



“I really didn’t realize what Computers4Kids means to the kids until the first graduation ceremony I went to. My student’s mom, her sister, and her grandparents were there. They were all so excited and so proud of her! She was proud of herself and her whole family came out to support her. That was a defining moment for me.”

– Jennifer, C4K Mentor



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Graduation: A Community-Wide Celebration

Every year, Computers4Kids (C4K) acknowledges the significant accomplishments of our students and the invaluable contributions of their mentors through an annual graduation ceremony. C4K graduates are low-income middle and high school students who live in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area, have met with their mentor once a week for at least nine months, and completed two in-depth technology projects. Each student’s family members, their mentor, and C4K friends attend the celebration. Graduation is the highlight of the year for the C4K community and is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our community’s commitment to helping local youth achieve their potential.

- The graduation ceremony features a keynote speaker that congratulates and inspires C4K students, mentors, family members, and friends. Many of our students come from large families, live in single parent homes, or have parents who work long hours. Graduation is an opportunity for these students to experience attention and pride from adults who are a very important part of their lives.
- Graduation also allows C4K to offer public appreciation and recognition of our mentors, many of whom have mentored multiple students over several years. The ceremony often re-inspires mentors to renew their commitment and begin mentoring a new student.
- After the ceremony, the 200 plus individuals who attend the graduation annually have the opportunity to enjoy refreshments and view student projects. Students create personally meaningful projects that incorporate professional grade software applications. Projects cover a variety of different media genres and can range from developing a PowerPoint presentation to designing a website.
- Students who graduate acquire a portfolio of skills that align with the International Society for Technology Education’s National Education Technology Standards. These standards serve as a guide for ensuring students obtain skills that will make them effective 21st Century Learners.
- For C4K students, graduation marks the completion of our after-school mentoring program and is a stepping stone to Teen Tech. Teen Tech provides C4K graduates with the opportunity to practice advanced technology skills, develop college and career-related skills, and work collaboratively in a supportive environment.

Community 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, this number is growing. Youth who live in homes with fewer resources have less access to technology, are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, and are more likely to drop out of high school. Local and national experts, as well as parents and youth in our community, have recognized that access to after-school programming is a much needed protective factor for our youth. Mentoring in particular, is a powerful tool for helping students believe in their own abilities and meet their potential. C4K recognizes this as well, and



has created a winning combination: after-school mentoring that enables students to develop the technology skills essential to success in academic and career settings.

Community Support: Your Impact

C4K is seeking community supporters interested in making a direct impact on the life of a local student by investing in the next class of graduates. Donations are needed to help defray the costs of a large event, including catering, site reservation, printing materials, and gifts for students and mentors.

C4K strives to make our annual Graduation a truly memorable event where the significance of the occasion is felt by all involved. Supporting C4K's graduation is a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to recognize the individual accomplishments of our students, and the important role community members play in helping our students realize their full potential. The dedication and generosity of our supporters is what sustains our efforts to give students a vibrant learning environment and knowledgeable support system so that they have every chance of success.

C4K will be pleased to provide sponsor appreciation opportunities including:

- Recognition in event pamphlet
- Recognition in press release prior to graduation
- Recognition on C4K's website and Facebook page
- Other opportunities available per request

