



*“The service C4K provides to these kids is invaluable. Students without computer skills and access to computers with internet access are at a disadvantage in a society that depends so heavily on these resources. Many of these students find guidance and form relationships at C4K that they might not otherwise receive.”*

– C4K Mentor



945 Second Street SE  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
www.computers4kids.net  
**434.817.1121**  
info@computers4kids.net

## A Sustainable Investment

Computers4Kids (C4K) is a grassroots, locally focused organization that has grown from a volunteer-run computer redistribution program to an award-winning after-school mentoring and technology training program for low-income middle and high school students. In its 10 years of existence, C4K has received local and statewide recognition for programming grounded in national standards for youth technology training. C4K has also successfully attracted stellar resources including professional volunteers, financial and in-kind support from local businesses and community members, as well as expertise made available through proximity to a world-class research institution, the University of Virginia.

### 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. 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, 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 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.

### Programming Grounded in Best Practices

C4K is committed to providing our students with programming based on best practices and opportunities that give them the greatest chance for future success:

- The structure of C4K’s after-school mentoring and technology training program was based on best practices disseminated by the National Mentoring Partnership.
- C4K’s curriculum requires students to acquire a portfolio of skills that align with the **International Society for Technology Education’s National Educational Technology Standards**. These standards serve as a guide for ensuring students obtain skills that will make them effective 21st Century Learners.

### Impact

- In 2003, the Evaluation Center at the University of Virginia conducted a thorough evaluation of C4K’s mentoring program and the results indicated the program has a significant and positive impact on students’ lives.
- C4K students are required to show advanced proficiency in a range of software applications, and to demonstrate critical thinking skills. Students who complete the requirements to graduate from C4K’s 9-month mentoring program produce a portfolio of technology projects and skills, something they can show college admissions counselors and potential employers.



- As C4K approaches the 10th anniversary of our mentoring program, we have found that 97% of mentored students tracked by C4K have graduated from high school. In contrast, 70% of all economically disadvantaged students living in Charlottesville graduate from high school on time. In addition, 94% of these tracked students have gone on to college.

### **Computers4Kids' programming has received local and statewide recognition:**

**2008** – Charlottesville Business Innovation Council's Community Innovation Award

**2007** – Virginia Mentoring Partnership's award for Best Mentor in Virginia

**2006** – Virginia Mentoring Partnership's award for Best Mentoring Program in Virginia

**2005** – Charlottesville-Albemarle Community Foundation's Youth Service Award

### **Computers4Kids has attracted sustainable resources through 10 Years of growth:**

- Dedicated volunteer mentors form life-changing connections with their students.
- C4K students are able to receive home computers because individuals in the community donate their used computer equipment and C4K volunteers update the equipment.
- Skilled volunteers from the community lead workshops that train C4K students and other volunteers in specialized software skills.
- C4K's Board of Directors includes community leaders, innovators, and academic experts.
- Virginia National Bank played a critical role in the creation of C4K, and has continued to be a tremendous supporter of C4K's growth. Additional key supporters are BNSI, T & N Printing, Probe Inc., Tom Cogill Photography, Tom Daly Photography, Summit Publishing, LLC, the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, and the Perry Foundation.



### **Community Support: Your Impact**

You can help give local at-risk students the tools for success, and the chance to make their own positive contribution to our community. You can make a direct impact on the life of a local student by investing in C4K. In addition to a track record of program success, C4K has a history of effectively drawing on community resources to both raise funds and keep costs low through donations of in-kind services. C4K's annual operating budget is below \$500,000. 90 cents out of every dollar donated goes directly to program costs and services provided to deserving students. The 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. We need your help to continue actively breaking the cycle of poverty, not only preventing students from dropping out of high school to face unemployment, low wage jobs, or worse, but also helping students to realize their full potential and make a positive contribution to our local community.

