World Computer Exchange, Inc.
126th Meeting of the Board of Directors
14 May 2025 09:00 am to 10:30 am EST
Hull, Massachusetts 02045

Mission: To reduce the digital divide for underserved communities and youth worldwide; to use our global network of partnerships to enhance communities in these countries; and to promote the reuse of electronic equipment and its ultimate disposal in an environmentally responsible manner.

Present: Pamela Cooney, Suzanne Grant Lewis, Satish Gupta, Jeremy Griffiths, Charles Brennick, Alex Higuera, Manoj Kumar
Apologies: Ayesha Hassan, Pascal Bekono, Chege Ngugi
Minutes Vote: (February) Suzanne made a change in the Annual Meeting minutes in the introductory paragraph, and corrected typo in Board meeting minutes. Jeremy moved to accept, Satish seconded.

1. **Treasurers Report**:
    1. **Balance Sheet**: Not huge changes from last year, reflects reduction in computer inventory. Assets are tied to Bank accounts. Liabilities – deferred revenue biggest item, representing funding that comes with conditions. This is still to be sorted.
    2. **P & L:** Program fees are biggest improvement, $50K donation for Puerto Rico boot camps and refurbishing. This will be spent in the next year. Expenses do not reflect all the fees for the coding boot camps, including 6K per instructor per boot camp. Manoj may know people who would facilitate from India for free virtually, to gain experience. Probably won't be a fit for Puerto Rico but will be considered for other programs. Pam was paid half-salary for the entire fiscal year.
    3. **Cash Forecast:** Not much going on in the next few months. Expecting to do a shipment to Cameroon, a couple of other shipments in the works, at least 1 more by June. Charles is working on some as well, including first one from a professional refurbishing company.
    4. PPP program all paid off. Liquidity is good at the moment. Audited financial reports were submitted to IRS.
    5. Lisa requested monthly inventory and financial reports, Jeremy and Satish will speak with bookkeeper about providing them monthly directly to the Audit Committee.
2. **Update from Charles Brennick:**
    1. Charles reported he continues to help with some daily activities, including responding to computer requests and donations of equipment. He gets 1 or 2 a day, mostly from Africa, but hardly any result in actual orders since they have no money to cover shipping. He is focusing on getting tech donations, which is key to sustainability and growth.
    2. He is working with the new Boston College intern, Fabiola, whose sole activity will be finding, contacting and convincing donation leads. Pam added that they are experimenting with Premium LinkedIn, $89 per month but first month is free. They will assess the value during the 1st month.

3. Charles distributed a handout after last meeting for everyone to use within their spheres.
4. WCE was contacted by 3 USAID workers who are organizing donations of laptops from laid-off workers since they were told they could keep their computers but they will be wiped remotely. They would like them to potentially go towards projects they had been working on. Sue brought up the potential of government coming after WCE for their property. Charles stated there is no central authority or procedure in place there anymore and asked if it is worth the risk. The workers have letters or emails saying they can keep the computers, but is it worth playing with them? Sue will make inquiries in the State Dept to see if there is any information available. Manoj asked if we could find out past policy on how long until a computer becomes obsolete and becomes property of the employee? We could consider a targeted outreach to USAID contractors. With Fabiola's help, we could find diminished programs and what are they doing with their inventory. Alex asked that if we could get more official proof or ownership, how could they claw back donation? If the computers could go through Donor Connection, get wiped properly, that could be a clear way to be above board.
5. The discussion turned to questions on how WCE vets projects. At least one company asked how WCE ensures that project partners are legitimate. It may be that more needs to be added to the application, and then there could be potential to promote how streamlined and transparent our process is to potential corporate donations? This discussion led to Pam's New Committee Proposal (below).
6. This leads to another thought on Donor Connection – how a tech donor can direct computers to a certain project, which now is in the form of money. Could we link computer donations to WCE and to distinct project and maybe use some of the inventory to fund shipment and costs? Charles explained that the Donor Connection platform allows this. Sue thinks this is potentially a game changer by increasing tech donations and addressing the major constraint of securing shipping costs to help needy projects.
7. Pam thanks Charles for his assistance with shipping issues.

3. **Fundraising Committee Report:** Alex reported for the Committee. There were 2 newsletter stories featured – 1 on launching refurbishing club in Zambia and 1 highlighting partnership with Advancing Girls Education (AGE) in Malawi. Social media presence is increasing – Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn posts on tech donations, program highlights, WCE partners and a tutorial video on how to donate. The Board was reminded about how they can help – like, repost, share with sphere, and share corporate contacts for potential tech and financial donations.
4. **New Partner Proposal** None at this time.
5. **Orders and shipping Update**: 50 laptops went to Bridges to Malawi, an organization in Massachusetts and Malawi, 7 laptops to mental health center in Togo, 99 desktops, 1 laptop and 1 projector to Alupe University in Kenya, and 27 laptops to hospital in Kenya.
6. **Services:** Puerto Rico – 2 sessions of Coding Boot Camp at ACUTAS community center will be happening in June. Planning is advancing for refurbishing clubs in 2 schools and coding

boot camps. There are 500+ laptops in Puerto Rico which need to be refurbished and distributed or sold.

7. **New Committee Proposal:** to examine WCE's partner vetting process and strengthen it. This Committee will review process, propose changes, help vet and guide partners, and write up the process to share with corporate donors and potential partners. Current process is rigorous but not written down. Charles will work with the Committee. Board volunteers are requested.
8. The Board members expressed thanks to Chloe Chaple and Camilla Cora, departing interns, the Board is also grateful to for their contributions. Kate Goggins, Carmen Navas and Andreas Rios, who are continuing and they welcome Fabiola Ferraiouli as a new intern.
9. **Other Business:**
    1. Pallets of computers ready to ship and in need of repair were mixed together in rush to move out of a storage space in Boston. The computers that are over 10 years old will be recycled as they are too old and obsolete. This will also eliminate the $500/month cost of storing them.
    2. BoardLead.com is a program of Cause Strategy Partners which links non-profits looking for Board members with their network of corporations looking for their employees to gain board experience. Sue and Pam met with them and WCE is approved to receive potential Board candidates. We hope to receive 1-2 candidates in June for consideration. Initial interviews must be conducted by mid-July. If approved by the WCE Board, we will hopefully onboard a new board member in October.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24.