



Group donates computer lab to Boys & Girls Club, YMCAs

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Computers 4 Kids established its first computer lab in the state at the Murfreesboro Boys and Girls Club on Monday afternoon.

The program is a part of Connected Tennessee, a public-private partnership between business, governmental and educational entities aimed at accelerating technology in the state.

North Rutherford YMCA's also received computers from the initiative.

Dan Jernigan, chief professional officer with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rutherford County, said the donation will benefit the 300-something children who are in the non-profit's after-school program.

"During the three hours (of the program), they can do their research and their homework," he said, allowing children to have their homework completed when their parents pick them up.

The Boys and Girls Club was given 15 Dell desktop computers. Officials from Connected Tennessee didn't have the value of the computers.

Jernigan said the club has about a dozen computers. Once seven to eight tables are purchased, the new computers can be used.

Computers 4 Kids also donated 10 computers to local YMCAs. Seven of them will be used in the Murfreesboro YMCA and three in the North Rutherford YMCA in Smyrna, said Gary Cobbs, group vice president of Rutherford County YMCAs.

"Within the next month or so, (I) hope we can have the computers connected," Cobbs said.

He expects a couple hundred youth will have access to the new computers on a daily basis.

"We're going to make sure we're going to be the best stewards of the computers," Cobbs said.

The donations are a part of a \$227,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation that was given in August.

Giving computers to "centers like this where kids are already coming makes sense," said Michael Ramage, executive director of Connected Tennessee. "We try to match the computers with the needs."

The organization gives computers to children and families who face economic challenges.