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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lieutenant Governor To Announce Challenge Grant at Computers4Kids Graduation

CHARLOTTESVILLE (November 10, 2003, 2003)—Lieutenant Governor Tim Kaine will announce an anonymous \$50,000 challenge grant for Computers4Kids (C4K) when he addresses the C4K graduation ceremony on Tuesday, November 18. The ceremony will take place at 6:00 PM at the University of Virginia's Alumni Hall, 211 Emmet Street South in Charlottesville.

Lieutenant Governor Kaine accepted the invitation after learning about C4K and the educational opportunities it provides economically disadvantaged students in the Charlottesville area. He said, "I am happy to be coming to Charlottesville to recognize Computers4Kids and its graduates. C4K is a prime example of a successful public-private partnership that promotes education, technology, and community building through volunteer effort. The students are learning by working with mentors in a fun environment, and this kind of effort is so important in preparing and training our youth to have a place in the upcoming workforce."

The Computers4Kids Learning Lab was opened in 2001. Community volunteers both refurbish the donated equipment and serve as mentors for the students. Middle and high school students work in the lab with the volunteer mentors during after-school hours and on Saturdays. Sixty-three students are currently matched with mentors, with total student usage of the C4K

Learning Lab averaging 145 hours per week. Fifty-nine students have previously graduated.

Kala Somerville, C4K Executive Director, said, "It is our objective to enroll ten to twelve new students each month at C4K. Our course of study lasts at least nine months. Students are matched very early on with an adult mentor, who becomes a learning partner and role model for the student. Both students and mentors like the educational format of "partner" learning, and together the mentor and student creatively explore various aspects of the computer and technology. "

In addition to recognizing the 34 Computers4Kids graduates and mentors, the Lieutenant Governor will be announcing a \$50,000 challenge grant recently awarded to C4K by an anonymous donor. Mark Giles, President of Virginia National Bank and Treasurer of C4K, said, "C4K is very fortunate to have received this generous \$50,000 challenge grant and to have Lieutenant Governor Kaine here to announce our effort to seek matching funds. Once seen, C4K really sells itself, and I am very optimistic that our community will come forward to meet our grant challenge by December 31, 2003."

An informal reception with refreshments will follow the hour-long ceremony.

For additional information on Computers4Kids, please call 434-817-1121 or on the Web, www.computers4kids.net.

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