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Microsoft workers save kids' CyberSummit

Boston Business Journal - by [Mary Moore](#)

When **Microsoft Corp.** employees in New England were told that the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston's** annual CyberSummit event might be cancelled this year due to a lack of funding, an old-fashioned and staff-driven money-raising campaign kicked in.

CyberSummit is a two-day event and an opportunity for students ages 12-18 to create projects in digital music, architecture, graphic design, engineering and more. Adult mentors and teen coaches facilitate workshops and work with teams of students to create a final product. And on the second day of the event, CyberSummit culminates in a CyberFair, a technology exhibition for the students to showcase and "market" their work.

The employees from Microsoft's Northeast District — which includes Massachusetts, upstate New York and Northern Connecticut — raised \$9,000, enough to keep Cyber Summit alive for its 9th year and for the 90 students who are participating. CyberSummit is running Thursday and Friday at the Boys & Girls Clubs Yawkey Club in Roxbury, Mass.

"CyberSummit has become an event that our club members really look forward to because it's fun, teaches them new skills, and builds their confidence," said Josh Kraft, president and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston.

Microsoft employees raised the money through an annual giving program, which is an opportunity for them to direct donations to their preferred charities. The news that Cyber Summit might be cancelled this year galvanized employees to earmark all annual giving contributions to funding the Boys & Girls Clubs event. Employees donated through a raffle and a silent auction, raising \$4,500 themselves, an amount matched dollar-for-dollar by the Microsoft Corp. (Nasdaq: MSFT).

In previous years, Microsoft employees have supported Cyber Summit, but on an "ad hoc basis", said Scott McFadden, technology specialist for Microsoft. This year, he said, the employee fundraising effort was targeted.

Microsoft also has about a half dozen employees working at the CyberSummit event, along with staff from Intel Computer Clubhouse, Museum of Science, and others.