



MEDIA ALERT

December 20, 2010

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The Houston Parks and Recreation Department Unveils \$15,000 State-of-the-Art GTECH *After School Advantage* Computer Lab

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) is pleased to announce the opening of the **GTECH *After School Advantage* Computer Lab at Tidwell Park Community Center** and will host a special holiday event to celebrate the lab's official opening with a program, ribbon cutting, and refreshments **on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, at 3:00 p.m.** The new computer lab is outfitted with \$15,000 worth of new computer equipment, furniture, and educational software. The high-tech computer lab will provide children in the community with supplemental schoolwork enrichment, along with greater access to the Internet and the newest computer technologies.

Who: Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, will join State Representative Senfronia Thompson; Council Member Jarvis Johnson; representatives from GTECH; parent and student groups; and a surprise appearance by Santa Claus for the lab's official opening.

When: December 21, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Where: Tidwell Park Community Center – 9720 Spaulding - Houston, Texas 77016

Why: The GTECH *After School Advantage* program provides educational opportunities to local children by donating state-of-the-art computers, printers, software, furniture, and volunteer hours to non-profit organizations that sponsor after-school programs. The HPARD Tidwell Park Community Center GTECH lab is one of over a hundred and fifty *After School Advantage* computer labs that GTECH has built since the nationwide program began in 1999. The GTECH *After School Advantage* program aims to narrow the "digital divide" between affluent Americans and minorities, low-income households, and single-parent families, to grant more of America's children with access to computers and other educational opportunities.

Driving Directions: From downtown Houston, head north on US 59 toward Cleveland. Take Tidwell Road exit. Turn right at Tidwell Road. Stay on Tidwell Road until you get to Spaulding Street. Turn left at Spaulding Street to 9720 Spaulding.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,992 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.