

York Telecom Helps Girl with Leukemia Connect with Classmates

Kentucky student overcomes distance using videoconferencing

EATONTOWN, NJ, April 8, 2008 — York Telecom is proud to announce that it has recently completed a videoconferencing system installation for Emily Stapleton, a Kentucky 2nd-grade student with Leukemia. Because Emily's illness has severely weakened her immune system, she cannot share a classroom with other children. Videoconferencing allows her to communicate and take part in regular lessons with her teachers and classmates.

The videoconferencing connection has already allowed Emily to take part in learning, talking with her classmates and teachers, and even singing Christmas songs. Emily's first videoconference was so emotional that her teacher, Amy Skaggs, had to leave the room.

Emily's school principal, Nancy McHenry, first requested a video connection from The Center for Rural Development, located in Somerset, Kentucky. Robyn Phillips, Coordinator for the CenterNET 2 network, spearheaded the project, which also involved the Commonwealth Office of Technology, the Kentucky Department of Education, AT&T, York Telecom, Dell, and Windstream. AT&T, Dell and COT provided the equipment while York Telecom installed the systems and provided technical support. Windstream will provide the DSL connection. All products and services were donated by the companies and organizations involved.

"We are thrilled to see the project come together so quickly for Emily," Robyn said about the success of the videoconferencing system installation. "All of the companies involved were very professional and responsive. The result is that Emily gets to learn and laugh with her fellow students, even though they cannot be together in one room."

"York Telecom is extremely glad to see Emily be able to finally meet her classmates," said Ron Gaboury, President of York Telecom. "The Center for Rural Development with Robyn's leadership has made it possible for us to provide our services for this tremendous project. We are grateful for the chance to help Emily learn and grow and make contact with her friends."

About the Center for Rural Development

The Center for Rural Development is a national model for economic and community development and has a primary service area of 42 counties in Southern and Eastern Kentucky; however, it also has many statewide and several national programs to its credit. The Center's CenterNET2 videoconferencing network is the largest facilitator of videoconferencing services in the state. Development in The Center's primary focus areas of leadership, technology, public safety and arts and culture continues to have a considerable positive impact across its primary service region; historically one of the most economically, environmentally and educationally challenged areas of the country. To learn more about The Center, visit www.centertech.com.

About York Telecom

York Telecom is a leading provider of visual communication services and solutions for educational institutions, the federal government, state and local governments, healthcare facilities, and Fortune 1000 companies. The company offers total managed conferencing services, professional video production, design consulting, systems integration and maintenance services for applications including videoconferencing, presentation systems, streaming media, telemedicine, and distance training. Founded in 1985, York Telecom is headquartered in Eatontown, New Jersey. For more information, visit www.yorktel.com.