

Our Mission

To create an “equal opportunity” environment where students can access the tools and mentors they need to compete in a skilled and educated workforce. The educational programs and activities developed in the Clubhouse focus on youth development and education.

Our History

Established as the 501 C(3) charitable arm of the Northern Virginia Technology Council to help develop and educate underserved youth in the region. The first “Computer Clubhouse” was launched in 1999.

- In 2006, the name was changed from the Northern Virginia Technology Council Foundation to the Equal Footing Foundation.

Our Model

We accomplish our mission by funding, launching and sustaining “Computer Clubhouses” in partnership with local governments, businesses and other non-profit entities. Our Clubhouse programs are dedicated to offering resources and opportunities to those who would not otherwise have access to them.

The result is an innovative and safe after school learning center where students ages 8-18, many of whom do not have access to technology at home, can work with adult mentors to **learn, develop** and **explore** their potential.

Our Impact

- The six Computer Clubhouses we support serve over **1,500 students each week**.
- 30,000 individuals visit our centers each year including seniors, parents and leaders.
- We have equal gender participation in Clubhouse activities and programs including robotics and math.
- Many Clubhouse students have received community acknowledgement and awards in the areas of outstanding academics, good citizenship and peer-to-peer mentoring.

Our Methodology is an “Adventure in Education”

Equal Footing Foundation employs a nationally recognized educational model created through a joint effort between the Museum of Science in Boston and the MIT Media Lab. Educational principles include:

- Learn through hands-on inquiry
- Peer/mentor collaboration
- Homework First!
- Learning in context

Our Programs

Equal Footing Foundation has a commitment to develop the next generation of leaders from among the diverse and underserved youth of Northern Virginia because we know that the students of today are the employees of the future. Through our youth development and educational initiatives, our students find the path from Clubhouse to college to career!

VOLUNTEER



MENTOR



INNOVATE



EDUCATE

From Clubhouse...to College...to Career...



Equal Footing = Equal Access

The Computer Clubhouse program is dedicated to offering resources and opportunities to students who would not otherwise have access to them. Each Computer Clubhouse environment maintains a consistent format with structure that enables creativity and learning. In the process, students become excited about learning and fluent with new technologies, developing skills and experiences that will help them succeed in their careers, contribute to their communities and lead outstanding lives.

The Computer Clubhouse Program Goals

- Strengthen academic achievement especially in the areas of math, science and technology
- Promote improved communication skills
- Encourage youth to work on projects related to their own interests
- Connect the path of education to real world applications
- Foster a sense of community where young people work together and with one another with support and inspiration from adults mentors
- Cultivate an environment to encourage young people to work as designers, inventors and creators

Computer Clubhouse Core Programs:

- "Homework First!"
- Botball Robotics Tournament
- Virginia Space Flight Academy Camp
- Computer Literacy Skills
- Graphic Art and Web Programming and Design
- Music and Film Production
- Computer Gaming – Design, Build, Develop, Program
- Computer Simulations
- Shoot for Education
- Science and Math
- Girls Nite Out

In 2006, Equal Footing developed two additional programs specifically targeted to cultivate youth-to-adult interaction:

- Computer Clubhouse Speaker Series – designed for local leaders, educators and business professionals to spend an evening speaking about work, life, and the path to success.
- Computer Clubhouse Adoption Program – created to foster a Corporation-to-Clubhouse connection through mentoring and financial contributions.

In early 2007, Equal Footing Foundation launched the Computer Clubhouse Scholarship to help our students get from Clubhouse-to-College-to Career!" The scholarship is designed to help Computer Clubhouse students who would like to further their education but lack the financial support to continue forward. Clubhouse students are required to meet specific criteria defined in the application process in order to be considered.

Clubhouse Location Criteria

- National School Lunch Program
- Census Report Data
- Section 8 (A) Housing
- Access to local schools
- Convenient to bus and transportation routes
- Public school information



Awards

- Botball Robotic Tournament
 - Best Small Robot
 - 5th Place Overall
 - Judges Choice Award
- 2006 Fairfax County Youth Leadership Awards
 - 13 Computer Clubhouse Recipients

From Clubhouse...to College...to Career...

