

PASADENA **THE CITIZEN**

AT&T funds RV to provide Internet access for hurricane victims

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AT&T Inc. has announced that it is contributing \$250,000 to fund a special RV outfitted with 25 laptop computers and Internet access to help victims of Hurricane Ike complete forms for FEMA and other assistance agencies.

The contribution will go to One Economy Corporation, a global non-profit organization that uses technology to help low-income residents improve their lives. One Economy managers and community partners staffing the RV speak Spanish and English.

The RV will be in two Pasadena locations today and Wednesday.

The donation will also help fund One Economy's www.ikehelpcenter.org Web site, which provides information on resources available to the public.

The RV will be stationed over the next two days at two Pasadena locations from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Today the RV will visit Cleveland/Ripley Neighborhood Center, 720 Fairmont Parkway. On Wednesday, it will be at Blessed San Juan Diego Catholic Church, 3301 Pasadena Blvd.

Following its Houston area stops, the RV will continue to other affected areas over the next month. Updated schedules will be available at the web site or by texting IKEHELP to 29222.

"It is an honor to partner with One Economy to help thousands of Texans get back on their feet," said Don Cain, president of AT&T Texas. "AT&T hopes this grant empowers areas residents with some of the resources they need to move beyond Hurricane Ike."

One Economy managers will be assisted by ACORN and other community organizations and AT&T volunteers who will be on hand to help people complete the forms.

"We have a long history of using technology to connect people with information they need to rebuild after a disaster, but this is the first time we have used a mobile Internet access site to bring connectivity to communities that need it most," said Sonja Murray, senior vice president at One Economy Corporation. "We will help hundreds of Texans take the next steps to recovery."

In a related development, AT&T has produced two radio and television Public Service Announcements inviting people to donate to the American Red Cross by texting GIVE to 24357 from their cell phones. The PSAs are airing statewide for approximately two weeks.

AT&T will match the first \$250,000 in contributions. All donations will help the Red Cross continue its efforts to provide shelter and assistance to hurricane victims.

"Texans are struggling. We need to send them some hope," said Cain.