

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Access Leaders Unite for Neighborhood Network

(HOUSTON, TEXAS)—Technology For All (TFA) is a Houston nonprofit on a mission to provide digital inclusion to under-resourced populations since 1997. In fact, it joined Rice University to bring a reliable, private wireless network to over 4,000 residents of Houston’s historically low-income Pecan Park neighborhood—the world’s largest research network of its kind. The TFA-Wireless project made headlines for using “Super Wi-Fi,” a long-range, barrier-piercing network that recycles unused TV channels, to meet local needs. “I’ve wanted [...] the Internet for a long time, but it’s very expensive,” said Leticia Aguirre, a working grandmother who calls the Super Wi-Fi “an answer to my prayers.”

Since it’s funded by a National Science Foundation grant, TFA-Wireless needed a carrier that could expand with demand within budget. Because of Voice Runner’s longstanding reputation for affordable quality service and innovation, it was a perfect fit.

Voice Runner, Houston’s tenth largest professional Internet, voice and data carrier, earned its reputation by servicing businesses challenged by big-name carriers’ limited services for higher prices. “Incumbent carriers use a ‘pay by the drink’ price model,” Voice Runner CEO and President Grant Robertson explains. “They charge businesses more for each megabit consumed, which in turn discourages bandwidth usage.”



Voice Runner competes with economical wireless and optical networks while adapting to customers’ needs, and their clients range from hospital networks to wireless paid parking on Galveston’s Strand. “We’ve built a fast-growing Internet communication business for underserved areas historically too expensive to service with high-speed Internet access and local phone service,” says Robertson.

Their experience and dedication to equal access came into play when Voice Runner and TFA co-developed TFA-Wireless’ network. As the neighborhood’s network demands increased, costs rose. So TFA-Wireless partnered with Voice Runner, who provided a fiber-based metro-area network for secure, light-speed Internet access at predictable, affordable rates. Instead paying for each megabit of bandwidth, “TFA, Rice and Voice Runner opened the up the pipe to provide a high-quality end-user experience on a network that will continue to expand within budget.”

For more information on TFA-Wireless, please visit www.tfa.rice.edu or www.techforall.org.

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Technology For All (TFA) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization whose mission is to empower under-resourced communities through the tools of technology. TFA creates educational, economic and personal opportunities for low-income persons with local community-based organizations, corporations, foundations, technology providers and public entities. TFA’s offices are located in Houston’s East End at 2220 Broadway, Houston, Texas 77012. For more information, visit www.techforall.org; call 713-454-6400.

VOICE RUNNER, INC. is the dominant, competitive local exchange carrier (C-LEC), providing the first real alternative to local monopolies and large phone companies. We provide unlimited voice and broadband internet services on one easy-to-read bill. Serving businesses for over 9 years, we are dedicated to reducing monthly recurring communication & administrative costs while providing superior customer service. Voice Runner’s offices are located in West Houston at 2501 S Mason Rd; STE 260 Katy, TX 77450. For more information, visit www.voicerunner.com or call 713-278-2600.