## Rosa Parks joins other seniors to master computers



BEAR FIRST SILL BEEST Together: Thiajuan Williamson and civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks learn computer skills at Botsford Continuing Care's Rosa L. Parks Learning Center of Michigan at Botsford Commons.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAB! WRITER loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

The mother of the civil rights movement handled a computer mother board. And, much like the time on the bus when she refused to give up her seat, Roga Parks showed no fear.

toga, rarks snowed no tent.

Pigika and other computer curious seniors joined with their somewhat more technically suvvy partners for a class at Botsford Continuing Care Monday. The six-week class is designed to make seniors and children alike more computer literate.

With hands folded and face radiant with wonder-

ment, Parks listened as instructor Gregory Murray provided an overview of the computer. The class is offered in conjunction with Botsford Continuing Care and The Rasa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development.

The class is also the first at the newly named Rosa L. Parks Learning Center of Michigan at Botsford Commons.

"From time hopefully we will be able to master the mystery of the computer," said Parks, who was joined by 13-year-old Thinjuan Williamson.

Williamson relished his role helping the civil rights pioneer feel comfortable with the computer.

"When I explain it to her, I remember what I'm taught and sometimes you learn even more," Williamson said.

The intergenerational program goes beyond technology. The goal is to build friendships between seniors and youth, who find they can help

one another.

With computers, some seniors show trepidation whereas kids have no fear, said Anita Peek, program director. Seniors can provide wisdom to their youthful mentors.

They can help them slow down and be more practical? Peek said.

A lot of the seniors have been in the work field ... They can help direct the young people in making their career decisions.

"And they're helpful with home-"

"And they're helpful with home-work, too."

work, too."

Murray took both seniors and students for journey inside a computer. He showed them a hard drive, central processing unit. floppy disk drive, sound card and modem from a disassembled computer.

Students gingerly held the parts as they were passed around the classroom.

"Turn it over," Murray said to one of the seniors carefully exam-ining the hard drive. "You can't hurt it; it's already broke."

A computer can help seniors make new connections and feel less isolated, Peek said.

With electronic mail, they're able to keep in contact with family

members for the price of a local phone call. Voice-activated software allows those with disabilities to communicate, Peck said.

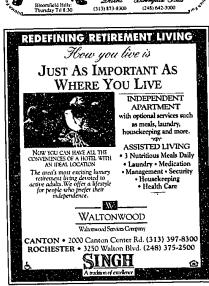
communicate, Peck said.

"A lot of these seniors have a lot of information in their heads, and they want to find out how valuable it is to thers," Peck said. "They also mighting someone who has the same challenges they have."









## AT&T Stores Your source for all ATAT services.

Utica 13307 Hua Rd. 248 372-7931 For more information of to sign up tempolisisty gall 1 800-IMAGINE?



Chesther Destroyes 31221 W Fee Min Fd 734 516 0360 Street Bed 16735 Physicals Rd 134 Q1-1772

ACT ATTEM 20218 Carrel

20215 W Fort b 1901 E Seven 313 368 7070

Dead Paging Con 13429 E. Supil M 313 527 4004 14714 E Aderso 211 E23 1170 Table Differ Supply 18235 TF Earl Mar Fel 313 939-4444

Total Other Septing 2011 W Grand Brid Sec. 516 212/272 1100 23411 Grand 810 775-4532 1010 ( Macin Po 248 549 1910 Shakey Short 30774 Grant 248 473 6735

Digital PCS features including ATAT \
 ATAT Caller ID and Text Messaging

Now connecting even more of the Detroit area.

ATAT Wireless Services introduces a newly expanded home calling area for Detroit and Southeast Michigan. Now from Flint to Ann Arbor to Port Huron to Detroit, you can connect with more of Southeast Michigan at your low

home airdine rate. So whether you're calling locally or across the country, ART has you concred with a rating plant to sat all of your needs. Like ART Digital One Rates, where there's never a rouming or long distance charge anywhere across the U.S. Stop by an ART Store or authorized dealer to sign up today.

ATET Wireless Services

**1800-IMAGINE** 

it's all within your reach.

