



Atlanta Alive 11

'Digital Connectors' Program Trains Teens for Future **CHRIS SWEIGART**

DECATUR, Ga. -- A group of metro Atlanta teens are getting some much needed training for the jobs of tomorrow. Through a program hosted at a Boys and Girls Club in Decatur, teens are increasing their digital literacy.

For today's generation of teens exposure to electronics and digital media is nothing new. But a new program in metro Atlanta is helping those teens understand how it all works and what it means to them.

The Digital Connectors program is currently in a pilot stage in Atlanta. It's being hosted at the Boys and Girls Club in Decatur.

"They're finding out things about themselves, skills that they have but may not know about, learning to work together in a group with team building concepts and they going out and actually doing [communityservice](#) in the community which is fabulous, to teach kids to give back," said Vice President of Strategic Programs for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Atlanta Claire Guitton.

The program got its start in Washington D.C. when it was launched by a group called One Economy. It seeks to build on the traditional values taught by the Boys and Girls Club with cutting-edge skills that will help teens land a job in the not too distant future.

"Once they walk out of this program they're able to have the leadership skills so they can go on and step onto a job and be able to work comfortably with other people," said One Economy's Southeastern Program Director Carol Johnson. "Then, have the technical skills to back that up."

The teens meet twice a week in the evenings during this year-long program. The program focuses on everything from community service, to problem solving, to networking and software development.

For the kids, the program is free thanks to a partnership with [Comcast](#).

"We have expanded the scope of literacy to really look at that digital literacy and ensure through this program that kids are exposed to areas of digital technology, IT and the careers that are associated with that," said Comcast Vice President of Community Affairs Andy Macke.

To find out more about the digital connectors program all you have to do is check out [one-economy.com](#). There, you'll find all kinds of programs designed to increase digital literacy.

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