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### **HandyCapable Network Receives Funding to Distribute 240 Computers to Economically Disadvantaged Seventh Graders**

GREENSBORO, N.C., December 22, 2008 – HandyCapable Network (HCN) recently received a \$32,500 grant from The Cemala Foundation to complete a second free computer distribution to seventh graders at Greensboro's Hairston Middle School. In the spring of 2009, HCN will give away full computer systems to approximately 240 seventh graders, enabling them to learn the technological skills necessary to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This project has also received funding and support from the Lincoln Financial Foundation.

This will be HCN's second distribution at Hairston Middle School. Last school year, 243 computers were donated to students and teachers that lacked such technology in their homes. Surveys of the recipients indicate that the computers are being used to help complete homework assignments, to communicate with friends and family online, to use educational software, and to build important computer skills. Establishing these skills is critical for students because passing the North Carolina Test of Computer Skills, an assessment that is administered starting in eighth grade, is required to graduate high school. Additionally, Hairston Middle School teachers report that students' overall grades have improved after receiving a computer from HandyCapable Network's distribution. Cemala's support will enable HandyCapable to design and execute a statistical analysis that will measure the computers' impact on students and their families.

HandyCapable Network trains adults with disabilities to refurbish computers that have been donated by businesses and individual families in Greensboro. The upgraded computer systems are then distributed, for free or at very low cost, to needy children and families in the community. Since its inception, HCN has kept thousands of computers out of local landfills and has helped over 2,000 families bridge the digital divide.

HCN's mission is to promote self-sufficiency and enrich the lives of people living with disabilities, or people who are otherwise socially and economically challenged, by providing training in and access to computer technology.

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For more information about HandyCapable Network, please call (336) 255-7488, email [nate@handycapable.org](mailto:nate@handycapable.org), or visit <http://www.handycapable.org>

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