

Living

✓ CF Education RP
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Key to creativity

Maria Rodriguez is just learning to speak English and volunteers at the English Language Program already have her operating an Apple Macintosh computer at the Adelante Project on West Beach Street. On her first day, she composed a simple story about Main Street, with its hotel and police patrol. She was thrilled.

Tomi Newman, co-director of the program, a component of the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County, who showed Rodriguez how to operate the keyboard and mouse, said students learn three to four times faster with the help of a computer.

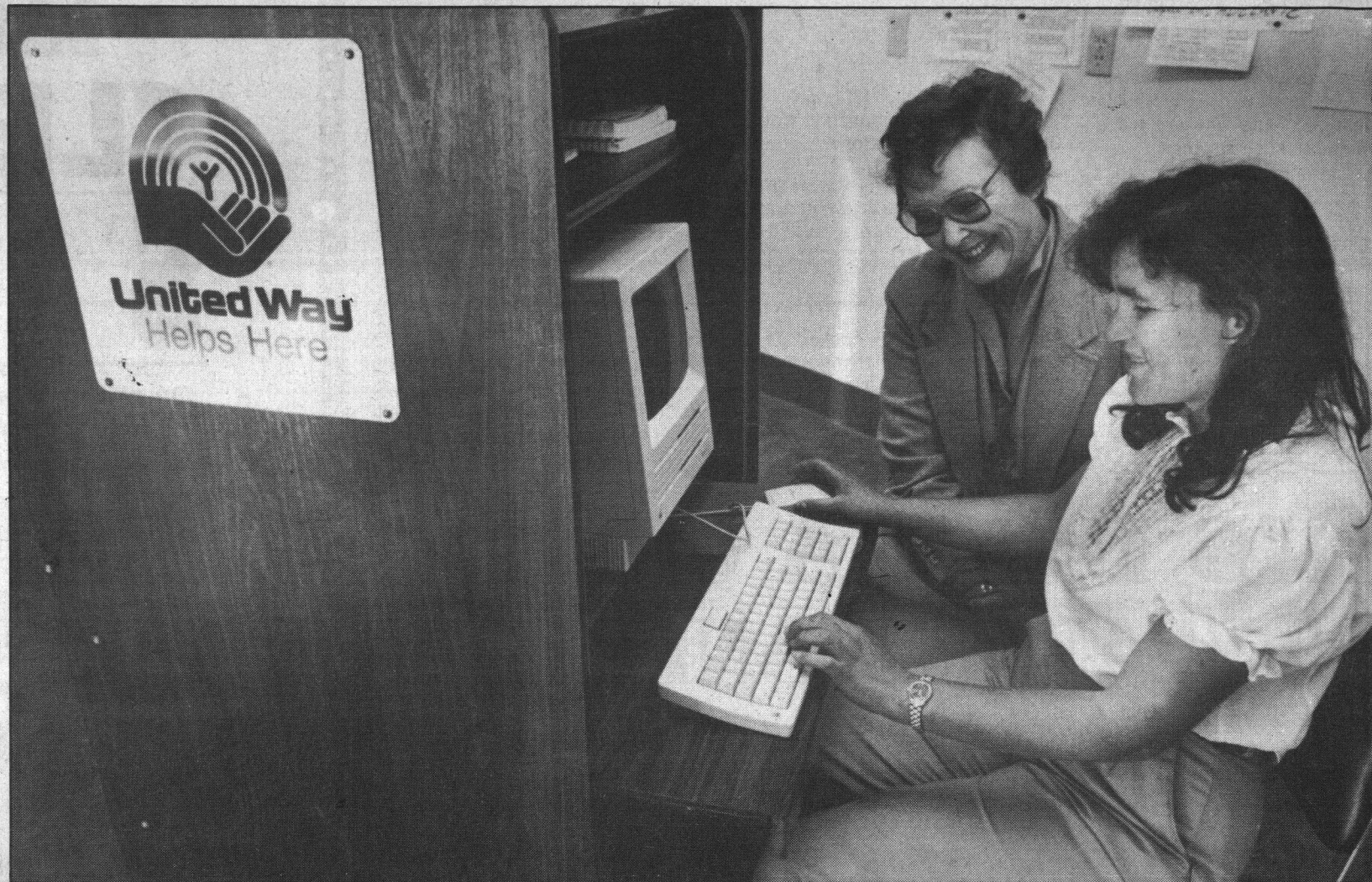
In addition to learning to read and write English, the computer program allows students to use their imaginations and learn to compose in English.

The purpose of the program, Newman said, is to equip students with literacy and typing skills that will allow them to attend adult school classes and put them in a better position to find a job that pays more than minimum wage.

Newman said the program needs volunteer tutors. Also needed is a tutor to run a computer lab at Adelante. Ideally, she said, students will use the computer as part of their English language instruction, and, when a lab is set up, to come in and practice on their own time.

The computer was presented to the program in January by the United Way. Newman said she hopes to add more computers in the future.

Interested volunteers can get more information at 722-6708.



English language student Maria Rodriguez practices on the new computer with Tomi Newman's help.

Kurt Ellison