

May 2012



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### Digital expansion!

Thanks in part to our new friend [Rainbow Housing](#), more labs are now available across Houston! If you need Internet or a new computer skill (or know someone who does), stop by our new labs at [Rainbow Housing's](#) Sweetwater Point, Emerald Bay, Shadow Ridge, and Champion Townhomes. Then check out our [TXC2 map](#) for all the sites!

**NTIA: adults with college degrees are *three times* more likely to have broadband Internet than adults with high school degrees.**

## technologyforall

*We empower communities through technology.*

### Featured Voice: The Comback Kid

**A Voice From the Lab turns self-destruction into a second chance**

Meet Tim, a former drug addict, convict, and new student at our Mission Milby public computer center.



"I was computer illiterate—never been exposed," says Tim, a Pecan park native dressed in slacks and a tie. "I work on all kinds of things, but never took a computer class until now." The more he learns, the more he wants to learn, and the more confident he feels in his skills. "If someone needs me to do something on the computer, I can do it."

Tim found the [Texas Connects Coalition](#) basic computer class through [Crossroads](#), a ministry of Servants of Christ serving food, clothing and supplies to 250 of Houston's homeless. "Since I came to Crossroads, a lot of things have changed for me," Tim says. It's true: Tim was unemployed and living at the YMCA.

After trying drugs and alcohol at 13, Tim's life became a cycle of substance abuse, homelessness, prison and more. Now, he shares an apartment, never misses work and is training for a marathon. "I've done a 180," says Tim. "Seems like overnight things started happening for me."

### Master's Degree in "What Not to Do"

His past has led him to youth counseling, where he stresses education and making sound decisions regardless of peer pressure. "I have a lot of advice to give, because I've been there and done it. I have a Master's degree in what not to do. I've struggled way more than I needed to, if I'd just done what I should have done." Counseling is his new purpose. "If I can keep one kid from making the same poor decisions I made, I've done my job."

It seems to be working: teens still write letters saying they would never forget his personal proverbs. “It’s important to get them now, because if they start making mistakes at this age, their percentage of success gets cut by half.”

He sees computer class as a necessary step in his transformation, and plans to buy a computer of his own. “Now that I’ve taken the class, I can see where I could have used [computers] in the past, especially Internet access. It’s opened up a whole new world for me.”

If you'd like to support people like Tim turn their lives around and impact others, [you can help](#).

Tim's [full story](#) is available on our website, plus many other [shared successes](#) from our users.

[See what else we're doing on our website!](#)  
[Help rural Texans connect to the world!](#)