



This article, by Learning Center volunteer Mike Earley, is reprinted with permission from the October 2007 issue of *Village Connection*.

Have you ever wondered where the center of the universe might be?

Well, if you are like me - hooked on computers and over 50 years of age - I submit that the center of our universe is right here in Huntington.

Earlier this summer when SeniorNet national evaluated nearly 200 learning centers worldwide, they concluded that the Don Weidman Computer Learning Center in Huntington was the best of the bunch. The 80 plus volunteers at our center in the Family Service League building on Park Ave. were elated to learn that our center earned the inaugural award for excellence from the SeniorNet Chairman.

Founded in 1986, SeniorNet evolved from a research project to see how telecommunications and computers might enhance the lives of seniors. It has since become one of the world's leading technology educators of adults aged 50 and above. SeniorNet boasts of an international community of computer users, hosts a thriving online community at <http://www.seniornet.org/> and supports a network of locally operated learning centers throughout the world.



Since its debut in Huntington in 1999, [SeniorNet@FSL](#) - the pioneer center on Long Island - has brought technology access and education to over 4,000 area residents. Additionally, through its Computer Refurbishing Program, it gives back to the Huntington community. Together with the KeySpan Foundation, SeniorNet volunteers have refurbished over 4000 older computers that otherwise might add to toxic pollution through the solid waste stream. These computers are donated to not-for-profit organization and needy students and families. The Learning Center attracts new students and volunteers by offering innovative classes, conducting open houses, and in the promotion of their programs in the local media and throughout a vast network of volunteer organizations in the Town of Huntington.

There you have it.

If you think "Center of the Universe" may be a bit hyperbolic, why not stop by the Don Weidman Computer Learning Center and find out for yourself.



*Mike Earley was born and raised on Long Island. After a long career as an Industrial Economist*

*in Manhattan and Northern Virginia, he retired in 1994. In 2002 Mike and his wife, Julia, returned to Long Island and settled in Huntington to be close to their grandchildren. Mike has been a volunteer for SeniorNet@ FSL since 2004.*