



News Release



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F.U.T.U.R.E. Foundation Youth Services, Inc. RECEIVES TECHNOLOGY GRANT THROUGH 2003 SBC EXCELERATOR PROGRAM

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*Over 100 Illinois nonprofit organizations receive more than \$1.5 million
To better serve the state's communities through technology*

FORD HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS, October 31, 2003 — The SBC Foundation – the philanthropic arm of SBC Communications Inc. – has presented a \$6,480 grant to F.U.T.U.R.E. Foundation Youth Services, Inc. The grant was provided through the 2003 SBC Excelerator competitive technology grants program, which is the signature giving program of the SBC Foundation.

The grant will be used to develop a website giving our target audience an opportunity to participate first hand in the programs and services that provide our youth with more possibilities for self-development and academic enrichment.

“We are so pleased to have SBC as a partner,” said Emir A. Hardy, Executive Director of F.U.T.U.R.E. Foundation Youth Services, Inc. “This grant will help us build our capacity to assist youth and their families. I am honored that our project was selected for a grant award during these challenging economic times and look forward to taking our services and training directly to those that need them most.”

F.U.T.U.R.E. Foundation Youth Services, Inc. is one of over 100 Illinois nonprofit organizations selected to receive a grant through the 2003 SBC Excelerator program. The SBC Foundation is awarding more than \$1.5 million to Illinois organizations this year to further projects that use advanced technology to build stronger communities throughout the state.

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SBC Excelerator Grant/Add One

"SBC recognizes the critical role technology has and will continue to play in addressing economic, educational, community development, and quality of life issues in Illinois," said Sam Balark, director of external affairs for SBC Illinois. "Through the SBC Excelerator grant program, we're able to help Illinois nonprofit organizations benefit from the promise of technology."

State Rep. David Miller applauded the program for its efforts to bring much-needed resources to the community.

"Cooperative corporate and non-profit efforts like this program are key to ensuring residents in our area are not limited by the digital divide. In order to level the field, we need to expose both children and adults to technologies that are available. My hat goes off to F.U.T.U.R.E. Foundation Youth Services, Inc. and the SBC Foundation who realized this need, and for the creation and funding of this project."

With help from 2003 SBC Excelerator grants, nonprofit organizations in communities across the United States are improving operations and their ability to serve neighborhoods through:

- Interactive, Web-based applications that support activities such as service delivery, volunteer recruiting, and e-fundraising
- Technology training programs for nonprofit staff members
- High-speed access to the Internet and e-mail
- Network connectivity enabling easy sharing of database applications and information systems

Since the introduction of SBC Excelerator, the SBC Foundation has allocated a total of \$19 million to community-based organizations through national and local grants. Individual organizations received grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000. Collaborations by two or more organizations were considered for grants up to \$50,000. SBC Excelerator grants are for one year in length. A complete listing of the 2003 SBC Excelerator grant recipients is available at www.sbc.com/foundation.

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*The SBC Foundation is the charitable giving arm of SBC Communications Inc. The SBC Foundation supports efforts that enrich and strengthen diverse communities nationwide, particularly those with an emphasis on education and technology and those that benefit underserved populations. SBC Foundation-backed programs are designed to increase access to information technologies, broaden technology training and professional skills development, and effectively integrate new technologies to enhance education and economic development. The Chronicle of Philanthropy and The Foundation Center have consistently ranked the SBC Foundation among the nation's top five corporate foundations. In 2002, the SBC Foundation launched SBC Excelerator, a multimillion dollar competitive grants program that funds nonprofit organizations in their efforts to digitally connect communities. **SBC Communications Inc.** (www.sbc.com) is one of the world's leading data, voice, and Internet services providers. Through its world-class networks, SBC companies provide a full range of voice, data, networking, and e-business services, as well as directory advertising and publishing. A Fortune 30 company, SBC is America's leading provider of high-speed DSL Internet Access services and one of the nation's leading Internet Service Providers. SBC companies currently serve 56 million access lines nationwide. In addition, SBC companies own 60 percent of America's second-largest wireless company, Cingular Wireless, which serves 23 million wireless customers. Internationally, SBC companies have telecommunications investments in 25 countries.*