

EARLY START AT BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



Computing technology, as much as simple literacy, is now the key to good jobs and livelihoods, as Governor Hutchinson and nearly everyone else says. And you can't start too soon.

Knowing this, the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center embarked on a summer technology camp for children 10 to 17 years old as part of its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program. Now it has expanded the camp from four to six weeks.

"Technology is the wave of the future and our children *are* the future," said Beatrice Shelby, executive director of BGACDC. "It is through this type of preparation and training that our children are going to be equipped with the skills and knowledge that are needed to succeed in life."

The technology camp is being conducted in collaboration with Meddatvoip LLC, a computer service company in Helena. Sixteen youngsters aged 10 to 17 are participating at the BGACDC computer lab at Marvell. Diamacious Sims, the BGACDC arts coordinator, and La Pearl Shelby, a volunteer, lead the training in conjunction with Meddatvoip. The camp began June 19.

