



## **Project puts Charlestown on information superhighway Some get access in Charlestown**

By Harold J. Adams • [hjadams@courier-journal.com](mailto:hjadams@courier-journal.com) • July 19, 2008

The city of Charlestown has been selected as one of nine [Indiana](#) communities where a limited number of households will receive free high-speed Internet service.

Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman is scheduled to visit Charlestown on Tuesday to announce the city's participation in the nationwide Bring IT Home America campaign. Fifty Charlestown households will get free DSL Internet service from AT&T for two years, said Ruthie Jackson, assistant to Mayor Bob Hall.

The program in Indiana is a partnership of AT&T, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and the nonprofit One Economy Corp., according to a news release from the Rural Affairs office.

Jackson, who is coordinating Charlestown's participation, said the city is in talks with One Economy aimed at having the nonprofit provide free or heavily discounted computers to individual participants who can't afford them.

The primary objective is "enhancing the education of our children," she said.

To qualify, applicants for the free Internet service must earn no more than \$33,250 a year for a one-person household, up to \$51,300 for a four-person household.

Jackson said about 60 applications sent home with students during the last week of school have been returned so far. She said more applications would be distributed during school orientation in August.

The city wants to get the free service running by the start of the school year, she said. Charlestown is the second Indiana community to be announced as a participant in the program. Peru was the first.

Jennifer Stevens, a spokeswoman for Community and Rural Affairs, said seven other locations have been selected but have not yet been named publicly.

The Indiana program is part of a national initiative by AT&T called AccessAll, partnering with One Economy to bring subsidized Internet access to 50,000 low-income homes.

Reporter Harold J. Adams can be reached at (812) 949-4028.