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Internet Safety Course teaches young Ransburg YMCA computer campers importance of personal online safety

Nationally renowned 'Retro Bill' brings special message to camp Thursday

INDIANAPOLIS (Tuesday, June 23, 2009) – Dozens of summer campers this year will learn important tips and techniques they can use to keep themselves safe on the Internet thanks to a partnership between Bright House Networks, the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis and Net Literacy of Indiana.

Bright House Networks will present an age-appropriate Internet Safety Course as part of the Ransburg YMCA's Computer Camp series for children ages 9 through 11. Four computer camps are being offered at the Ransburg YMCA this summer, located at 501 N. Shortridge Road.

This week's course will be from 9:30-11 a.m. Thursday in the Ransburg YMCA's computer lab and will be led by Jameson Givan of Net Literacy.

"Keeping children safe on the Internet is particularly challenging today with the increased access they have to the Internet and the popularity of mobile devices," said Givan, who serves on Net Literacy's board of directors and currently is helping manage Net Literacy's summer programs this year. "We'll focus on the right things to do online, what to and what not to share on the Internet and tips the campers can follow to ensure their own personal safety online."

Campers will follow an Internet safety manual published by Net Literacy that will guide them through the classroom instruction. Real-world scenarios will be proposed to the campers and online safety discussions will analyze campers' actions to the scenarios.

Following the morning course and lunch, national entertainer Retro Bill will bring his special message of personal safety to nearly 100 YMCA campers, their families and YMCA staff during an all-camp convocation.

Performing before more than 1 million American school children each year, Retro Bill puts fun into safety, self-esteem and character counts education for youth in grades kindergarten through 12. He hosts a nationally syndicated program on both the Trinity Broadcast Network and Smile of a Child Network and is featured coast-to-coast on the Bright House Networks system.

"The future of the world is in its youth. As adults, I believe we need to do everything we can to motivate children to pursue their dreams while helping to keep them safe," said Retro Bill, aka Bill Russ. "It is the greatest feeling in the world to know I am helping in some way make America and the world a better place."

Over the years, Retro Bill lent his support to organizations including Meals on Wheels, KidsPeace, C.O.A.C.H. for Kids, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts of America, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the USO and the U.S. Armed Forces, among many others.

“All parents should know how to help keep their children safe while online and how to monitor their children’s computer use,” said Buz Nesbit, president of Bright House Networks Indiana. “We welcome parents to participate in the course and we will provide them with the information, tips and best practices they need to protect their children online.”

Bright House Networks is providing two camp scholarships this summer for Computer Camp at the Ransburg YMCA and is also supporting the Ransburg YMCA’s “Strong Kids Campaign” by awarding a \$1,500 educational scholarship to help less-fortunate children attend YMCA camps in the future. The financial support is made possible through Bright House Networks’ Bright Kids Network, an umbrella program that encapsulates many youth-oriented programs that Bright House Networks has implemented and continues to sponsor in the central Indiana community it serves.

Established in 2003, Net Literacy is a student-managed non-profit organization that promotes youth philanthropy through community outreach programs. Its mission is to increase computer access by creating public computer labs, teaching computer and Internet skills and educating youth and parents about Internet safety. Comprised of youth and adult board members, Net Literacy has established hundreds of computer labs to increase computer and Internet access to the underserved, including labs at community centers, HUD-subsidized Section 8 housing units, independent living facilities, senior centers, schools, churches and non-profit agencies. For more about Net Literacy, visit www.netliteracy.org.

For more information on nationally renowned children’s advocate Retro Bill, visit www.retrobill.com.

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