.

Prior to Digital Wish, as the longstanding president of [Tool Factory](#), an educational software publisher, Heather watched as funding for education technology continuously declined nationwide until today over 75% of teachers classify themselves as "often in need of" or "desperate for" technology resources. She created Digital Wish to empower teachers to solve their own technology shortfalls at a local level.

As an accomplished lecturer, for the past 10 years Heather has traveled widely throughout the United States to conduct over 400 lively seminars on technology integration annually. One of her passions is assisting educators in overcoming the hurdles of using technology in the classroom. Heather has co-authored [5 books](#) on classroom digital photography, podcasting, and school fundraising. She's a firm believer in project-based learning and has designed more than 60 hands-on seminars across all subject areas. She's designed and launched online services for [classroom clip art](#), [worksheets](#), [lesson plans](#), and [formative testing and assessment](#). In addition, a 2003 [research study](#) showed that students who used the online assessment system Heather designed scored improvements of up to 15% in mathematics on standardized tests. Read [the findings](#). Through this project, she has written over 5,000 test questions correlated to mathematics standards.

With a dual B.S. in communications and operational management (statistics), Heather graduated from Syracuse University with honors. She also serves on the board of directors for [VITA-Learn](#) and [New England ISTE](#).

As a mother of twins and firm believer in the education system, Heather strongly supports the public school where her twins attend. She headed the charge to save Sunderland Elementary School from closure, and engaged the community to donate over \$20,000, win grants, complete a "community playground build", and hold a *Halloween Monster Mash Bash!*

Logos

http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/download_logos

Recent Press

[Digital Wish Makes Librarians' Tech Dreams Come True - School Library Journal](#) Posted by Polly Davis at 01:48:00 AM Wed 01/07/2009 Originally published by School Library Journal on 1/6/09

Digital Wish Makes Librarians' Tech Dreams Come True

By SLJ Staff

If you're a librarian short on cash but in need of new technology, sign up on Digital Wish, a nonprofit online charity that helps educators modernize their classrooms with up-to-date resources that they ordinarily can't afford.

All K-12 media specialists in public schools are eligible to create a free wish list on the site and then describe how their students will benefit from it.

Using Digital Wish's Class Locator, donors can find teachers or schools anywhere in the country. After receiving a cash donation, teachers "go shopping" for the technology they need, and Digital Wish will also donate 2 percent to 10 percent of every order back into a teacher's shopping cart.

"Librarians are often the force behind technological innovation in schools, and Digital Wish is a great site to help them gain access to technology when school budgets have dried up," says Spokeswoman Polly Davis.

Teachers are also encouraged to spread the word by telling parents or community members about their need.

Since its creation in July 2007, membership on Digital Wish has grown to more than 11,000 and the organization has given more than \$50,000 in grants, most of which come from individual donations, says Davis. That number is expected to rise to \$75,000 over the next few months.

"It's increasingly difficult for schools to acquire the technology they need to prepare students for tomorrow's jobs in this economy," says Heather Chirtea,

Digital Wish's founder. "Every day we hear about funding cuts, so Digital Wish provides a connection between donors and teachers, and every donor counts." Digital Wish is also a social networking site, where educators can exchange ideas and tech-related lesson plans on a range of subjects, Davis says.

Digital Wish is funded in part by the Draper Richards Foundation, which provides funds and business mentoring to nonprofit organizations.

You can access the original article here:
<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6626473.html>

[Gadgets, Gratis: What's on Your Digital Wish List? - Edutopia](#) *Posted by Polly Davis at 01:51:43 PM Mon 09/22/2008* Originally published on Edutopia

Gadgets, Gratis: What's on Your Digital Wish List?

A nonprofit organization puts tech gear, lesson plans, and other free stuff in teachers' hands.

by Sara Ring

When the public charity Digital Wish launched a resource site for teachers in July 2007, the company set out to register a thousand users by Christmas. It reached its goal in the first month. Since then, the site, which helps educators acquire technology via an online registry and provides other classroom resources free, has attracted some 8,000 users.

"Teachers work really hard, and they really care about the curriculum, but they don't get the funding that they need to actually integrate technology," explains founder Heather Chirtea, who started Digital Wish when a grant program run by the Tool Factory and Olympus became overwhelmed by the volume of applications it received. "To be able to move to the nonprofit side, grant some of those wishes, and put some technology into classrooms is really fulfilling," she says.

Every teacher who registers with Digital Wish creates a profile that includes personal interests, school information, and a wish list of products sold by the Vermont-based organization's partner vendors. Parents, corporate interests, or other donors may log in and purchase the items for the teacher, or they can contribute money into his or her account. Although other Web sites connect teachers to benefactors, Digital Wish offers many other services, including a social network, a digital lesson-plan library, and a host of grant opportunities.

Edutopia talked with several teachers who use Digital Wish about how the site helps them acquire technology, enhance their course curriculum, and do their jobs more easily:

Fundraisers

Digital Wish offers a step-by-step guide to letter-writing campaigns that helps teachers call potential donors' attention to their online wish lists. It also provides creative fundraising ideas and flyer templates that administrators can edit to suit their school's needs.

Fifth graders in Virginia Bower's special education class at Newfane Intermediate School, in Newfane, New York, used the templates to contact local businesses, several of which contributed to her Digital Wish account at the end of the 2007-08 school year. Bower looks forward to purchasing the items on her list, such as a USB flash drive, a battery-recharging system, and a map application. "During our social studies curriculum, we work a lot on mapping, and there's some great mapping software on the site," she says. All Digital Wish vendors provide rebates that put money back into teachers' accounts whenever they buy products.

To keep teachers' costs down, Digital Wish provides schools that send out fundraising letters with postage, plus their first technology gift. After computer teacher Victoria Kozlek had her eighth-grade students at Southern Columbia Middle School, in Catawissa, Pennsylvania, write fundraising letters to local businesses, Digital Wish let her choose from dozens of software programs donated by its partner vendors. "They sent us podcasting software, which was wonderful," Kozlek reports. "I plan to incorporate it into my school publications/technology course."

Lesson Plans

Digital Wish maintains a national library of more than a hundred teacher-submitted lesson plans -- approved by a board of reviewers -- that users may search for by category or keyword. Also available for free download are the thousands of lesson plans teachers have posted on their personal pages. "You can add your own, or you can search the archives for lesson plans that other teachers have uploaded," explains Judith Miller, a science teacher for grades 7-8 at Chicago's Holden Elementary School. "I discovered a few plans I've used in teaching science that the kids have found interesting. Some were similar to things we're already doing, but they went a step or two further."

Meanwhile, Kozlek has posted two lesson plans inspired by her eighth-grade yearbook class and has borrowed other teachers' curricula as well. She says she particularly liked a digital-storytelling project created by a peer in Chatham, New Jersey, that asked students to observe their surroundings by photographing local points of interest. "I adapted this lesson for my own classroom," Kozlek says. "Students took pictures of important landmarks at our school and then created a photography portfolio."

Grants

Posting a lesson plan on Digital Wish isn't a random act of kindness; it can reap benefits. Every month, the organization awards computers, gadgets, and software donated by vendors to the teachers who submitted the best lesson plans (as determined by its board of reviewers). Isabel Lee, a second-grade teacher at Elysian Heights Elementary School, in Los Angeles, submitted a lesson plan for using digital cameras to create still movies. The inventive project - with the cheeky title Watch Out Spielberg, Lucas! -- earned her an Olympus FE-310 digital camera.

"The kids were really excited when we got the camera," Lee recalls. "We had a field trip that following weekend, so we got to use it right away." The site also has links to dozens of outside grants, covering subjects from language translation to science and mathematics.

Social Networking

Just like Facebook, MySpace, and other social-networking sites, Digital Wish allows teachers to add other users as friends with whom they can share their thoughts and ideas. Some teachers connect to peers in their district, while others reach out to those further afield. Miller saw Kozlek profiled in a Digital Wish email update and felt an instant connection. Miller wrote to Kozlek through the site, and the two discovered they had a lot in common. "We have the same passion for the inclusion of technology in any classroom," Kozlek says. "Though we teach different curricula, we both understand the importance of including technology in our lessons."

Book Reviews and More

Digital Wish continues to expand its services. According to founder Heather Chirtea, by the end of 2008, users will have access to a shared book-review library, an online address book, and a rating system for lesson plans -- and the site will give monthly grant awards to teachers with the top-rated plans. Chirtea also notes that Digital Wish is in the middle of a major vendor and donor expansion, and staff members continue to involve users in development and direction of the Web site.

"We spend a ton of time chatting online with some of our favorite teachers, talking to them about how things work and how things don't work on the site. We're constantly changing and revising it to make it all function," Chirtea says. Educators appreciate the support. "It's just a fantastic site," Kozlek notes. "With all the other social-networking sites that are out there, it's nice to know there's one that recognizes teachers."

Sara Ring is a contributing writer for Edutopia.org. She lives in Los Angeles.

This article originally published on 9/22/2008.

You can access the original article here: <http://www.edutopia.org/digital-wish-free-technology-donations>

[Get Free Tech Now By Writing Letters, More Awards Coming Up](#)

Soon Posted by Heather Chirtea at 07:25:08 AM Tue 07/22/2008 This article appeared in the NCLB newsletter published by Eli Research.

If you don't want to wait to be selected for an upcoming grant, Digital Wish is offering a free letter-writing software award. What's the catch? Have your students petition a huge trust fund for more ed tech dollars to support Digital Wish.

If you're looking for a different type of classroom tool, get your profile ready for these upcoming Digital Wish awards:

- Every month (September - June): Win a Digital Camera Grant or a Podcasting Grant.
- January & April: Land the grand prize: a Mobile Digital Camera Lab.
- January: Get a site license for the "Science Diagrams" or "Database" software.
- February: Earn a "Word Processor" site license.

Contact: Email Heather Chirtea with general questions and for more information on the letter writing campaign at heather@digitalwish.org.

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[December, 2007 – NCLB Newsletter](#) Posted by Heather Chirtea at 01:02:46 PM Mon 06/30/2008

Can't Wait For Classroom Tech? Advertise Your Wishlist With Digital Donors!

Use these inside tips to score a range of cool tools on DigitalWish.com.

Bringing the 21st century to your classroom has never been easier — or more under your control. Whether you aim to excite learning with podcasting plans or modernize art class with digital imaging projects, you will find a new window of funding opportunity on the web at www.DigitalWish.com.

There are two ways to win by registering your classroom and submitting tech-centered lesson plans to the website: 1) Become eligible for rotating monthly awards of software products that cover content areas from reading and math to

movie making and painting, and 2) add a “wishlist” to your profile to attract additional donor attention anytime. Anyone who finds your profile can make an instant donation online of tech tools to fulfill your classroom needs. Keep reading to uncover the specific strategies that will help make sure your online efforts reap rewards.

Tip #1: Log Hours Profiling Your Classroom

The secret to winning these technology awards is beefing up your online “profile,” which is an easy-to-complete web template that allows judges — and potential benefactors — to get familiar with you, your students and your plans to incorporate technology in the classroom.

Your profile is your application. The more creative and extensive you make your profile, the better chance you have of winning one of the monthly awards and attracting independent donors’ dollars, explains Heather Chirtea, fundraiser for Digital Wish and president of Tool Factory, which, together with Olympus, provides the software-based grants awarded on the website.

Helpful: To view one of Chirtea’s current favorite profiles, click on “classroom locator” on the website’s top navigation bar, search for Southern Columbia Middle School and go to Victoria K.’s profile. Take tips from her efforts to make your own page stand out.

Behind-the-scenes info: To swing the odds even more in your favor, be active on the site as much as possible, shares Chirtea. Site administrators track stats such as how often individual users log in and how many lesson plans they upload.

What to do: Keep your activity rating high by using the site frequently, maintaining a current, robust profile and expanding your network of online “friends” who get linked to your page, Chirtea advises.

While the Digital Wish website is just getting started, your competition is likely to grow quickly. News of the service is spreading rapidly by word of mouth. Since the late summer more than 5,000 teachers have registered on the site, says Chirtea, who was expecting only 1,000 users by Christmas.

Tip #2: Write Lesson Plans Other Teachers Want To Steal

Even more important to winning these tech tools is a unique lesson plan that catches other teachers’ attention.

Every lesson plan on Digital Wish can be viewed, shared and rated by other educators. The more popular your lesson plan becomes with your peers, the more likely you are to win a grant, Chirtea says.

Hints: Make sure you elaborate on your idea; lesson plans that are less than 100 words don't make the cut, according to Chirtea. Make sure the lessons are relevant to your curriculum and demonstrate effective use of a specific technology (such as digital cameras) in the classroom, Chirtea adds. Additionally, judges look for projects that exhibit a high degree of student involvement; brainstorm ideas that involve the entire class in a variety of capacities for a group project, or where each student gets the opportunity to build their own project. (And, of course, be sure your submissions are free of grammatical and spelling errors and other typos.)

Don't: Avoid submitting ideas that are overdone; producing a school newspaper is one example of a project that's too commonplace, Chirtea says. Instead, rise to the top with a novel — even community-conscious — idea.

Example: One winning teacher proposed producing a calendar that featured the local wetlands, which the class then sold to the community, shares Chirtea. The funds the group raised went towards a wildlife cause.

Tip #3: Take Advantage Of Networking Resources

Don't miss out on these additional benefits of getting involved with Digital Wish:

- Check out the expanding library of free lesson plan ideas submitted by other teachers.
- Search dozens of additional funding opportunities from a wide array of grantmakers, which are listed on the website as a free service to users.
- Access fundraising resources: Print Digital Wish flyers to promote your wishlists with parents and in the community. Get additional solicitation ideas, such as info on how to run a letter-writing campaign.
- Keep up with new technology offerings so you can add them to your wishlist; the program plans to expand shopping options to include more tools such as video cameras and digital whiteboards, Chirtea says.

Sum up: Keep your students on the fast track to future success by filling your classroom with educational tech. Don't get buried by thousands of other applications by vying only for traditional grants; get an edge by putting your classroom's needs front and center on the web.

Resources: Register and start building a profile:

www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/register

Review winning grant applications: www.toolfactory.com/olympus

Contest; access the full grant awards calendar:

www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/grants_sched.

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Press Releases

2 FOR 1 FLIP VIDEO CAMERAS FOR EDUCATORS AVAILABLE ON DIGITAL WISH

Digital Wish and Flip Video Spotlight are offering 2 Flip Ultra™ cameras for \$150 to educators at www.digitalwish.org.

Manchester Center, VT, September 28, 2009 – Digital Wish and Flip Video Spotlight Program are proud to offer a special deal for educators to help integrate video into the classroom. For just \$150, educators can purchase TWO Flip Ultra™ camcorders or use donated funds. With this 2 for 1 promotion, educators and donors can put the power of video into classrooms across the US. To access the promotion, educators should register their classroom for free at www.digitalwish.org. Teachers can then purchase the Flip Camcorders directly from the shopping area or add them to their classroom’s wish list and start fundraising for their technology needs. Donors can also register on Digital Wish and donate flips directly the classroom or teacher of their choice.

“Flip video cameras are a perfect fit for classroom use and a favorite among our teacher community,” said Heather Chirtea, Digital Wish’s Founder. “Video has the power to engage students in new ways, and the 2 for 1 promotion makes it even easier to get this already affordable technology into the hands of students.”

Educators should register their classroom for free at www.digitalwish.org to receive the 2 for 1 promotion. The promotion is only available to non-profit K-12 schools in the US, and purchase is limited to four Flip Camcorders per educator.

About Digital Wish

Digital Wish is a non-profit on a mission to modernize American classrooms and prepare students for tomorrow’s workforce. Educators build technology wish lists and describe how each resource will be utilized. Teachers write project plans or browse a free lesson plan library to find project ideas written by educators, outlining best practices in technology. Their classroom’s story is then posted online, for review by any donor. Digital Wish works with many institutions to set up cost-free grant programs for schools, then matches every donation with an additional 2%-10% in funding. Visit www.digitalwish.org.

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About Pure Digital, Inc.

Based in San Francisco, Pure Digital Technologies is a pioneer in developing simple, affordable digital imaging solutions for the mass market. Its revolutionary Flip Video family of camcorders ignited a new category of video cameras that puts the power to shoot and share video into the pockets of everyday consumers. Flip Video camcorders are the world's first with on-board software to enable editing, organizing, and seamless video uploading to YouTube, MySpace, AOL Video and other video sharing sites. As part of its Flip Video Spotlight Program, the company pledged to deliver 1 million camcorders to help non-profits use the power of video to change the world. Flip Video is available in over 10,000 retail locations including Amazon, Best Buy, Circuit City, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Sears, Kmart, and TheFlip.com. Flip Video products are also available in Canada and the United Kingdom. For more information, visit www.TheFlip.com.

[Microsoft and Adobe Products Now Available on Digital Wish](#) Posted by Digital Wish Support at 08:32:45 AM Tue 06/09/2009

Teachers can now use donations, grant money, or other school funds to purchase Microsoft and Adobe products at Digitalwish.org.

Manchester Center, VT, June 9, 2009 - Getting Adobe Systems Incorporated and Microsoft Corporation products into the classroom is now easier than ever at www.digitalwish.org. Digital Wish, a non-profit dedicated to modernizing classrooms, administers a constant stream of small grants to schools and helps teachers find and acquire funding for technology. Digital Wish not only offers Adobe and Microsoft products, but also automatically matches each purchase by giving 2% - 10% back to teachers every time they place an order. For example, if a donor or school purchases the Adobe® Create Suite 4® Design Premium site license, that school would automatically receive \$189.98 to apply to a future purchase. In addition, Digital Wish demands no fee, ensuring that 100% of every donation will benefit classroom teachers and their students.

"Adobe and Microsoft products comprise some of the top requested products on the site," said Heather Chirtea, Digital Wish's Founder. "We're happy we can offer teachers the technology they really need to ensure their students' future success. Purchases and monetary contributions are also tax deductible, making Digital Wish a great resource for potential donors."

How it works:

Donors and teachers can register for free on digitalwish.org. Teachers set up "wish lists" for the Microsoft or Adobe products and other classroom technology they need, and donors can give cash donations or purchase items directly from a teacher's wish list. Using Digital Wish's Class Locator, donors can find teachers or schools anywhere in the United States. After receiving a cash donation, teachers "go shopping" for the technology they need, and Digital Wish donates 2% - 10% of every order back into their shopping cart.

About Digital Wish

As a non-profit, Digital Wish is on a mission to modernize American classrooms and prepare today's students for tomorrow. Educators build technology wish lists and describe how each resource will be utilized. Their classroom's story is then posted online, for review by any donor. Teachers write project plans or browse a free lesson plan library to find project ideas written by educators, outlining best practices in technology. Digital Wish works with institutions to set up cost-free grant programs for schools, and then matches every donation with an additional 2%-10% in funding. Visit www.digitalwish.org.

About Adobe Systems Incorporated

Adobe revolutionizes how the world engages with ideas and information - anytime, anywhere and through any medium. For more information, visit www.adobe.com.

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft Corporation is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential. For more information, visit www.microsoft.com.

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[Digital Wish and Inspiration Software® Team Up to Make Technology Wishes Come True](#) Posted by Kendra Ericson at 11:42:25 AM Tue 06/02/2009

Digital Wish announces the winners of its Inspired Kids contest, four educators who will take home more than \$1,600 in technology prizes for their classrooms.

Manchester Center, VT, June 2, 2009 - Digital Wish, a nonprofit committed to modernizing classrooms, has teamed up with Inspiration Software, Inc. to give away \$1,600 in Kidspiration® software and other prizes. Educators were asked to submit Kidspiration lesson ideas that incorporated the year's events with an emphasis on student involvement, creativity, and fun.. Teachers from across the country shared original classroom ideas focused on visual learning, competing for a chance to win great prizes and a place in Digital Wish's national lesson plan library.

Congratulations to the *Inspired Kids* contest grand prize winner Barbara Lorson from Hope Elementary School for her innovative and inspiring lesson *Let's Make Some Money!*. Lorson will receive a 10-computer license of Kidspiration software, school-wide editions of corresponding lesson plan books, and a digital camera to help her continue to inspire young minds. As a result of their fun and original ideas, three additional winners will receive a single copy of Kidspiration software and 3 lesson plan books:

Patrice Clynes from Hatton Elementary School for *Kindergarten Memories*

Doedee Trostel-Patton from Miami East Junior High School for *What's Going On*

Denise Webster from Forest Lake Elementary School for *Ocean Animals*

"These contests are a great way for us to recognize and honor teachers who are committed to 21st century learning," said Heather Chirtea, Digital Wish's Founder. "We're excited to honor teachers who are finding inventive ways to engage students."

Educators are encouraged to register their classroom for free at www.digitalwish.org to receive future contest announcements. "We're always looking for new ways to help teachers reach their technology goals, so new contests are announced year round," said Chirtea.

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About Inspiration Software, Inc.

Recognized as the leader in visual thinking and learning, Inspiration Software, Inc.'s award-winning software tools, Inspiration®, Kidspiration and InspireData®, are based on proven visual learning methodologies that help students think, learn and achieve. With the powerful combination of visual learning and technology, students in grades K-12 learn to clarify thoughts, organize and analyze information, integrate new knowledge and think critically. Founded more than 25 years ago by Donald Helfgott and Mona Westhaver, the company's visual learning software tools are used today by more than 25 million students and teachers worldwide.

For more information, press only:

Lisa Wolfe, L. Wolfe Communications, 773-227-1049, lwolfe@lwolfe.com

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[Digital Wish and Inspiration Software Team Up to Give Away Over \\$1,700 in Grant Prizes to Educators](#) Posted by Kendra Ericson at 12:36:54 PM Wed 04/15/2009
DigitalWish.org and Inspiration Software, Inc. invite educators to share their creativity in the Inspired Kids Contest.

Manchester, VT, April 15, 2009 – Digital Wish, a nonprofit committed to modernizing American classrooms, is teaming up with Inspiration Software®, Inc., the leader in visual thinking and learning, to bring educators an exciting new grant contest. The Inspired Kids Contest, beginning April 15, asks educators to use Kidspiration® software to reflect upon the year's events as a class. The educator who submits the most inspiring lesson plan will win a 10-computer license of Kidspiration with accompanying school-wide lesson plan books, and a 10 megapixel digital camera. Three additional winners will each receive a single copy of Kidspiration with lesson plan books.

To enter the Inspired Kids Contest, educators should visit www.digitalwish.org

and submit a creative lesson idea utilizing Kidspiration software. To be eligible to win, educators must serve K-12 students and be registered on Digital Wish. "I'm excited to be working with Inspiration to bring this grant opportunity to teachers," said Heather Chirtea, Digital Wish's Founder. "Kidspiration is a great product, and this contest gives teachers the chance to get technology into the classroom that many schools can't currently afford."

The contest begins April 15, 2009 and ends May 11, 2009. Visit http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/inspiration_contest for additional details.

About Digital Wish

Digital Wish is a non-profit on a mission to modernize American classrooms and prepare students for tomorrow's workforce. Educators build technology wish lists and describe how each resource will be utilized. Teachers write project plans or browse a free lesson plan library to find project ideas written by educators, outlining best practices in technology. Their classroom's story is then posted online, for review by any donor. Digital Wish works with many institutions to set up cost-free grant programs for schools, and then matches every donation with an additional 2%-10% in funding. Visit www.digitalwish.org.

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About Inspiration Software, Inc.

Recognized as the leader in visual thinking and learning, Inspiration Software, Inc.'s award-winning software tools, Inspiration®, Kidspiration and InspireData®, are based on proven visual learning methodologies that help students think, learn and achieve. With the powerful combination of visual learning and technology, students in grades K-12 learn to clarify thoughts, organize and analyze information, integrate new knowledge, and think critically. Founded more than 25 years ago by Donald Helfgott and Mona Westhaver, the company's visual learning software tools are used today by more than 25 million students and teachers worldwide.

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Digital Wish Now Offers Educational Pricing on SMART Products

Posted by Digital Wish Support at 11:50:37 AM Thu 02/19/2009

DigitalWish.org, a public charity on a mission to modernize American schools, makes getting SMART products into schools easier than ever with educational pricing.

Manchester, VT, February 19, 2009 - Getting SMART products into schools is now even more affordable on digitalwish.org. Digital Wish not only offers educational pricing on all SMART products listed on the site, but the organization also automatically matches each purchase by giving 2% - 10% back to teachers every time they place an order. For example, if a donor purchases a SMART Board 680 with Unifi 45 Projector for a teacher, that teacher would automatically receive \$66 back in his or her shopping cart to apply to a future purchase. In addition, Digital Wish demands no fee, ensuring that 100% of every donation will benefit classroom teachers and their students.

"Educational pricing is key," said Heather Chirtea, Digital Wish's Founder. "Now donors can purchase SMART products for schools at the reduced, educational price, which makes donor contributions go further, and brings teachers one step closer to modernizing their classrooms. Purchases and monetary contributions are also tax deductible, making Digital Wish a great resource for potential donors."

How it works: Donors and teachers can register for free on digitalwish.org. Teachers set up "wish lists" for the SMART products and other classroom technology they need, and donors can give cash donations or purchase items directly from a teacher's wish list. Using Digital Wish's Class Locator, donors can find teachers or schools anywhere in the United States. After receiving a cash donation, teachers "go shopping" for the technology they need, and Digital Wish donates 2% - 10% of every order back into their shopping cart.

About Digital Wish

As a public charity, Digital Wish is on a mission to modernize American classrooms and prepare students for tomorrow's workforce. Educators build technology wish lists and describe how each resource will be utilized. Their classroom's story is then posted online, for review by any donor. Teachers write project plans or browse a free lesson plan library to find project ideas written by educators, outlining best practices in technology. Digital Wish works with many institutions to set up cost-free grant programs for schools, and

then matches every donation with an additional 2%-10% in funding. Visit www.digitalwish.org.

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Digital Wish Makes Donations Work Harder In Tight Financial

Times *Posted by Digital Wish Support at 02:59:47 PM Mon 01/05/2009 Digitalwish.org, a public charity on a mission to modernize American schools, stretches donor dollars to make educators' technology wishes come true.*

Manchester, VT, January 5, 2009 – Digital Wish, a nonprofit charity committed to modernizing classrooms, makes every donation go further. Whether it's a five dollar or five thousand dollar donation, Digital Wish stretches each gift for teachers by automatically giving 2% - 10% back to teachers every time they place an order. In addition, Digital Wish demands no fee, ensuring that 100% of every donation will benefit classroom teachers and their students.

How it works:

Donors and teachers can register for free on digitalwish.org. Teachers set up "wish lists," explaining their classroom's technology needs, and donors can give cash donations or purchase items directly from a teacher's wish list. Using Digital Wish's Class Locator, donors can find teachers or schools anywhere in the United States. After receiving a cash donation, teachers "go shopping" for the technology they need, and Digital Wish donates 2% - 10% of every teacher order back into their shopping cart.

"It's increasingly difficult for schools to acquire the technology they need to prepare students for tomorrow's jobs in this economy," said Heather Chirtea, Digital Wish's Founder. "Every day we hear about funding cuts, so Digital Wish provides a connection between donors and teachers, and every donor counts. Even a \$5 donation can make a difference because the individual contributions add up. Together, we can make a difference in education and secure a place for our children in an increasingly competitive job market."

In these tight financial times, Digital Wish provides donors with the opportunity to make their dollars work harder for a good cause: the future of America's classrooms and students.

About Digital Wish

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[TLN Digital Wish Grant Winners Announced](#) Posted by Digital Wish Support at 11:27:32 AM Thu 10/23/2008
Digital Wish Gives Away \$6,000 in Grants to NSBA Members

Sunderland, VT, October 23, 2008 – Digital Wish, Vermont based public charity on a mission to modernize American schools, awarded \$6,000 in Tool Factory software to four winners of National School Board Association's TLN Digital Wish Grant. Digital Wish worked closely with NSBA to make this grant opportunity available to the association's nationwide membership. Participants were asked to register at www.digitalwish.org to increase awareness of Digital Wish's mission – to assist teachers in securing grants for the classroom technology they need – and winners were chosen at random from the submitted applicants. There were two deadlines set, August 31st and October first. The grand prize winner will be announced at the NSBA T+L (Technology and Learning) conference at the end of October.

August 31st Deadline, Each Winner receives \$1,000 in Tool Factory Software:

- Christina McCormick – West Chester Henderson High School, West Chester PA.
- Kurt Bernardo – Orange High School, Pepper Pike, OH.
- Susan Walston – Haysville Alternative High School, Haysville, KS.

Grand Finale, October 1st Winner receives \$3,000 in Tool Factory Software:

- Winner will be announced at the NSBA T+L conference!

Announced winners have been notified through Digital Wish and will place their orders through Digital Wish's online ecommerce system. "There were a record number of participants," said Heather Chirtea, Digital Wish's founder, "and we're thankful to the NSBA staff for helping us increase teacher awareness. There are

many free resources available on Digital Wish to help teachers secure funding for their classrooms, and we are thrilled that so many teachers are utilizing them.”

About Digital Wish

As a public charity, Digital Wish is on a mission to modernize American classrooms and prepare students for tomorrow’s workforce. Educators build technology wish lists and describe how each resource will be utilized. Teachers write project plans or browse a free lesson plan library to find project ideas written by educators, outlining best practices in technology. Their classroom’s story is then posted online, for review by any donor. Digital Wish works with many institutions to set up grant programs for schools. Visit www.digitalwish.org.

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[The Draper Richards Foundation Awards Prestigious Fellowship Grant To Digital Wish](#)

Posted by Digital Wish Support at 10:33:31 AM Tue 10/14/2008

Digitalwish.org, a Vermont based public charity on a mission to modernize American schools, receives a \$300,000 grant to expand operations and fundraise for schools.

Manchester, VT, October 14, 2008 – The Draper Richards Foundation has awarded Digital Wish a \$300,000 grant in recognition of Digital Wish’s potential to modernize American schools. The funds, distributed to Digital Wish over the next three years, will be used by the organization to expand its fundraising operations. In response, Digital Wish has announced the launch of its corporate donation program that allows companies to set up employee matching funds programs at little to no administrative cost. Digital Wish will also matches every donation with an additional 2%-10% in funding, ensuring that 102%-110% of the giver’s donation will be allocated directly to school technology programs.

Digital Wish now joins the impressive lineup of high-growth nonprofit organizations that Draper Richards helps usher through startup phase including: Room to Read, Kiva, and the Genocide Intervention Network, among others. Digital Wish was one of only four nonprofits to be selected for the grant in 2008, and no more than six grants are given in a single year.

“I am honored to be amongst such distinguished peers and excited by how this grant will impact our ability to help teachers acquire the technology they desperately need,” said Heather Chirtea, Digital Wish’s founder. “With the influx of both money and Draper Richards’ managerial support, we can significantly

increase our impact on US education. We now have the resources we need to scale our fundraising effort.”

Draper Richards also provides its social entrepreneurs with support and guidance, in addition to financial assistance, and Digital Wish will work closely with Draper Richards on strategic growth issues. Further, Jenny Shilling Stein, Executive Director of the Draper Richards Foundation will join Digital Wish’s Board of Directors. She commented, "Digital Wish provides inspiration for thousands of teachers to bring technology into their classrooms. Heather and her team really understand teachers' needs. Digital Wish is the most efficient way for individuals, corporations and foundations to connect with teachers and give them what they need to be successful in the classroom."

The Draper Richards Fellowship Grant, combined with Digital Wish’s corporate giving tools, paint a bright picture of Digital Wish’s future and the future of American classrooms. “When innovative technology is accessible to teachers and students,” said Chirtea, “everyone benefits. Classrooms are modernized, students are prepared for the technological demands of tomorrow’s workplace, and corporations can hire locally.” In short, Digital Wish has the potential to bridge the gap between schools and community funding, and take strides towards solving America’s technology crisis.

About Digital Wish

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