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For Immediate Release

Operation New Hope and AT&T Flip the Switch on a New Upgraded Computer Lab that will help Qualified Ex-offenders Research, Learn and Find New Jobs

JACKSONVILLE, March 20, 2012 – Operation New Hope, a faith-based nonprofit community development corporation, today powered-on a new and upgraded computer lab for the organization's Ready4Work program. Funding for the lab was recently provided through an AT&T \$10,000 donation.

Ready4Work is a nationally recognized program for non-violent/non-sexual ex-offenders to provide participants necessary tools to re-enter the community workforce as productive and responsible citizens. The program provides hands-on case management, employment skills training, life-coaching and job placement assistance.

AT&T and Operation New Hope celebrated the new lab with Ready4Work program participants as they officially flipped the switch on the new devices. The majority of Ready4Work program participants would otherwise not have access to a computer or the internet because they are not able to afford the expense of owning their own device.

"We recognize the significant role Operation New Hope plays in this community as these ex-offenders try to get their lives back on track," said Regional Director of External Affairs for AT&T Florida Heather Duncan. "We're honored to be a part of something that helps change lives for the better."

In addition to new computer devices, Ready4Work program participants will also have access to a new printer, also purchased with the dollars donated by AT&T.

"We are tremendously grateful for AT&T and this new computer lab," said Kevin Gay, Founder and President of Operation New Hope. "By upgrading the training and learning environment of these ex-offenders, we can continue to bring a positive energy to their job search and commitment to positive life transformation. Quality tools and training leads to better quality of life, which means this is a very useful and meaningful gift from AT&T that supports our organization in a major way."

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