

Weekly Reader's *READ* Magazine  
January 16, 2004

teen spotlight

# Getting Technical



Anders Jones, second from right, and members of Teens for Technology

**S**ome teens spend their spring break on exotic islands and return with suntans and great memories. Then there's Anders Jones, who went to Jamaica and came home inspired to start a nonprofit organization that now helps more than 100,000 underprivileged children in developing countries.

Anders went to Jamaica during vacation to visit his father, who was working there. While on a tour, he learned that a school in Kingston had only four computers for 850 students. "This shocked me, since I came from a school with the same number of children and over 150 computers," Anders reported. He went to bed that night thinking he'd ship his old computer to the school as a way to help.

Instead, he went home and began raising money and developing relationships with corporations that would provide support. One year later, he returned to Jamaica with 15 donors and supporters who installed 12 computers and 70 pieces of educational software in a brand-new technology center built with funds raised in Jamaica and the United States.

Mission accomplished, right? Not for Anders Jones. He and his supporters launched the 100 Schools Program, with plans to donate 1,000 computers to 100 computer centers to serve 100,000 children by 2005.

Teens for Technology, a nonprofit organization run by Anders and other teens, continues to look for ways to expand, with plans to bring computer centers to countries such as Rwanda and Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2003, Anders won the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes. He believes that the title "Young Hero" belongs to the Teens for Technology organization, stating, "This truly is an organization of kids reaching out to other kids, and in my opinion, all are heroes."

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—Anders Jones



The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

To learn more about the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, go to <http://www.barronprize.org>.

For more information about Teens for Technology, go to <http://www.teensfortechology.org>.