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## **Computers Presented to Families in Giles, Surrounding Counties**

<http://www.gilesnews.us/Stories/080725ComputersPresentedtoFamilies.html>

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Connected Tennessee presented 79 families in Maury, Marshall and Giles counties with brand new Dell 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. Working with the Department of Human Services (DHS), today's recipients were targeted for distribution by meeting their work requirement in the Families First program. The Families First program emphasizes work, training and personal responsibility.

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 took place at the Maury County Department of Human Services. Family Assistance District Director for DHS District 5, Nancy Johnson, said the impact of the computers will be felt far beyond today's event.

"The opportunities that are being afforded to these deserving families through these computers are virtually immeasurable," she said. "Having a computer will make it possible for the parents to help their children with schoolwork, search for jobs and even go back to school themselves if they wish. This is a life-changing event for these families and we are proud to be a part of it."

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 3,000 computers over a three year period to children and families in need across Tennessee.

Connected Tennessee partners with technology-minded businesses, government entities and universities to accelerate technology in the state. For more information about what Connected Tennessee is doing to accelerate technology in Tennessee's communities, visit [www.connectedtennessee.org](http://www.connectedtennessee.org).

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