

# HOMWORK CENTRAL



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## HOMWORK CENTRAL

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Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

US Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, DC 20250

April 13 2009

Secretary Vilsack :

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) charges the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) with the task of disbursing \$6.85 billion dollars via grants for broadband infrastructure and adoption programs. The FCC has also recently announced its intent to develop a national broadband plan.

The mission of Homework Central, Inc. is to improve children's academic achievement by providing a literacy-rich, safe and nurturing environment through one-on-one mentoring relationships with caring teenagers and adults. We are providing homework assistance to children who are academically at-risk and do not have stable academic assistance at home. During the school year 2008-2009, we have served 45 children of which 71 percent of their families are at or below poverty level and 33 percent are in an Individual Education Program at school.

A recent donation of three new computers through Connect Ohio enabled our program to help these at-risk children to reach their full potential. The No Child Left Offline program, which is made possible by the public-private partnership of Connect Ohio, is helping us to add a computer lab to our reading room and life skills activities area.

Next year's goal is to be able to serve up to 60 children in our program. Our ultimate goal is that additional community organizations will provide similar programs in their neighborhoods. We are dedicated to offering our assistance to these programs. To date, two other community organizations have patterned their programs after Homework Central, Inc.

As you implement the Broadband Data Improvement Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and as you develop a national broadband plan for America, I urge you to support and fund programs such as Connect Ohio. The Connect Ohio program works across the state to stimulate demand for broadband and computer use through local technology planning, broadband mapping, local research, and digital literacy projects such as No Child Left Offline. Every state should have a program like Connect Ohio.

Sincerely,

Chuck Riley

Board Chairman

*Proclaiming Jesus Christ  
and Developing  
Fully Devoted Followers of Him!*



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Central Church of Christ & Ohio State University Extension*



Secretary Vilsack  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

cc: Ken Kuchno, Director, Broadband Division, Rural Utilities Service, USDA  
Mark Seifert, Senior Advisor, NTIA  
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