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Thumbs up to putting computers in the hands that need them

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Thanks for the memory -- drive

To Fluor Federal Services for making its surplus computers available to worthy causes in the Mid-Columbia as it reduces staff at its Richland office.

Over the years, Fluor has donated used computers to Tri-City organizations that help seniors, veterans, students and others.

One of the most recent beneficiaries was the Military Retiree Activities Office and Veterans' Service Center in the Federal Building in Richland.

"The donation is particularly timely," said Jim Kion, the director of the center and a Navy retiree.

The office relies on donations for equipment and furnishings, but its only computer died. It was temporarily making do with a short-term loaner.

Volunteers need to be able to look up benefit information on a computer and help veterans seeking help fill out the required online forms.

The latest donations were made after Fluor announced this summer that it would shrink its Richland office from about 200 employees to 15 or 20. The company employed about 3,500 workers in the Mid-Columbia when it was a prime contractor for the Department of Energy at Hanford.

Other Fluor computers have been donated to the Richland Senior Center, the Safe Harbor Crisis Nursery, the Washington State STEM Education Foundation, the Washington State Migrant Council, the Quest Youth Center, Columbia Basin College, Delta High School, the Skills Development Mission, the Benton-Franklin Community Action Committee and the Children's Developmental Center.

The lives of thousands of Mid-C Columbians are improved as a result.