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Local youth from low-income communities are being equipped with practical skills to set and achieve college and career goals.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (May 1, 2018) C4K (Computers4Kids) and Clayborne Education are piloting a new partnership to offer youth from low-income families in Charlottesville and Albemarle County increased options for self-sufficiency. The partnership will take the form of one-to-one mentoring sessions with the purpose of goal setting and life, college and career planning.

"C4K members are bright young students. With a little guidance, they can create their own paths to follow for personal, academic, and career success – which will also strengthen our community. C4K's partnership with Clayborne Education will offer training to help them do that," says C4K Program Director, Chris Florez. Through this collaborative mentoring program, C4K members will work with Clayborne Education tutors to:

- Research and plan their personal pathway to college, career, or another form of individual success.
- Receive specific guidance in possible barriers to reaching their goals, including financial requirements and work experience.
- Increase skills in documenting and curating their projects, experience, and personal successes in a way that lead to future opportunities.

Clayborne Education Chief Operations Officer Lee Elberson says: "We are thrilled to partner with C4K and find symbiosis in our missions. Together we will provide the tools necessary for better future in an inclusive learning environment for all students."

About C4K

C4K's mission is to empower youth (7-12th grade) from low-income families to be prepared with the 21st-century skills required to attend college, pursue meaningful careers, and ultimately, break the cycle of generational poverty. At C4K, all youth-driven STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) projects are grounded in 21st-century skills. In Charlottesville City Schools, the average on-time graduation rate for students of color is 84%. For economically disadvantaged students, it is 81%. However, in our 17-year history as a mentoring organization, 98% of C4K members graduate high

school on time, and 92% went on to college. All our programming is offered free of charge to youth and their families. We offer:

- 9+ months of one-to-one mentoring.
- Year-round drop-in group mentoring.
- Camps, workshops, job shadowing and field trips.
- Youth leadership on our Youth Council.
- Access to industry-level software, Video & Audio Production Suites, Clubhouse 'makerspace' and Mentor Studio.
- Self-paced, self-guided projects.
- A free, refurbished laptop with support.

Want to support C4K youth members directly? Mentoring at C4K is a great opportunity for members of the public to serve as role models to youth while building skills and connecting with like-minded volunteers in our community. All mentoring takes place at C4K's creative learning studios in the Frank IX Building near downtown Charlottesville. Next new Mentor Training is at C4K on Saturday, May 5 at 9am (945 2nd St SE, Charlottesville, VA 22902.)

About Clayborne Education

Established in 2009, Clayborne Education is a local tutoring company offering expert help in academic tutoring, test prep, academic coaching, and college consulting. Through a one-to-one, flexible approach, Clayborne helps each student succeed according to his/her unique learning style.

Clayborne began its community outreach program with the hope of empowering students from low-income and refugee families, as well as aspiring first-generation college students. Such students often lack the financial resources to access expert services and therefore struggle to overcome barriers to academic and professional success. With a holistic and relational approach, Clayborne seeks to help students surmount these barriers. This year, through its community outreach program, Clayborne has given 30 scholarships to high-need students, giving them access to expert test prep and tutoring services. In the months and years ahead, Clayborne will ramp up its efforts to reach all of Charlottesville's students by establishing partnerships with multiple local nonprofits.

Clayborne tutors Clay Daniel and Peyton Stark are currently providing academic coaching to four C4K members. Clay Daniel is a graduate of Harvard University and Dallas Theological Seminary as well as a husband and father of two. His passion is to help students transform their futures through education. Peyton Stark earned her BA and teaching license at the University of Colorado and her MFA from the University of Arizona. Before coming to Clayborne, she taught middle school English, college-level writing, and SAT/ACT classes in three different states.

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For more information about C4K visit: www.computers4kids.net or email liz@computers4kids.net or call 434-817-1121.

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