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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Computers4Kids Awarded \$10,000 Grant From Rotary Council

CHARLOTTESVILLE (October 27, 2003)—Computers4Kids has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from The Piedmont Council of Rotary Clubs. The Council, representing Albemarle County, Blue Ridge, and Charlottesville Rotary clubs, was formed to jointly support a long-term community based project that is targeted toward disadvantaged youths.

Alan Culbertson, Council President, announced the award which has been earmarked to provide C4K students with ISP connectivity in their homes. In addition to the monetary grant, Rotary Council member Mr. Harry Taylor will join the Board of Directors of Computers4Kids, and will assist in facilitating meetings at various companies and organizations throughout the area to provide a platform for C4K representatives to recruit mentors.

Computers4Kids was established in 1999 to foster computer skills and give a computer with appropriate software to city and county students. Applicants to the C4K program are students in grades 7-12 whose families cannot afford to purchase a computer. C4K students earn their computers through a 9-month training process that not only provides valuable technological skills, but also teaches responsibility and accountability as well. Computers4Kids matches every youth with a volunteer mentor. Together the mentor and student creatively explore various aspects of the computer and technology.

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Since the C4K Lab opened in January 2001, 255 students have completed the initial training session. C4K's goal is to enroll at least 120 new students per year. Currently 67 students are matched and working with community mentors.

“The Piedmont Council of Rotary clubs will ensure all C4K participants will be able to take full advantage of their new computer and have access to the vast resources and community of the Internet,” stated Kala Somerville, Executive Director of Computers4Kids. “By helping recruit mentors, the Piedmont Council of Rotary Clubs will also allow us to offer our program to more area youth.”

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

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