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## **Grant, donations buy computers**

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The Boys & Girls Clubs of Weld County made a move Monday that could result in tomorrow's computer programmers or technicians.

Through a grant from the Beaumont Foundation of America and private donations, the clubs added computer laboratories at its two Greeley locations, filling a need that wasn't available to many club members, said Ed Fickes, chief professional officer.

"We've determined that about 80 percent of our kids don't have access to computers at home," Fickes said.

The computers will be available for kids of all ages, he said, and once the school year starts, older members will be able to use them in their homework and for research on school projects.

But that's just one door that will be open for members, including the nearly 300 who have joined the club this summer and the 350-375 kids already using the two locations.

Dave Goss, a former Hewlett-Packard computer trainer who is now the director of technology for the clubs, hopes he can find members who are interested in what he called "the nuts and bolts" of computers, or who are interested in the software side.

"If I can get anybody interested about the insides of a computer, I'd be willing to teach them the nuts and bolts and how they are built," Goss said.

"If somebody is interested on the programming end, I'd like to get some people in here from UNC to help them with early programming skills." Microsoft, he added, has a partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs nationally.

"Who knows, by the time a kid leaves here at the age of 18, which is the oldest they can be, he or she can leave with a skill to make a living," Goss said.

Fickes said the local clubs got \$50,000 in grants and donations to buy 10 wireless laptops and 10 other computers to put at the two clubs, along with related equipment.