



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2017.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico

Program Title: Field of Dreams

Program Category: Community & Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Holly Zinn

Title: Management Specialist

Department: County Manager's Office

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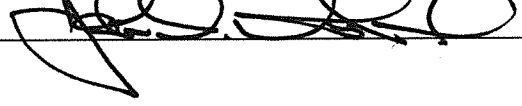
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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: John Vithoukas

Title: County Manager

Signature: 

1. Program Overview

The stated purpose of the Field of Dreams program is “Renovating Richmond’s Recreation” and ultimately involves renovating Richmond’s inner-city youth baseball facilities. The initiative enhances the baseball experience for young people within the City of Richmond, so they can benefit from the many lessons that America’s pastime has to offer. As part of this project, the Advanced Career Education (ACE) Center at Highland Springs High School in Henrico County, Virginia had an opportunity to join forces with the Barton Malow Foundation, the Richmond Flying Squirrels baseball team, and the Richmond International Raceway. The students enrolled at the ACE built and installed benches in various dugouts around the area that were in need of many improvements.

2. Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

The development of the Field of Dreams project originally began through the Barton Malow Foundation. Many baseball fields in the City of Richmond had fallen into disrepair and needed a makeover – both the field and the amenities surrounding the field. The ACE Center at Highland Springs High School was called upon to revitalize the dugout areas at several of these fields. Students, under the supervision of their teacher, installed dugout bleachers at these locations. In addition to the installation, students also had to cut the benches to proper length, cap the benches off for safety precaution, and alter the height.

3. How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The initiative involved close collaboration among Henrico County Public Schools, the private nonprofit Malow Foundation, the City of Richmond, and Richmond’s minor-league baseball team, the Flying Squirrels. These groups came together to accomplish a community project that enhanced the educational and recreational opportunities for children across the Richmond area.

4. How Program Was Carried Out

The Field of Dreams program brought together several stakeholders and has met the needs for many children and families in the Richmond area. The clientele served are children who play baseball in the City of Richmond. In addition, the clientele also includes their parents and families.

Many of the baseball fields in the city of Richmond have not had upgrades to the field or outside amenities in many years. Many of these baseball fields are within a few blocks of Barton Malow's office. The nonprofit foundation saw this as an important venture and even hosted a Field of Dreams night at the Diamond (the Richmond Flying Squirrels' home stadium) and invited Henrico Schools' teachers and students to be a part of it.

On August 12, 2016, the Richmond Flying Squirrels hosted the Bowie Baysox. More than 300 supporters turned out to enjoy a VIP pregame meal and watch the game. Henrico County Public Schools' (HCPS) staff members had the opportunity to talk with executives from Barton Malow about the division's programs and the ACE Center at Highland Springs. This conversation became a discussion about potential future internships, job-shadowing opportunities, and future jobs. Barton Malow is a construction trades company, which aligns perfectly with many programs at the ACE Center at Highland Springs, including carpentry, masonry, and electricity.

After the game, the project began in earnest. The ACE Center at Highland Springs met with Barton Malow and began taking measurements and identifying the locations of need. The bleachers that were needed for this type of project were stadium-style, metal bleachers. This is where another HCPS partner became involved in the project: Richmond International Raceway.

During a visit to the raceway in October 2016, school students and staff members identified parts and pieces from the bleacher area of the track that would meet our needs for completing the

project. The management of Richmond International Raceway saw the value in this community project and donated all of the items at no cost.

During November, the ACE Center at Highland Springs involved multiple programs in the project, including the auto body program, which welded the feet on the benches and completing necessary painting. ACE Center carpentry students cut the benches to the proper length, installed end caps, and adjusted benches to the proper height.

Once the project was completed at the school, Barton Malow and Richmond International Raceway came to the school and saw the progress that had been made on the benches. Photos and videos were taken of the students putting the final touches on the benches and getting them prepared for installation. In mid-December, the students who worked on the Field of Dreams project rode a school bus to the field locations and installed the benches. Representatives from Barton Malow came out to talk with the students and watch them install the bleachers.

Not only did this project help youth and families in the City of Richmond, it was also a great experience for HCPS students and staff. It gave them the opportunity to give back to the community using their skills and expertise. It also gave them exposure to an extremely large company that does quite a bit of hiring for potential future employment. From August to December 2016, the site was surveyed, measurements were taken, and upgrades were completed and installed. All the dugouts that needed to be renovated were completed and were available to be used.

5. Financing and Staffing

The operating costs for this project were zero because of the donations of Richmond International

Raceway. Without that partnership, the cost of metal, fabrications, and labor for the four bleachers would have cost about \$5,000. The students provided all of the labor for course credit.

6. Program Results

The true value of the Field of Dreams project is being realized this spring as baseball season begins. New dugouts, benches, and field upgrades support competition and physical fitness and allow the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation to use its budgeted funds for other projects. The upgrades were exactly what the coalition set out to complete in August 2016.

7. Brief Summary

Many baseball fields and their surrounding amenities in the City of Richmond were in need of costly upgrades. This need was recognized by several in the community and involved close collaboration among Henrico County Public Schools, the private nonprofit Malow Foundation, the City of Richmond, and Richmond's minor-league baseball team, the Flying Squirrels.

Students at the ACE Center at Highland Springs High School, under the supervision of their teacher, revitalized dugout areas at several of these aging fields by installing dugout bleachers. Students had to cut the benches to proper length, cap the benches for safety precautions, and alter the height.

This project gave life to aging recreation fields for use by youth and families in the City of Richmond. It gave HCPS students the opportunity to use and develop skills and expertise. It also gave them exposure to a large company that hires many employees—a valuable connection for potential future employment.



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