

Happy 10th Anniversary C4K!

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Friends of C4K,

I am so excited to share this special anniversary with you! On January 16, 2011, C4K marked 10 years to the day since we opened the doors of the Learning Lab to our first students. Our students, families, volunteers, and supporters have much to be proud of on this milestone anniversary!

I was fortunate to join C4K as its first Executive Director, so I can reflect back on our earliest days with both nostalgia and appreciation for how far we have come. At our first graduation ceremony, C4K celebrated the accomplishments of 14 students. Last fall, we recognized our largest graduating class ever – with 41 students in total!

Over the years C4K has seen many highlights, including receiving the Virginia Mentoring Partnership's 2005 Best Mentoring Program Award, expanding into our current location in the Frank Ix Building in 2006, creating new programming especially for graduates of our mentoring program in 2009, and mentoring more than 625 youth.

Perhaps what is most exciting is not only are C4K students graduating from high school and going on to college, but they are also returning to C4K to be mentors themselves. I am beyond proud of these students and all of our students who make the choice to spend their after-school time learning and growing at C4K, with an eye toward bettering their futures.

None of these great things would be possible without the dedication and support of our volunteer mentors, refurbishers, and board of directors, as well as the generosity of donors in the community. Great things happen at C4K, because of YOU! I offer my sincere appreciation and an invitation to stay involved for 10 more eventful years.

-Kala



C4K's first Learning Lab on Grove St.



C4K moved into our current Learning Labs at the Frank Ix Building in March 2006.



January 2006 - C4K Receives the Virginia Mentoring Partnership's Best Mentoring Program Award.

Pictured left to right: Kala Somerville, Executive Director; former C4K staff members Lisa Romano and Aisha Moore; C4K Founder Meredith Richards; and mentor Gus Goldsmith.





Dolly and Florance

When our students graduate from high school and become mentors, it communicates so many great things to the younger students. It demonstrates academic success, technological competence and dedication to the community. The mentors are able to convincingly and authentically say, "I know where you're coming from, and if I can succeed, so can you."

Dolly Joseph, C4K Program Director



Former C4K Student Returns to Inspire Graduates

By Dolly Joseph, C4K Program Director

In the fall of 2010, C4K was honored to feature Florance Jahabean as the keynote speaker at our 15th Graduation Ceremony. Florance is currently a student at Piedmont Virginia Community College, and is hoping to transfer to the University of Virginia. As a C4K graduate who has already mentored her first student, Florance was an inspiration to our students, mentors, family members, and friends who were present for this special event.

Since I know Florance personally, I can say she is one of the most thoughtful and caring people that I know. Even if she's feeling tired or unwell, she smiles sweetly and asks how *you* are. If you ask Florance for a favor she does whatever she can to accomplish it, even if it's something that is challenging or new to her.

In this spirit she agreed to be our first student mentor and to speak at graduation. During the graduation ceremony, Florance told our students, "I want to congratulate all the students who worked hard and put themselves into this program and we're proud to have you all as our students. I'm still trying my best to pursue my goals for the future and I want you all to try your best and follow your dreams. It doesn't matter how hard it is. I hope you all can take advantage of the opportunities ahead of you and grab life with both hands."

Florance has absolutely grabbed life with both hands! She has a poise and "can do" spirit that is unusual for someone her age. I first met the Jahanbeen sisters in 2004 when they had just moved here from Afghanistan and I am continuously impressed by how they have overcome their shyness and become cosmopolitan, accomplished, fluent members of our community. Florance bonded with Alaha, her learning partner. Despite the fact that they knew each other beforehand and were fairly close in age, Florance managed the difficult act of mentoring, which requires that you be somewhere between a peer and teacher. She did a great job. I am immensely proud of Florance.

Congrats to C4K Alumni Robert Williams!

Robert was recently selected to be a 2011 recipient of Virginia Commonwealth University's "Black History in the Making Award." This award recognizes students who exhibit outstanding achievements and are expected to make a difference in the world. Congratulations, Robert!

New Training Opportunity for C4K Mentors: Lynda.com

Thanks to a generous grant from The Party Parade Fund, C4K is now offering mentors access to Lynda.com, a cutting edge online technology training library. Lynda.com provides outstanding online courses that allow the user to learn at their own pace (the user can stop, rewind, and re-play lessons). Lynda.com is accessible onsite at C4K, and offers over 42,000 online tutorials!

C4K relies on the efforts of volunteer mentors to help guide our students through the creation of high level technology projects. As a result, facilitating opportunities for mentors to "work ahead" of their students and develop their own proficiency is very important! While the C4K staff will always be a key resource to mentors for technical assistance, Lynda.com provides an important complimentary form of technology support to the 100 plus mentors C4K works with annually. Many thanks to The Party Parade Fund!

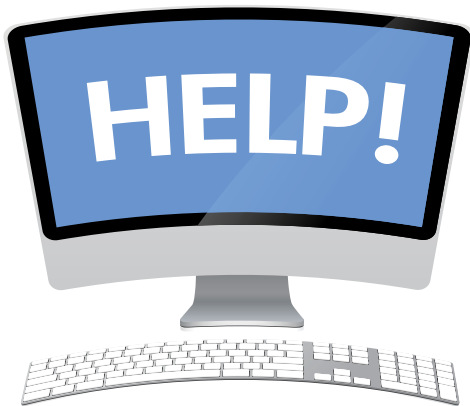


GE
Intelligent Platforms

C4K to Hold First Scottish-themed Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Tournament Sponsored by GE Intelligent Platforms

This Spring....Head to the Green! On April 21, 2011, C4K will host our first Scottish-themed Golf Tournament Fundraiser at Spring Creek Golf Course in Gordonsville. Spring Creek has been voted one of the best new public golf courses in the nation, and we are looking forward to offering Scotch Tastings from the new Virginia Distillery Company located in Nelson County, Va. This day-long event will include lunch, scotch tastings, prizes, and an awards cocktail party. The entry fee is \$250 per person or \$1,000 per team, with a registration deadline of April 8, 2011. We are still welcoming hole sponsors at \$300 per hole. For more details visit computers4kids.net. Please tell your friends and join us for a beautiful day on the course. **Cheers!**



Mac Attack! C4K needs new computers!

C4K is raising funds to replace 16 aging computers in our Learning Labs. Thanks to the generosity of many individual donors and grants from the Junior League of Charlottesville and the Bama Works Fund of the Dave Matthews Band in the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, we are ¾ of the way to reaching our goal. \$1,600 is the cost of just one computer, but any and every gift size can make a difference.

Please help us reach our goal and make a donation today!



November 2010 - C4K Board President Chris Walmsley congratulates C4K's 15th Class of Graduates

Behind the Scenes...

We couldn't do it without you!
Thank you to the area businesses who generously donate their services to C4K. These professionals make it possible for us to keep costs low and enhance services provided to our students.

- Advanced Network Systems*
- Blake Bookkeeping Service LLC*
- Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine*
- Mad Marketing*
- Probe, Inc.*
- Quantitative Investment Management LLC*
- Robert Redd*
- Smith, Vicars & Company, LLC*
- Tom Cogill Photography*
- Tom Daly Photography*
- T & N printing*
- Wayne's Oxygen*
- WyndSOR Hug*



Thank you to VNB for 10 years of corporate sponsorship!



Maurice and Dominic

"You taught me a lot of things. You were my favorite person and I will never forget you...thank you for everything."

Computers4Kids student

Mentors Needed.

Have you been looking for a way to get more involved in the local community? Do you or someone you know enjoy working with adolescents and computers? C4K is seeking volunteer mentors. Requirements include the desire to be a positive role model and basic knowledge of PCs or Macs and the Internet. Time commitment is only one hour per week over nine months. Volunteer trainings are held monthly. Visit www.computers4kids.net to fill out an application today!



Former Governor Tim Kaine congratulates a C4K graduate and his mentor in 2003

Donate More and Spend Less!

It can cost only 5 cents to donate a dollar to C4K. 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.

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