



Connected Tennessee Awards New Printer to Bernal Smith Boys & Girls Clubs

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Lexmark International Donates Hardware to the Computers 4 Kids Program

SHELBY COUNTY, TN – Connected Tennessee recently donated a new printer to the Bernal Smith Boys & Girls Clubs in Memphis. A printer was presented Tuesday to the club as a part of a donation made by Lexmark International to the Computers 4 Kids (C4K) program. Kentucky-based Lexmark provided a total of 250 printers to the C4K program that will be distributed to Boys & Girls Clubs across the state over the coming weeks.

Connected Tennessee has partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs in Tennessee since 2010 as a part of the *Computers 4 Kids: Preparing Tennessee's Next Generation for Success* project. The C4K program deploys computers, academic support programs, and workforce training to two disparate, but especially at-risk, populations: those in the state's foster care system who are "aging out" as they turn 18, and youth who are active in the state's 76 Boys & Girls Clubs. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-funded program will impact the lives of nearly 60,000 youth across the state throughout the life of the grant – providing a helping hand to youth that are working hard to attain a better life for themselves.

"This is very timely and needed as the children start a new school year," said Bernal Smith Boys and Girls Clubs Executive Director Vincent Smith.

"We're thrilled to be able to put the tools at the fingertips of these children, so they can learn the skills that are going to help them go on to pursue an education to get the job of their dreams, to start a business, to be productive members of society," said Connected Tennessee State Operations Manager Deanna Ward. "Most of us just take technology for granted, but for children who do not have it available at home to be able to do their homework on a computer and print it at the Boys and Girls Clubs is huge."

Lexmark International provides businesses of all sizes with a broad range of printing and imaging products, software, solutions and services that help customers to print less and save more.

Over the past two years, the Computers 4 Kids project has:

- Awarded more than 2,100 computers to youth in need across the state
- Impacted all 76 of the state's Boys & Girls Clubs
- Provided computers to more than 1,400 foster youth aging out of the Department of Children's Services program
- Allowed the Boys & Girls Clubs in Tennessee youth to complete nearly 20,000 hours of computer training
- Reached all 95 counties in Tennessee

The "*Preparing Tennessee's Next Generation for Success*" project is a result of a \$2.3 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant awarded to the C4K program in August 2010 by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). BTOP provides grants to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

For more information, please visit our website at www.connectedtn.org.

Photo Caption: Bernal Smith Boys and Girls Clubs Executive Director Vincent Smith accepts a donation of a Lexmark printer from Connected Tennessee's Computers 4 Kids program.

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About Connected Tennessee: *As a public-private partnership, 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.*

About Computers 4 Kids: Preparing Tennessee's Next Generation for Success: *Connected Tennessee's Computers 4 Kids project is helping to prepare Tennessee's most vulnerable youth for success by providing them with connectivity. The program promotes economic, career, and educational development through the provision of computers and broadband Internet, online technology training, career training, and community awareness that highlights the benefits of technology adoption.*