

Franklin County Council on Family Abuse Benefits from Computer, Technology Donations



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The Franklin County Council on Family Abuse Receives Refurbished Computers Donated through a Partnership of ConnectKentucky's Computers 4 Kids, Opportunity for Work and Learning (OWL), and the Blue Grass Community Action Partnership

Frankfort, KY—On Thursday, May 13, five nearly new computers and printers were donated to the Franklin County Council on Family Abuse as part of a continuing technology donation partnership.

The computers and printers were donated during the Franklin County Council on Family Abuse's "Steak-Holder Supper," held at the First United Methodist Church in Frankfort. More than 100 community members and local leaders attended the event.

"The donation of these computers is so critical to our work here in this community and in Central Kentucky," Council Chair Laura Leigh Goins said. "Not only do we now have the resources we need to install a security system with monitors in each of our units, but our guests will also have an opportunity to seek information that will help empower them to overcome their situations and change their lives."

Initially, the gently used computers were donated by the Kentucky Secretary of State's office to ConnectKentucky's Computers 4 Kids (C4K) program.

"As our office continues to increase our digital capacity, we soon outgrow some of the computer equipment that we have used over the years," remarked Secretary of State Trey Grayson. "Although they no longer fit our needs, we are delighted to use these computers to brighten the future of Kentuckians recovering from abusive environments. We have long said that our office does more with less, thanks to technology. We are humbled that our technological reach will extend beyond to the families of Kentucky via the C4K program."

ConnectKentucky's C4K program is an innovative project that brings together public and private partners to help disadvantaged children and their families join the information age. This is accomplished by placing computers in the hands of

disadvantaged populations so that they have access to abundant technological resources and can perform basic computing functions.

Since its inception, C4K has delivered more than 3,200 Internet-ready computers to disadvantaged individuals, schools, libraries, community centers, and nonprofit after-school programs across the state.

“ConnectKentucky’s Computers 4 Kids program is proud to continue our participation in this partnership designed to help families in the Bluegrass,” said Rene True, executive director of ConnectKentucky. “As the partnership continues to receive donations, we are confident that technology use will expand throughout the region.”

Before going to the Franklin County Council on Family Abuse for placement in a home for abused women seeking shelter, the computers were made like new by Opportunity for Work and Learning. OWL provides job skills to employment-challenged individuals who refurbish computers during a 10-week technology training program. OWL is an organization dedicated to removing employment barriers to individuals in the community by retraining them in a field where they are more likely to find a job.

“This multi-agency partnership demonstrates that when agencies work together, all citizens regardless of age in the Commonwealth will benefit. OWL continues to look for new partnerships to fulfill its mission,” according to David Boggs, OWL president/CEO.

To learn more about the donation, visit www.connectkentucky.org.

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Photo Captions: Council on Family Abuse Chair Laura Leigh Goins (center) accepts a donation of five nearly new computers and printers from Assistant Secretary of State Allen Eskridge and ConnectKentucky Executive Director René True.

About ConnectKentucky: ConnectKentucky is leading the way into a new economy for Kentuckians. As an independent technology-based economic development organization, ConnectKentucky works to ensure that Kentucky remains the place of choice to live, work, and raise a family. ConnectKentucky is an alliance of technology-minded businesses, government entities, and universities working together to accelerate technology in the Commonwealth.

For more information about ConnectKentucky, visit www.connectkentucky.org.

About OWL: Since 1961 Opportunity for Work and Learning has been partnering within the community to educate and equip individuals with barriers to

employment to reach their vocational goals. OWL provides job training, job placement, evaluations, and assessment services in all 17 counties of the Bluegrass Area Development District and Jefferson County.

For more information about OWL, visit www.owlinc.net.

About Blue Grass Community Action Partnership: The Blue Grass Community Action Partnership has been providing assistance to low-income individuals/households since 1964 in an effort to remove barriers to self-sufficiency. With the funding received through the ARRA, the Agency has collaborated with Opportunity for Work and Learning (OWL) to provide resources to make a difference in our client's way of life. Eligible clients receive vocational assessments that identify an individual's interest, aptitudes, learning strengths and weaknesses to ensure successful training and job placement outcomes. The computer recycling and refurbishing is just one of the aspects of this program. Preparing individuals for employment that provides a living wage will ensure that they will become self-sufficient.

For more information about BGCAP, visit www.bluegrasscommunityaction.org.