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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—October 26, 2007 (Houston, TX) — AVANCE-Houston and e.p.t.® hosted a press conference to announce a donation of \$20,000 made by e.p.t.® in support of the newly created AVANCE Computer Learning Center for adults. Guests included AVANCE Board Members and Directors, Representatives of e.p.t.® and The Mexican Institute, and community supporters.**

**The donation is part of the AVANCE-Houston and e.p.t.® partnership to help inform and educate lower income Hispanic women and families by enabling them to learn basic computer skills. The Computer Learning Center complements AVANCE’s mission to strengthen children through the education of their parents. In our techno-driven world, computer literacy will empower AVANCE parents with enhanced language, business, and internet skills, which, in turn, will help them breach the “digital divide” that currently isolates them from their children and their communities.**

**AVANCE Board Member, CEO and President of ICON Information Consultants, Pamela O’Rourke, stated “Access to technology is access to knowledge. I applaud the vision of AVANCE and e.p.t.®. On behalf of AVANCE’s Board of Directors, we thank you for making knowledge accessible to the families in our communities.”** ICON Information Consultants has supported the AVANCE Computer Learning Center through technology assistance and donations in funding and equipment.

**AVANCE’s mission is to improve child well being through family learning and parental involvement in children’s education. AVANCE, meaning “advance” in Spanish, has served the educational needs of thousands of lower income families since 1988.**

**In addition to a total of 13 Head Start Centers, AVANCE provides classes in parenting, adult literacy, Fatherhood, Healthy Marriage, ESL, computer skills and GED throughout Harris County. AVANCE plans to further incorporate these adult education programs in its Head Start centers to create comprehensive learning centers for entire families.**

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