

City of Dallas News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Teen Center to open at Skillman Branch Library

City's fifth center is made possible by \$25,000 AT&T Foundation grant

DALLAS, TX – The City of Dallas will open its fifth Teen Center at 11 a.m. Friday, April 13, at the Skillman Southwestern Branch Library, 5707 Skillman St., at the corner of Skillman St. and Southwestern Blvd.

The Skillman Southwestern Teen Center is funded by a \$25,000 grant from the AT&T Excelerator grant program and the AT&T Foundation. The branch's service area includes the Sam Tasby Middle School and Emmett J. Conrad High School. Students at both schools, as well as other teens in the area will benefit from the center's career and life skills programs.

"We are very grateful to AT&T for their generous support of our newest Teen Center, and for their ongoing support of the Dallas Public Library system," said Director of Libraries Laurie Evans. The AT&T Foundation also provided a grant to open the Oak Cliff Teen Center in 2006. The City of Dallas opened three teen centers in 2003, at the Hampton Illinois, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Skyline Branches, and in 2006 at the North Oak Cliff Branch.

The centers teach teens important life skills and provide them with the opportunity to address concerns in positive ways. "At risk" teens interact with positive role models, including library staff and academic and professional members of the community, who provide guidance and advice. Centers also provide interview training, job fairs, help with college and scholarship applications and assistance with creative writing, public speaking, web design and other activities.

The Skillman Southwestern Teen Center will have five laptop computers, two digital cameras, a notebook security cart and video projector, plus online homework help program. A demonstration of that program, called Dallas After-school Homework Help (DASH) will be presented on opening day.

Speakers at the opening will include Dallas Public Library Assistant Director Sheila Scullock, Dallas City Manager Mary Suhm, Dallas City Councilmember Angela Hunt and Holly Reed, Senior Vice President, AT&T.

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