

City of Dallas News Release

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AT&T provides \$500,000 grant for 20 new Teen Centers; *The money will also create a Literary Camp and Teen Center Arts Incubator*

Dallas – The AT&T Foundation has donated \$500,000 to the Friends of the Dallas Public Library to be used to open Teen Centers and new programs at 20 additional library locations over the next few months. The Dallas Public Library's three newest Teen Centers: Skillman Southwestern, Park Forest and North Oak Cliff, were largely sponsored by AT&T.

"With this generous grant, AT&T has again demonstrated that they are good corporate citizens, and are committed to making a difference in the lives of our young people," said Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert.

Teen Centers provide at risk youth with exposure to positive role models in the community and offer special programs on career planning, college admission, and homework help via the Internet. Teen Center activities include interview training, job fairs, computer training, help with college and scholarship applications, creative writing, public speaking, Web design and arts and crafts. Library staff as well as academic and professional community residents guide and advise teens throughout these activities.

"We commend the great work that the Dallas Public Library is doing through their Teen Centers to give at risk teens the chance to participate in educational and volunteer programs," said Brooks McCorcle, senior vice president of Investor Relations, AT&T. "Programs like Teen Centers, which are designed to help students excel in high school, are doing their part to cultivate a well-educated workforce, which will help America remain the leader in a digital, global economy."

In addition to the Teen Centers, the AT&T grant will allow the library will implement two new programs: *Moving Words Literary Camp @ Dallas Public Library* (creative writing workshops for fiction, playwright and poetry) and *Teen Center Arts Incubator: Backstage @ Dallas Public Library*, for teens interested in exploring literary arts and theater production.

"We are so very grateful to AT&T for this generous donation," said Director of Libraries Laurie Evans. "With this grant we will have Teen Centers at all our branches, providing teens with a safe and constructive place to go, with a variety of recreational and educational activities."

The Dallas Public Library operates the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., and 26 branch locations. A library card is free for any Dallas resident. For information on the many free programs and services available at the Dallas Public Library, visit: www.dallaslibrary.org.

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