

Three Community Groups Receive AT&T- Sponsored Computers through ConnectKentucky Program



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AT&T Foundation Sponsors Computers 4 Kids Donation to The Kings Center, The Thornhill Center, and Simon House in Frankfort as Attorney General announces Expansion of CybersafeKY Initiative

Frankfort, KY – Today during a press conference held at Simon House in Frankfort, ConnectKentucky's Computers 4 Kids (C4K) program donated twenty computers and printers to three community organizations dedicated to educating and protecting Frankfort's youth and families in crisis. The donations were made possible thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation. This is part of a \$150,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation that has donated computers to more than twenty nonprofit organizations in Kentucky.

Recipients of today's donations include:

- **The Kings Center:** a nonprofit group that provides educational activities, assistance for underprivileged young people, and community outreach;
- **The Thornhill Center:** a nonprofit that helps prepare individuals for GED and college entrance exams and teaches parenting and English classes; and
- **The Simon House:** a shelter that offers help to any woman at least eighteen years of age who is pregnant or has children up to the age of twelve. The Simon House provides specific strategies and training designed to develop personal and family stability.

"Everyone at The Simon House is excited about our new computers made possible by the generosity of so many," said Karen Black, executive director of Simon House. "This will open doors to education and opportunity for all our residents to continue to improve their lives and those of their children. My hope is that, through these computers, our families will gain a better understanding of the world around them through the technological advances provided by ConnectKentucky and the AT&T Foundation."

During the press conference, Kentucky attorney general Jack Conway and the Kentucky Department of Education announced that ConnectKentucky will be joining their Internet safety partnership, CybersafeKY. This partnership will be expanding and launching new programs this school year to educate parents and help keep children safe.

“As parents and students get back into the swing of a new school year, it’s more important than ever before to talk about the dangers that exist online,” Conway said. “Since 2008, we’ve visited more than 100 schools and presented our cybersafety message to 24,000 people. We’ve done a tremendous job getting the word out to kids. Now we’re reaching out to parents to educate them about the dangers that exist online.”

“We applaud Attorney General Conway, ConnectKentucky, and the Kentucky Department of Education for their commitment to cybersafety,” said AT&T Kentucky president Mary Pat Regan. “Education is the focus of the AT&T Foundation, and we continually strive to support efforts focused on promoting online safety to students, parents, and educators.”

The partnership will host two free regional parent workshops to instruct parents about how to use technology and monitor activity on the Internet. **The workshops will take place on October 15 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (EDT) at the Hazard Community and Technical College—First Federal Building, Ballroom; and on October 22 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (CDT) at Western Kentucky University—Kentucky Building, Kentucky Room.**

ConnectKentucky is providing fifty wireless printers, donated by Lexmark, as door prizes—twenty-five will be given away at each event. Parents may register at www.aq.ky.gov/cyberafety. The Kentucky Department of Education will webcast the workshops.

As part of the CybersafeKY partnership, the Office of the Attorney General will conduct cybersafety trainings at each of the Frankfort organizations that received computers.

“CybersafeKY and Computers 4 Kids work hand-in-hand, providing parents, teachers, and kids with the technology and instruction for safe use of online resources,” said René True, executive director of ConnectKentucky. “The partnership between ConnectKentucky, the Kentucky Attorney General’s Office, the Kentucky Department of Education, and our private sponsors ensures Kentucky children have the technology resources necessary to compete in a global economy, while providing a safe environment for our kids’ online activities through cybersafety education and awareness programs.”

Computers 4 Kids, a project of ConnectKentucky, is the most innovative and comprehensive initiative of its kind undertaken by any state as it is intended to help bridge the digital divide by placing computers into the hands of families and organizations that support education. Organizations interested in supporting Computers 4 Kids can submit requests to C4K@connectky.org.

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About ConnectKentucky: *ConnectKentucky connects people to technology in world-altering ways: improving the lives of the formerly disconnected; renewing hope for previously withering rural communities; driving increases in the number of tech-intensive companies and jobs; and nurturing an environment for lifetime learning, improved health care, and superior quality of life. ConnectKentucky develops and implements effective strategies for technology deployment, use, and literacy in Kentucky, creating both the forum and the incentive for interaction among a variety of people and entities that would not otherwise unite behind common goals and a shared vision. This level of teamwork is ensuring Kentucky remains the place of choice to live, work, and raise a family*

AT&T Foundation, the corporate philanthropy organization of AT&T, Inc., supports initiatives that help students throughout the higher education continuum: the successful completion of high school; preparation for and entrance to college; and degree completion and graduation. Additionally, the AT&T Foundation supports organizations and programs that integrate technology into daily classroom instruction and administration activities, develop community and civic leadership, and encourage workforce development.

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