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Katherine Thomas School Advances Learning for Special Education Students With a \$13,044 Grant from the Verizon Foundation

ROCKVILLE, Md. – Special education high school students at [The Treatment and Learning Centers' Katherine Thomas School](#) (KTS) soon will have access to new assistive technology that will help improve their academic success. Funding for the new technology was made possible with a \$13,044 grant from the [Verizon Foundation](#).

KTS is a special education school for students in preschool through 12th grade with language and learning disabilities and/or high-functioning autism.

The Verizon Foundation's grant will help purchase 12 high-speed network scanners that will be installed in all KTS high school classrooms. The scanners enable teachers to increase the use of [Kurzweil](#) text-to-speech software, which many KTS students currently use to access the curriculum. Scanners also facilitate the use of Smart Boards – interactive white boards installed in all KTS classrooms. The boards, critical to the KTS multi-sensory approach to the curriculum, improve students' achievement by increasing their engagement during classroom instruction.

"This is an exciting time for those of us working with students who have learning differences because the assortment of available materials and technology continues to grow by leaps and bounds," said KTS High School Director **Rhona Schwartz**. "We thank the Verizon Foundation for keeping us ahead of the curve and helping us provide the best technologies possible for our students."

In 2008, the Verizon Foundation awarded a \$12,850 grant to KTS for 30 Kurzweil licenses. This year's grant continues the foundation's investment in the use of assistive technology throughout KTS, which allows its students to maximize their strengths and accommodate their deficits. Assistive technology helps KTS to be a leading-edge private special education school.

William R. Roberts, president of Verizon Maryland and Washington, DC, said "We are proud to help The Katherine Thomas School educate and prepare our children for the future. The Verizon Foundation has a long history of supporting the community and encouraging the innovative use of technology to create new learning opportunities to help every individual reach his or her full

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potential.”

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About TLC

TLC – The Treatment and Learning Centers, a nonprofit organization located in Rockville, Md., improves lives and expands possibilities for individuals with special needs. Its seven services, which help more than 2,100 individuals annually, include The Katherine Thomas School; The Outpatient Services, offering speech-language and occupational therapy; The Testing and Tutoring Service, offering psychoeducational testing and tutoring for all ages; The Family Hearing Center, offering comprehensive audiology services; The Outcomes Service, offering vocational services and support for adults with disabilities; Summer Programs, including Camp Littlefoot and Learning Enrichment; and The Early Learning Center, a preschool program primarily for children without special needs. Celebrating 60 years of service to the community in 2010, TLC is committed to integrity and excellence in the care it provides and strives to assist all regardless of their ability to pay. For more information, visit www.ttlc.org.

About the Verizon Foundation

The Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications, supports the advancement of literacy and K-12 education through its free educational website, Verizon Thinkfinity (www.thinkfinity.org), and fosters awareness and prevention of domestic violence. In 2009, the Verizon Foundation awarded \$67.9 million in grants to nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and abroad. It also matched the charitable donations of Verizon employees and retirees, resulting in \$26.1 million in combined contributions to nonprofits. Through Verizon Volunteers, one of the nation’s largest employee volunteer programs, Verizon employees and retirees have volunteered more than 5 million hours of community service since 2000. For more information on the foundation, visit www.verizonfoundation.org.

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The Outcomes Service • The Family Hearing Center • The Katherine Thomas School
The Early Learning Center • The Outpatient Services • The Testing and Tutoring Service • TLC’s Summer Programs