



Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains Receives Printers from Connected Tennessee's Computers 4 Kids Program

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Donation will benefit youth served at all five Club locations, aiding with technology access and educational support

Nashville, TN – Connected Tennessee's Computers 4 Kids program has been a resource partner of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tennessee since 2008, donating computers and printers and helping to facilitate more than 90,000 digital literacy-training hours to disadvantaged youth across the state.

"The Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains support the increased access to technology for these disadvantaged youth," said Mark Ross, chief professional officer of the Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains. "This is made possible by Connected Tennessee's Computers 4 Kids program's partnership and donation of these printers."

Wednesday, at the 2014 Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Legislative Luncheon, Connected Tennessee donated five new Lexmark printers to the Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains, and one directly to 2014 Boys & Girls Clubs of Tennessee State Youth of the Year, Ashley Heatherly, of the Smoky Mountain Region.

"The fact of the matter is that not all youth have access to the Internet or to devices when they get home in the evenings," said State Representative Dale

Carr. "With the Boys & Girls Club, we are able to provide a remedy to the access barrier, allowing them to complete their homework, thereby furthering their education, and learn important digital literacy skills that can help secure future employment."

"Technology opens the door to the future," said State Senator Doug Overbey. "And, as our world becomes increasingly technology-driven, the printers provided to our clubs and to Ashley will help ensure that these students are equipped with the necessary tools to keep up, placing a whole world of opportunities at their fingertips."

Heatherly, a high school senior, also attends the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and plans to become a medical examiner. She received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Tennessee Titan Foundation, a \$1,000 scholarship from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, a laptop from Dell, and printer from Connected Tennessee.

"The support from the Boys and Girls Clubs, the sponsors, donors, and Connected Tennessee that the Youth of the Year finalists, and all the young people who attend Boys and Girls Club locations receive, says a lot about the faith we have in their futures," said Senator Steve Southerland. "Their success - and in this day, their success as it pertains to technology and technological literacy - is our success and I wish them the very best in all their endeavors."

Photo from left: Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains Board Member Kevin Ownby, State Sen. Steve Southerland, State Rep. Dale Carr, TN Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year Ashley Heatherly (Boys & Girls Club Smoky Mountains), State Senator Doug Overbey, Mark Ross, Chief Professional Officer, Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains.

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About Connected Tennessee: As Tennessee's state broadband initiative, Connected Tennessee is a public-private partnership that joins with technology-minded businesses, government entities, universities, and non-profit organizations to improve economic development and enhance quality of life by accelerating Tennessee's technology landscape. Connected Tennessee's Computers 4 Kids program has donated over 5,000 computers to serve disadvantaged Tennessee youth since 2008. For maps, research, or more information about what Connected Tennessee is doing to expand broadband access, adoption, and use, visit www.connectedtn.org.

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