

## **Jackson Clarion Ledger – Jackson, MS**

January 7, 2003

### **GROUP TO DONATE SUPPLIES IN MISSISSIPPI**

Texas foundation to give technology to needy applicants

**By Julie Goodman** ([jgoodman@clarionledger.com](mailto:jgoodman@clarionledger.com))

A \$350 million Texas foundation is donating \$1.1 million worth of hardware — from laptop computers to overhead projectors — to poor communities in Mississippi this year. The Beaumont Foundation of America is giving the equipment to eligible schools, community organizations and individuals as part of a nationwide giveaway over the next four years.

"Over the course of this year alone, we will be granting \$43 million worth of computer hardware to 21 states and the District of Columbia," said Mark Sanders, the foundation's spokesman.

Mississippi will receive another \$3 million worth of hardware in 2005. The foundation is accepting applications through March 31, for the equipment, which will be delivered in August. Nonprofit, faith-based and community organizations, as well as libraries, schools and needy individuals are eligible to apply. For information, applicants should consult [www.bmtfoundation.com](http://www.bmtfoundation.com) or call 1-866-505-2667.

Mississippi became the first state in the nation last week to put Internet-ready computers in every public classroom, Gov. Ronnie Musgrove said during a news conference where he announced the donations.

The two-year effort cost more than \$40 million.