



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: Students Giving Back: Technology Training and Refurbishment Program

Program Category: Information Technology

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: John Vithoulikas

Title: County Manager

Signature: 

1. Program Overview

The students in the specialty center at the Henrico County Public Schools' (HCPS) Center for Information Technology at Deep Run High School began working with the Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment Program to help families in need of technology. This program is a statewide program that trains students to refurbish surplus computers from government agencies and other companies. Students at Deep Run not only help the community by providing them with access to computer technology but also learn more about computer hardware and software and about teaching others. In the 2016-2017 school year, Deep Run students donated a total of 45 refurbished computers to Ratcliffe Elementary School, which is also located in Henrico County, and some of its underprivileged families.

2. Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

During the 2012-2013 school year, the students in HCPS' Center for Information Technology Program at Deep Run High School saw a need for computer technology at schools in the county that matriculated from lower-income populations. These schools and the families whom the schools serve could benefit from the Deep Run students' knowledge of computers. The Deep Run students wanted to provide students and families without access to computer technology an opportunity to complete homework, search for jobs, and have access to information that would not be relatively available without a computer.

3. How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This program offers life-changing services to Henrico County residents and creatively allows students to learn about computer technology. Henrico County is very diverse, and all families are not able to afford computers or many other forms of technology. This program is creative,

innovative, useful, and helpful for many. In turn, it is rewarding for the students who refurbish the computers because they are able to help those in need. The students take unwanted, surplus computers and transform them into powerful tools that can dramatically impact the future of a family within their community. The program arrives at an innovative solution to the lack of technology in students' homes; cooperates with other schools through the statewide Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment program; and could be replicated by other school divisions.

4. How Program Was Carried Out

The objective of the Technology Training and Refurbishment Program is to assist the community with technology needs. Students at Deep Run High School received computers that had been generously donated from companies and government agencies that were no longer using the computers. The students examined the computers to verify what hardware or software would be required for the machines to be updated and functional for the needs of students and family members. This inspection process took the students about an hour per computer. Groups of five to eight students met in the afternoons, after their regular school day, and worked on multiple computers. This computer inspection provides the Deep Run students a deeper knowledge about computer parts and software and how to install them. It also utilizes their abilities to help other members of the community and to narrow gaps in technology.

Students installed a variety of software on each of the donated computers. LibreOffice is one piece of software that was installed in all of the computers. This software allows families and students to access Word, Excel and PowerPoint programs. The students also installed Scratch, a piece of software that makes the coding process easier. The students really like using this software.

Several of the donated computers did not have WiFi access, so the students added ethernet cords to those computers. Having access to WiFi allows the end user an opportunity to retrieve information from all over the world and communicate nearly anywhere. Each computer also had Malwarebytes installed as anti-virus software to prevent the end user from downloading harmful files.

The students installed the Google Chrome browser to each computer. This allowed them to create bookmarks of web pages so the end-user students and families would have quick access to relevant and important websites. The students also added programs like a free resume tutorial service that allows parents and students to create a resume, which is something that could greatly increase their likelihood of finding a source of income. Upon meeting with the families who were to receive the computers, the students bookmarked websites according to the families' specific needs. The students also added educational games and other fun sites to keep families engaged in technology.

The center took this program a step further by also providing computer training to the families who received the computers. The Deep Run students created training documents with troubleshooting tips to help families with the computers. Instead of only holding a training class for these underprivileged families, the center students also coordinated a dinner for the selected families. During the dinner, the families were given opportunities to win prizes such as computers and printers and also to receive computer training from students at Deep Run. The students taught the families how to set up the computers, and they also talked about the necessary software to run the machines.

In the 2016-2017 school year, Deep Run donated 20 refurbished laptops to Ratcliffe Elementary School and 25 refurbished computers to families in the surrounding community.

5. Financing and Staffing

There were no costs to the school division to operate the program. The computers were donated to the program, and the labor is provided by the students. The initiative received a \$2,000 grant from the Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment program through the Henrico Education Foundation. The Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment Program is a statewide school consortium that helps students refurbish computers and other surplus hardware from government and businesses. The group provides grants to pay for computer upgrades and repairs, while also allowing students across the commonwealth to earn IT repair certifications and gain valuable skills. These funds were used to purchase the necessary hardware and software for the students to refurbish the donated computers.

6. Program Results

In the 2016-2017 school year, Deep Run students in the Technology Training and Refurbishment Program refurbished a total of 45 computers. This allowed for Ratcliffe Elementary School to utilize 20 additional laptops at no cost for educational purposes. This program also narrowed the technology gap for 25 underprivileged families in the community and provided them with the tools and resources to gain knowledge and to achieve successes they would have never thought possible.

7. Brief Summary

The students in the specialty center at the HCPS' Center for Information Technology at Deep Run High School are working with the Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment program to help families in need of technology. The students receive computers that have been donated from companies that are no longer using them. The students then examine the computers to see what is needed for them to be updated and functional for the needs of families. This opportunity helps the Deep Run students learn more about installing new computer parts and software. It also uses their knowledge to help other communities and narrow gaps in unequal technology.

The center takes this program a step further by training the families that receive the computers. The Deep Run students created training documents with troubleshooting tips to help families with the computers. The center students also put together a dinner for the families in the selected community. During the dinner, the families have the opportunity to win prizes such as computers and printers and also receive computer training from students at Deep Run. The families learn how to set up the computers and learn about the necessary software.

In the 2016-2017 school year, Deep Run donated computers to 25 families who have students enrolled at Ratcliffe Elementary School and donated about 20 laptops to the school to use as needed.