



## Connected Tennessee Puts Tennessee's Most Vulnerable Youth on the Path to Success

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*New Documentary Reveals the Impact of the Computers 4 Kids Program on Foster Youth  
& Other Vulnerable Youth Populations Across the State*

**Nashville, TN** – Connected Tennessee today debuted a short documentary that highlights the significant impact their Computers 4 Kids program has had on Tennessee's most vulnerable youth populations.

[\*The Computers 4 Kids: Preparing Tennessee's Next Generation for Success\*](#) project 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.

"Trying to get through college without a computer would be pretty much impossible," explains Department of Children's Services foster youth and current MTSU student, Jennifer Rhodes.

"As a program manager for DCS, it's very rewarding to see the impact that the computers have on our youth," notes Dave Aguzzi. "Most kids can start their college experience or get a job or other things to help support themselves, but if they run into problems, they have adults to fall back on. A lot of the youth that age out of foster care don't have adult support available to them. Based on limited resources, we're not always sure how we would be able to provide something like (computers) to them. This program has provided the opportunity for youth like Jennifer to get their own computer."

"Computers mean everything to our programs," says the Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee, Dan Jernigan. "It allows us to close up that digital divide that exists among our children. When our kids come in here, they have access to technology that they wouldn't have if this partnership did not exist."

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

To view the documentary in its entirety and hear more success stories, please click [here](#).

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.

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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](http://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.*