

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

**Kala Somerville**  
**Executive Director**  
**Computers4Kids**  
**999 Grove Street, Suite 105**  
**Charlottesville, VA 22903**  
**434.817.1121**  
**www.computers4kids.net**

### **Computers4Kids Students Present Their Findings from the Got Game! Design Institute**

It may be summertime, but students at Computers4Kids haven't stopped working. On Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:00, ten middle school students will present their projects completed for the Got Game! Design Institute. The Design Institute is a two-week long camp led by education and evaluation professionals from the University of Virginia and hosted at Computers4Kids. Throughout the camp, students have been working together and with camp leaders to critique computer game designs and to begin working on designs for games of their own creation. The focus of the camp has been on educational computer games and what features attract and motivate their student users. Other non-educational games have also been critiqued by students in order for them to identify how game designers target and then keep a particular audience.

Computers4Kids was established in 1999 to foster computer skills and give a computer with appropriate software to city and county students. In addition to donating computers to area youth, Computers4Kids provides free computer training and matches every youth with a volunteer mentor. Together the mentor and student creatively explore various aspects of the computer and technology.

"The Got Game! Institute provides a rare opportunity for students to become actively engaged in their own education and curriculum," said Computers4Kids Director Kala Somerville. "Not only have the educators leading the camp had the opportunity to study what makes successful educational computer game software," she continued, "but the students have learned how to look critically at computer games and identify what methods designers use to hold their interest. At the same time, Got Game! has provided Computers4Kids students another opportunity to expand their knowledge of technology and explore other ways this knowledge can be put to work."

The student presentations will be given in the conference room at the Connected Community Technology Center at 999 Grove Street, upstairs from the Computers4Kids offices and computer lab.

Computers4Kids is always looking for mentors and volunteers. For additional information on the program, call Computers4Kids at 817-1121 or visit their website: [www.computers4kids.net](http://www.computers4kids.net).