

# AT&T Donates \$75,000 to Computers 4 Kids at Louisville's Connect! Tour



Contact: Kasey McCrary  
kmccrary@connectky.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 20, 2008

*Computers 4 Kids donation and distribution will benefit Kentucky Refugee Ministries and other Louisville non-profits*

**LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY** — Today, AT&T presented a \$75,000 check to ConnectKentucky's Computers 4 Kids (C4K) program for computers and technology upgrades to local non-profit agencies that provide after-school programs and services to students in Jefferson County. This is the second donation and serves as a demonstration of AT&T Foundation's commitment to building a common understanding about the importance and relevance of technology in enhancing excellence in underprivileged populations, enabling individuals to improve their lives through technological exposure all while reinforcing their commitment to education and society.

"ConnectKentucky is helping to provide a critical link through technology for Louisville area students so they will have the opportunity to be successful," said Joan Coleman, president of AT&T Kentucky. "Education is a high priority for AT&T, and we all can be more effective working together through public-private partnerships to ensure our Kentucky students reach their greatest potential."

In addition to today's announcement, Computers 4 Kids will distribute the first computers and equipment to Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Kentucky Refugee Ministries (KRM) is the refugee resettlement non-profit authorized by the U.S. Department of State to assist families that are victims of warfare or other forms of persecution because of their religious or political beliefs. Among other things, KRM assists families in cultural orientation to American life and taking English as a Second Language classes (ESL). They also have a Youth Services Program that works to connect students, parents, schools, and the Louisville community. KRM assists with school registration, finding tutors, and serves as a liaison between parents and schools. In addition, KRM participates in Building Futures, a program that matches immigrant and refugee youth with volunteer tutors to work on literacy skills.

Computers 4 Kids will be distributing computers and laptops to KRM for use in their computer lab and their Family Center. The distribution will also include laptops for selected students awarded scholarships to St. Francis High School.

"Kentucky Refugee Ministries is extremely grateful to AT&T for the gift of computers to enhance services to our clients, especially the children and youth," Liz Kaznak of Kentucky Refugee Ministries. "Our young refugees need computer experience and practice in order to be prepared to succeed in today's world. Thanks to AT&T, we can now offer educational opportunities that will help better prepare them for school and work, as well as connect them to information about their friends and family still living in refugee camps."

Since the first of AT&T Foundation's donations in October 2007, computers and equipment have been distributed to thirteen non-profit organizations in the Louisville area including:

Berrytown Family YMCA, Lac Viet Academy, Americana Community Center, Louisville Central Community Center, Salvation Army South/Boys and Girls Club, Portland Neighborhood House, West End School, Okolona Church, Boys Haven, All Care Community Center, South West YMCA, The Lighthouse and the Cabbage Patch Settlement Home. AT&T's initial investment helped leverage nearly \$30,000 in Louisville Metro Council funding and \$5,000 from Hilliard Lyons for the initiative.

"Computers 4 Kids' partnership with AT&T has impacted hundreds of Louisville children and families," stated Andrew V. McNeill, Vice President for Program Development. "We are happy that AT&T has partnered with us to directly impact families in Louisville."

Computers 4 Kids is a project of ConnectKentucky and the most innovative and comprehensive initiative of its kind undertaken by any state as it is intended to help underprivileged students and their families, as well as other disadvantaged populations, overcome the obstacles associated with the digital divide. ConnectKentucky has successfully placed nearly 2,000 computers in the hands of disadvantaged individuals since its inception in 2005.

Immediately following the Computer 4 Kids announcement and distribution, the *Connect!* Tour assembled state telecom leaders, local officials and business leaders to discuss potential broadband policy and next steps for broadband in Kentucky. The *Connect!* Tour is a national effort coordinated jointly by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Connected Nation, the parent company of ConnectKentucky, and locally sponsored by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Greater Louisville, Inc. to promote the importance and benefits of broadband and related technologies. The Louisville event is the third of several regional dialogues to be held across the United States over the coming months.

The Computers 4 Kids announcement and distribution, as well as the Connect! Tour, is available to view online at NextGenWeb.org. For more information about the online video of the event, visit [www.nextgenweb.org](http://www.nextgenweb.org).

# # #

**About ConnectKentucky:** As a non-profit technology-based economic development organization, ConnectKentucky is working to ensure that Kentucky remains the place of choice to live, work and raise a family. As a public-private partnership, ConnectKentucky partners with technology-minded businesses, government entities and universities to accelerate technology in the Commonwealth.

For more information about ConnectKentucky, visit [www.connectkentucky.org](http://www.connectkentucky.org).