



Connected Tennessee gives hundreds access to internet

<http://www.wmctv.com/global/story.asp?s=8561567>

BY Ben Watson
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Hundreds of Mid-South foster children now have access to the internet thanks to an organization donating computers.

Thursday, each child took home their own computer.

The computer giveaway was sponsored by a group called Connected Tennessee. It is all part of a national Connected Nation program aimed at bringing disadvantaged children closer to the world of technology.

Foster children gathered at Cathedral of Faith Church had lots to sing about.

Some 200 children picked up free computers as part a new partnership between the Department of Children's Services and Connected Tennessee's Computers For Kids program.

"I really thank them. I am really grateful because without them I don't know where I would be at right now," 18-year-old Arrelicious Martin said.

During the past three years, the Computers for Kids program has given thousands of computers to disadvantaged youngsters around the country.

"Having a computer it is a tool today. Whether you're graduating from high school and going into college or going into the workforce. It's something that you have to have today to be competitive," Michael Ramage of Connected Tennessee said.

Martin said she has never owned a computer before and she'll need one when she begins nursing classes at U of M next semester.

"Because it helps. Like I don't have to run to the library and wait for an hour and a half for a computer. I can just look up research whenever I need it," Martin said.

And this is just the beginning. During the next three years, Connected Tennessee will give out 3,000 more computers to youngsters in Tennessee.

The foster children who got computers Thursday were selected because of their good grades and good behavior at school.