



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Teens go Tech-Free for 24 hours during first-ever “kNOw Tech-A-Thon”

PHILADELPHIA (September 11, 2014) – On September 20-21, 2014, [kNOw Tech 4 Teens](http://www.knowtech4teens.org) (kT4T) will launch the first-ever “kNOw Tech-A-Thon, ” the 21st Century version of the dance-a-thon. Hosted by [Commonwealth Youthchoirs](#), it will involve Teens from [Keystone State Boychoir](#), [Pennsylvania Girlchoir](#), and [Philadelphia Sinfonia](#) handing over their cell phones and computers for 24 hours. Hundreds of Teens will remain “tech-free” to raise awareness in themselves and others about the need to balance the use of technology in their lives, while raising funds for the Tyler Clementi Foundation.

The first-ever “kNOw Tech-A-Thon” will culminate in a concert performed by the Teens on Sunday, September 21 at the the [First Presbyterian Church in Germantown](#) at 4:00pm. Jane Clementi will give a keynote address. Jane’s eighteen year-old son Tyler committed suicide in 2010 shortly after he discovered his roommate had violated his privacy using technology.

Leading up to the “kNOw Tech-A-Thon,” participating Teens will ask people in their lives to help them raise money by becoming their Sponsors. The 24 hours tech-free hours will be filled with engaging activities that will allow them to connect with family and friends without the help or hindrance of technology. Activities include writing letters to people they care about, reading, participating in the arts and athletics, sharing meals together (“kNOw Tech @ The Table,” “kNOw Tech Brek,” and “Tech Crunch Brunch”), a talent competition (“kNOw Tech Idol”), and an all-night Teen “kNOw Tech Lock In.” All activities are aimed to help the participating teens remain tech-free, while encouraging them to think about ways they can “tech 2 live” and not “live 2 tech.” The Teens will text, tweet and post messages on all of their social media accounts, letting the world know they are going tech-free for 24 hours. Their Sponsors are encouraged to monitor them to help keep them “honest.” If a Teen is found to violate their tech-free pledge, the Teen’s Sponsors are not obligated to honor their Donation Pledges.

For more information, visit www.knowtech4teens.org.

About kNOw Tech 4 Teens

kNOw Tech 4 Teens (kT4T) is a new non-profit organization whose mission is to help young people raise self awareness and awareness in others about the positive and negative impacts of technology on their lives while raising funds for a good cause. Via “kNOw Tech-A-Thons,” kT4T helps Teens to learn to better harness the power of technology without letting it stifle human connectedness. kNOw Tech-A-Thons facilitate in Teen participants better focus, independent thinking, and creativity. kNOw Tech 4 Teens asks young people to ask the question, “Do I tech to live or live to tech?.” kT4T is very much pro technology, helping teens develop habits and practical strategies to better balance the use of technology in their everyday lives, which in turn will enable them to more easily achieve their goals and dreams in life, as well as foster better more connected relationships with the people in their lives.

kNOw Tech 4 Teens was founded on the philosophy that a young person’s ability to harness, balance, and at times refrain from, the use of technology will be crucial to reaching their goals, attaining their dreams, and living a meaningful, people-centered, fulfilling life.



Visit www.knowtech4teens.org to learn more about how your teen-based organization can host its own “kNOw Tech-A-Thon,” raise technology awareness, and raise money for a charity of your choice.

About Commonwealth Youthchoirs

The Mission of Commonwealth Youthchoirs (CY) is to provide superior choral music education and performance opportunities for young people from diverse economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds and to pursue artistic excellence that inspires performers and audiences alike. CY serves over 600 singers in four different programs: *Keystone State Boychoir*, *Pennsylvania Girlchoir*, *Find Your Instrument!* and *Good Mornin’ Music*. Visit www.cychoirs.org for more information.



About Philadelphia Sinfonia

Philadelphia Sinfonia is one of the premiere youth orchestras in the tri-state area, taking a broad and contemporary approach to the study of orchestral music, with a curriculum that emphasizes teamwork and three different areas of growth and development – musicianship, scholarship and leadership. Visit www.philadelphiasinfonia.com to learn more.



About the Tyler Clementi Foundation

The Tyler Clementi Foundation (TCF), guided by the life and story of Tyler Clementi, promotes safe, inclusive and respectful social environments in homes, schools, campuses, churches and the digital world for vulnerable youth. Through educational partnerships, research, public dialogues and awareness programs, TCF fosters empathetic, constructive discussions of respect and dignity for youth and families, at all levels of society. Visit www.tylerclementi.org for more information.



Media contact:
Steven Fisher
215-704-3407
sfisher@cychoirs.org