

## **Computers 4 Kids puts Dell computers into the hands of 75 foster children**

<http://www.dnj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080617/NEWS01/80617029/1002/rss>

June 18, 2008

Connected Tennessee recently presented 75 Middle Tennessee foster children with brand new Dell laptop computers through the Computers 4 Kids program.

Connected Tennessee's Computers 4 Kids (C4K) initiative places computers into the hands of underprivileged children and their families across Tennessee.

C4K is an innovative project designed to positively impact the future of disadvantaged children in Tennessee by distributing computers to children and families facing economic challenges, are in the foster care system or that struggle with behavioral disorders and other issues.

The recipients are graduating seniors that hail from 12 counties in the Middle Tennessee region: Rutherford, Williamson, Dickson, Humphreys, Stewart, Montgomery, Robertson, Sumner, Trousdale, Houston, Wilson and Cheatham. The kids were targeted for inclusion in the program by their case managers based on specified behavioral and academic expectations.

Almost half of low-income families in Tennessee cite a lack of a computer at home as the reason they are not accessing the Internet.

Since computer skills and Internet access have become essential components necessary to participate in the global economy, the need to help Tennessee's disadvantaged residents join the Information Age is apparent.

"I hope to see every Tennessean realize the benefits of technology, and Computers 4 Kids is a step toward that goal for some of our most important citizens," said Governor Phil Bredesen. "These are children who might not otherwise have the tools they need to access the abundant educational, informational and research resources available on the Internet today."

The distribution was part of the Department of Children's Services Celebration of Excellence event held at the Smyrna Skate Center. DCS Program Coordinator, Chrystalyn Hall, said the impact of the computers will be felt far beyond today's event.

"We are truly excited about the opportunity to celebrate our youth for graduating," Hall said. "Graduating or obtaining a GED is an awesome achievement for our youth and they should be celebrated. This year we have been blessed by Connected Tennessee and Connected Nation to give all our graduating youth laptop computers. Providing the

youth with laptop computers is a great investment to our youth personally and academically.”

Connected Tennessee is a non-profit organization that develops and implements effective strategies for technology deployment, use and literacy in Tennessee.

Connected Tennessee is coordinating the Computers 4 Kids project with the State of Tennessee, the Department of Children’s Services and the Department of Human Services. Through C4K, Connected Tennessee will award 1,000 computers per year over the next three years to children in need across Tennessee.