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Needy kids to get computers

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Gov. Phil Bredesen and Connected Tennessee's Computers 4 Kids program will be presenting 183 foster children with Dell laptop computers today.

The computers, valued at more than \$100,000, will be presented to children who were recommended by the state's Department of Children's Services.

Computers 4 Kids is a project designed to distribute computers to children whose families face economic challenges or to those in the foster-care system or who have behavioral disorders and other issues.

Almost half of the low-income families in Tennessee cite a lack of a computer at home as the reason they are not accessing the Internet. Computers 4 Kids is aimed at helping bridge the gap between those who can afford computers and those who can't.

Commissioner Deborah Tate from the Federal Communications Commission also will attend. Tate will speak on Internet security for the Computers 4 Kids recipients and families and announce Connected Tennessee's recent partnership with the iKeepSafe Internet Safety Coalition.

The event will be at 11 a.m. at the Gordon E. Inman Center at Belmont University.