

Area Head Start Programs to Benefit from Computer, Technology Donations



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Six Head Start Programs Will Receive 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.

Danville, KY—Head Start programs in the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky are benefiting from technology, thanks to donated computers and printers from a collaborative effort of several organizations. The refurbishing services took place at Pioneer Vocational Industrial Services located in Danville.

On May 4, ConnectKentucky, Opportunity for Work and Learning (OWL), and the Blue Grass Community Action Partnership (BGCAP) will officially announce a partnership that will donate refurbished computers to Head Start programs in Anderson, Boyle, Jessamine, Woodford, Mercer, and Franklin counties.

The event will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 4, at the Crescent Drive Head Start, 456 Crescent Drive, Danville, KY.

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 futures of Kentucky's most precious resources — our children. 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 children 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.

“Through the Computers 4 Kids program, ConnectKentucky continues to identify creative partnerships to ensure all Kentuckians enjoy the benefits achieved through technology access. We are proud to work with our new partners to foster technology inclusion for all Kentuckians,” said ConnectKentucky Executive Director René True.

Before going to the Head Start programs, the computers were made like new by personnel at 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.

These computers, along with donated printers from Lexmark, have now been and will be donated to children participating in six Head Start programs, with the help of funding through the Blue Grass Community Action Partnership.

“The Blue Grass Community Action Partnership is appreciative of this donation to our six Head Start centers. These computers and printers will assure that the children have access to computer technology to learn basic computer skills. We would like to thank our partners in this effort, ConnectKentucky’s Computers 4 Kids,” said Troy Roberts, executive director.

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

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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 & 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.

About Pioneer: Since 1967 Pioneer Vocational/Industrial Services has been providing vocational development and extended employment programs to people who are disabled and/or disadvantaged to assist them in obtaining employment and maximizing independent living skills. Pioneer provides job training, job placement, evaluation, assessments and Supported for Community Living services.

For more information about Pioneer, visit www.pioneerservices.org