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COMCAST

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Comcast has partnered with groups such as the North Wheeling Community Center and YSS to establish “lift zones” -- broadband hubs where students can go to access broadband internet when they do not have that at home.

Now the focus is on providing devices and getting Internet into the home, he said.

Ohio County Schools Assistant Superintendent Rick Jones said the school district was informed in late summer of the donation.

“We have a lot of kids who are really going to see a value in getting these laptops,” he said.

Jones said the details of who gets the computers and how they will be distributed are still

being determined.

Presently, students in Ohio County Schools already receive a Chromebook from the school district for their personal use, but the devices are not theirs to keep.

Those receiving Chromebooks from Comcast will be able to take those with them to college.

Rev. Darrell Cummings of the North Wheeling Community Youth Center said the center has a long-standing relationship with Comcast.

“Comcast’s generous contribution of \$15,000 and 250 laptops will go far in helping us address digital equity in the tri-state area, as we will be working through sister organizations such as Beth-

lehem Apostolic Temple in Wheeling, Shiloh Apostolic Faith Assembly in Weirton, Greater Love Ministries in Belmont County and the Ohio Valley Pastors Tri-State Association -- as well as other schools and organizations,” Cummings said.

Tammy Kruse, president of YSS, said the \$15,000 donation will allow the agency to “make a positive difference in the lives of the most vulnerable children and adults in our community, helping us to prevent homelessness and provide tangible as well as emotional and mental health support through our many programs.”

“The laptops will give the youth we serve the technology they need to succeed in school,” she said.



Photo by Joselyn King

Students in Ohio County Schools celebrate the donation by Comcast of 1,200 laptop computers to the school district, which will be distributed to the North Wheeling Community Center, Youth Services System and low income youths in the county. Pictured from left are Wheeling Park High School students Jaleah Creighton, Cole Wilkinson, Jeremiah Jones and Makivah Strothers.