



"Dear C4K,

Our prayer is that you will continue to plant seeds into our youth in the New Year. Thank you for partnering with me as a single mother. Because of C4K, my children will have a brighter future. You are all making a difference in this world. Thank you a thousand times thank you."

– From the Mother of Three C4K Students



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Filling a Niche: Reaching Students at a Critical Time

The transition from middle to high school is a critical time for youth, a time when students are at-risk for decreased academic achievement, lower self-esteem, and increases in risk-taking behavior. Low-income youth often have fewer opportunities for the types of structured, engaging after-school programs that have been found to protect youth from such negative outcomes. Computers4Kids (C4K) ensures local youth are engaged in positive activities after-school by providing them with the one-on-one mentoring, technology access, and technology training that they need to be successful in academic and career settings.

Meeting a Critical Need

In a locality where there is a demonstrated lack of adequate after-school programming for older, low-income youth, C4K is meeting a critical need. An astonishing 54% of youth living in Charlottesville qualify for free or reduced price school lunches, and according to the Charlottesville-Albemarle Commission on Children and Families (CCF) this number is growing. Yet in 2003, a needs assessment of local residents by the CCF found that low-income and non-Caucasian young people were about half as likely to be involved in after-school opportunities. 100% of C4K students qualify for the federal free or reduced price school lunch program. 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 ensure local middle and high school students have the support they need during a critical time in their lives.

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.
- C4K students build a portfolio of projects demonstrating advanced critical thinking and technology skills. C4K's curriculum aligns with the International Society for Technology Education's National Educational Technology Standards. These standards ensure students acquire skills necessary to become effective 21st Century Learners.
- 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. **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. Of the 118 students we know graduated, 94% have confirmed they went on to college.
- 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.



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.



"Thank you for helping me do college research because it was such an eye opener. Thank you for teaching me to use Adobe InDesign. It was one of the coolest programs I have used. You are the best mentor I could ever ask for."

- Nana, C4K Student

