



**90% of C4K students are minorities.**

## Diversity meets Opportunity at Computers4Kids

Computers4Kids (C4K) brings after-school technology training, one-on-one mentoring, and technology access to low-income middle and high school students living in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia. According to the Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission on Children and Families, this area has a lack of adequate after-school programming for older, low-income youth. C4K is present for at-risk students at a critical time in their lives. Our students do not have the same level of access to technology as their higher income peers, thus putting them at an academic and professional disadvantage. C4K reaches out to bridge this digital divide and improve our students' chances for long term success in life.

### Who are Computers4Kids' students?

- Promising middle and high school students living in Charlottesville or Albemarle County
- 100% qualify for the federal free or reduced price school lunch program
- 57% are male and 43% are female
- 54% were born outside the United States
- 90% are minorities

### What is the Digital Divide?

The Digital Divide is a term that refers to the gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not. Low-income and minority students are the LEAST likely to have access to computer technology. This is a critical disadvantage in a society where even entry-level jobs require computer skills for both the initial application process and actual job performance.

- 77% of households in Virginia earning less than \$15,000 per year do not own a computer compared to 33% of all Virginia households and 38% of all households nationally.

Source: The Children's Partnership: Virginia Youth and Technology Fact Sheet

- Latino youth are more than three times as likely as Caucasian youth not to use a computer (16% vs. 5%); and African American youth are more than two times as likely as Caucasian youth not to use a computer (11% versus 5%).

Source: The Children's Partnership: Virginia Youth and Technology Fact Sheet

- The Children's Partnership's April 2008 Issue Brief on Digital Opportunity for Youth indicates the U.S. Department of Commerce has reported 95% of newly created jobs require computer skills.

### What is C4K doing to make a difference?

- In 10 short years, C4K has already provided one-on-one mentoring and technology training to over 600 low-income middle and high school students. Over 500 students have earned a free home computer system.
- A 2003 community needs assessment conducted by Charlottesville Albemarle Commission on Children and Families (CCF) found local low-income and minority

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youth participate in fewer after-school programs than their peers, and general research shows that after-school programming is a much needed protective factor for our youth, including high-school drop-out prevention.

- The CCF also reports that students who drop out of high school are more likely to face unemployment, live in poverty, spend time in jail, and become single parents with children who do not graduate from high school.
- Many C4K students are new U.S. residents or the first generation in their family to attend college. Teen Tech, C4K's new program for our older students, helps demystify the college application and financial aid process. Students work with peers, staff, and volunteers on college selection, test preparation, admissions essays, interview skills, applying for scholarships, filling out applications, and creating a résumé.
- 97% of mentored students tracked by C4K have graduated from high school. In contrast, only 70% of all economically disadvantaged students living in Charlottesville graduate from high school on time. 94% have confirmed they went on to college.

### Community Support: Your Impact

You can make a direct impact on the life of a local student by investing in C4K. In addition to a track record of recognition for program success, C4K keeps costs low with an annual operating budget below \$500,000. 90 cents out of every dollar donated to C4K goes directly to program costs and services provided to deserving students. The dedication and generosity of our supporters is what sustains our efforts to give students a vibrant learning environment and a knowledgeable support system so that they have every chance of success. We thank you for helping us give local at-risk students these tools for success, and the chance to make their own positive contribution to our community.

