

The Green Corner

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*Environmental News:
Thinking Globally, Acting Locally*

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RAFT: One Business's Junk is a Teacher's Treasure

RAFT (Resource Area For Teaching) provides 7,000 local teachers and community groups with creative tools and materials to promote hands-on learning in science, math, technology, and art.

Over 1,000 local businesses donate everything from office supplies and manufacturing byproducts to used computers and office furniture. Butch Coyne, Marketing Director for RAFT, encourages business to look at items they would normally throw out as potential resources for teachers.

"Just think, an old CD with a balloon attached creates a hovercraft or some Mylar, cardboard tubes, and colorful bits of textile materials can make a kaleidoscope. With

projects like these, students and teachers can learn through reuse," he says.

RAFT needs volunteers to help sort through the hundreds of pounds of donated materials to make these resources classroom ready. RAFT benefits from the volunteer assistance offered by Silicon Valley employees. Businesses often use the volunteer opportunities as an offsite team-building activity.

If you are interested in donating unwanted items from your business, or in signing up for RAFT's corporate employee volunteer program, call (408) 451-1420, email to raft@raft.net or visit www.raft.net.



Top 10 Reasons People Volunteer at RAFT

1. To help support teachers
2. To have fun
3. To gain work experience
4. To gain or improve skills
5. To make new friends
6. To be part of a team
7. To test yourself
8. To make an impact
9. To demonstrate commitment for a cause
10. To give something back