



## Connected Tennessee Presents After-School Program at St. John Baptist Church With New Printers

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**Stanton, TN** – On Tuesday, Connected Tennessee State Operations Manager Deanna Ward presented the after-school program at St. John Baptist Church with six new printers to help complete its computer lab. This lab not only serves the students in the program but the community as well with computer classes.

When asked what the donation of the color printers meant to him, student Alex Ambrose replied, “It is my back up plan so I can have my homework if (my printer) at home does not work. However, it is great for my friends that do not have a printer at all.”

The printers are part of a donation made by Lexmark International to Connected Tennessee’s Computers 4 Kids (C4K) program. Kentucky-based Lexmark provided a total of 250 printers to the C4K program that have been distributed across the state in the last year.

As 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 who are working hard to attain a better life for themselves. Occasionally, the C4K program will also donate printers to local and state organizations, such as the after-school program at St. John Baptist Church, that focus on educating and empowering youth, individuals, and families in the state.

“It is amazing for the children to be able to see the full effect of their work. It looks the same when printed as it does on the screen,” said Dr. Ruby Oatis, Christian Education director. “Their eyes just light up.”

“There are those children that need the one-on-one (time) and the quiet environment, and now since we have more than one printer, we can set up that lab,” said church member and County Commissioner Marjorie Vault.

In just under five years, the Computers 4 Kids program has:

- Awarded more than 4,300 computers to youth in need across the state
- Supported all 76 of the state’s Boys & Girls Clubs
- Provided computers to more than 3,250 foster youth aging out of the Department of Children’s Services program
- Allowed the Boys & Girls Clubs in Tennessee youth to complete more than 90,000 hours of computer training
- Impacted 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](http://www.connectedtn.org).

**Photo caption:** *Kneeling from left are students Alex Ambrose, Darion Williamson, Jakayla Halliburton, and Aaliyah Haynes. Standing from left are Dr. Ruby Oatis, Deanna Ward, Viola Taylor, and Daphne Nelson.*

**Photo credit:** *Vicky Fawcett, Brownsville States-Graphic*

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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.connectedtn.org](http://www.connectedtn.org).*

**About Computers 4 Kids: Preparing Tennessee’s Next Generation for Success:** *Connected Tennessee’s Computers 4 Kids program 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.*

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