

Leveling the Playing Field and Seeing the Future...

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Friends of C4K,

As we make our way through our 10th Anniversary year, I am pleased to report that record numbers of students are joining our mentoring program AND meeting the requirements to graduate. These C4K graduates earned their eligibility to participate in Teen Tech (T²), a program with its own exciting developments to report.

T² students have been busy visiting local colleges, prepping for the SATs, practicing job readiness skills, working hard at summer internships, and much more.

These activities are only a part of the T² curriculum, in which students work towards the completion of certificates in four different tracks of study: career readiness, academic achievement, technology skills, and services to the C4K community.

As students acquire skills and apply them to the pursuit of higher education, internships, and employment, they see the direct connection between their efforts and their experience of success. C4K staff and volunteers are there to help facilitate this process for our hardworking students who might otherwise be unable to envision professional success or fulfill their potential due to socioeconomic pressures beyond their control.

Many students have already demonstrated their desire to go to college and their ability to put their skills to use in professional job settings. Read on to learn how students are taking advantage of the opportunities afforded to them through T².

-Kala

Kala Somerville
C4K Executive Director



Long-time volunteer, Ray Verona (center), provides instruction in the T² lab. C4K would like to thank all of the T² volunteers who regularly share their professional expertise with our students.



Leon is one of several T² students who were selected to participate in the City of Charlottesville's competitive youth internship program. With encouragement from T² staff and volunteers, Leon created a resume, practiced his interview skills and landed an internship at UVA's Human Resources Department.



T² students tour James Madison University.



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C4K Students Hit the Workforce!

This summer, C4K students held paid internships at local businesses and organizations. Congrats to each and every student who worked hard to create their resumes, practice their interviewing skills, and secure the job!



Elie and Fakhria, T² students and summer interns at Skeo Solutions

Elie and Fakhria at Skeo Solutions

Two T² students, Elie and Fakhria, were fortunate to work at Skeo Solutions, a consulting firm that works on issues of environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic opportunity. Elie used the video editing skills he acquired at C4K to help put together a video that will be used by one of Skeo's main clients, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Fakhria assisted with IT administration, including installing new software, optimizing the systems of other employees, and computer inventory. Skeo Solutions planned to hire only one intern, but after interviewing our students, they added a position! Both students very much enjoyed the experience. Elie said, "I like this job, I wouldn't mind working more hours!" Fakhria enjoyed learning new administrative skills. She said, "I always wanted to work in some sort of company. I like a desk job and the work."



Michael, Jean, and Fabrice are T² students and CAYIP participants who held paid summer internships at Fleet, Habitat for Humanity and the Music Resource Center.

C4K Students Land Paid Internships through CAYIP

Eight C4K students applied and secured paid internships through Charlottesville's Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP). This competitive program selects and places students of all backgrounds in six-week paid summer internships at local businesses and organizations. Students earn a performance-based salary, receive close supervision from CAYIP staff, and also attend a workplace readiness group with peers.

In an economy where it is difficult to find an entry-level job, this was a great opportunity for our students to earn a wage while learning workplace skills in a professional environment. This year almost 300 students applied for 200 positions, and every C4K student who applied was placed.



"I applied for the C4K internship because I knew it would teach me how to do office work I'll do in the future, and I wanted to learn. I can show future employers my experience here."

-Queen, C4K student and intern

CAYIP on the Home Front: Queen Reigns Supreme While Interning at C4K!

C4K was fortunate to land one of our own students as a CAYIP intern right here at C4K! Queen is a 10th grader who came to the U.S. from the Benin Republic in 2008. Queen worked closely with each C4K staff member on a number of projects. Everyone was extremely impressed by her conscientiousness, focus, attention to detail, and her natural ability. "The best thing about Queen is that she loves to learn," said staff member Cheryl Ellison.

Over the course of the summer Queen acquired a variety of new administrative skills, assisted with student and volunteer recruitment, helped with grant research, attended a professional workshop, conducted computer inventory, and much more. She also used her C4K-acquired technology design skills to create some exciting new outreach materials.

Job well done Queen!



T² Students at Virginia Commonwealth University



Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Road Tripping into their Future: Teen Tech Students Make College Visits and Receive Advice from a C4K Alum

Recently Teen Tech students visited Virginia Commonwealth University, James Madison University, and Bridgewater College. In order to be eligible to go on a college visit, students had to research each college's admissions requirements, prepare questions for the campus tour guide, pick favorite majors, and identify related jobs.

The purpose of these day trips is to help students visualize themselves in college, and to link the preparation required for acceptance to that vision. One C4K student said, "I don't believe things I read or see online, so going to VCU made it real and I could see it." Another student stated, "I was able to see exactly what the school looks like. I wanted to know if I would fit in at the school." Another grateful C4K student said, "Thank you so much for explaining more about the classes at VCU. Now I have a dream because you opened my eyes for my future. Now I'm studying harder than before because I have to follow my dream."

What an impact a visit can make, especially when a former C4K student gives the tour. T² students were very fortunate to receive a personalized tour of the VCU campus from C4K alum Erica Jackson. Erica is a senior psychology major and African-American studies minor. She plans to graduate in May and attend graduate school in psychology. Thank you Erica for sharing your wisdom and experience, as you continue to inspire the next generation of C4K students.

"I wanted to give C4K students a tour because I was a C4K student when I was in middle school and I loved coming into the lab. Education was always put first in the C4K lab. The best advice I could give a C4K student preparing for college is to use all resources given. I still use the computer skills that I learned from C4K. They will benefit you and they are not only helpful in college, but look really good when you fill out resumes."

~ Erica Jackson, C4K Graduate and Senior at Virginia Commonwealth University
(above left, center, first row)

1st Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser: An All-a-Round Success!

Thanks to all C4K friends and sponsors who made our first annual spring Scottish-themed Golf Tournament Fundraiser a huge success. Perfect weather and a great format made for a fantastic day on the course! Special congratulations go to our first place winners – Mark Giles, Greg Graham, Jay Lavender, and Lynwood Napier. A huge thank you goes out to Rob McNamara for organizing this event, and to all who participated. See you next year!

Thank you to these golf tournament sponsors and prize donors for their generous support:

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"Thank you for helping me with my projects. You were patient with me and I appreciate it. You were a great mentor and friend."

-C4K student

C4K would like to thank the following businesses for their contributions to this newsletter:

T&N Printing, printing

Probe Incorporated, design

Mentors Needed.

C4K is seeing record numbers of students join the program, which means... we need more mentors! Please help us provide these very deserving students with the quality mentoring experiences they need. Tell a friend, coworker or family member you think might be interested, or mentor yourself. Worried you don't have the needed tech skills? C4K has great resources for learning new skills, including friendly staff, educational workshops for mentors, and online tutorials. Visit www.computers4kids.net to learn more today!

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign

C4K participates in this employee workplace giving program for UVA employees and all other state employees. Our charity code number is 3849. Visit <http://www.cvc.vipnet.org> to donate or learn more.

Donate More and Spend Less!

How? Tax Credits!

C4K is one of a select group of nonprofits that receives Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credits. To be eligible for the 40 percent Virginia credit, individuals must contribute a minimum of \$500. That means a \$500 gift to C4K is eligible for a \$200 Virginia tax credit. Businesses are also eligible to donate, and must give \$1,000 or more for the 40% credit.

To learn more visit www.computers4kids.net or call Kala Somerville at 434-817-1121.



Thank you to VNB for 10 years of corporate sponsorship!

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