



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2020.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico

Program Title: What's Christmas Without Toys?

Program Category: Customer Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton

Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration

Signature: 

Program Overview

Henrico County Public Schools classes in materials processing are required to teach students about the manufacturing process. This year, students from Deep Run, Douglas Freeman, Glen Allen, Hermitage and Highland Springs high schools took on a mass-production project with benefits for both students and the broader community.

The project involved creating toys to be donated to the Henrico Christmas Mother program, which works to supply food and toys to area families in need during the holidays. Teachers spent the first few weeks teaching about safety and how the manufacturing process works. Each school agreed on a design for a toy that could be mass-produced. This project combined the applicable skills taught in the classroom and gave students a chance to use their skills to benefit the community. This is in line with the Henrico Learning Profile, Henrico Schools' guiding educational document. Students learned that through learning and doing, they can be involved in their community.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

As the Henrico Learner Profile has established, educational programs must evaluate all aspects of instruction. Henrico County high schools that offer a materials processing program do a great job of teaching students how to manipulate material safely. To support the vision of the Henrico Learner Profile, a new approach was needed to address community involvement in the courses. Through actively learning through mass production, students could build something and give back to the community at the same time.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This was an innovative way to connect students to their community, help a major local nonprofit and use students' skills in a real-world scenario. As outlined in our Henrico Learner Profile, students are best able to learn through doing. This includes not only the skills they need but also a greater appreciation of their community, in order to be productive members of society. Through this manufacturing project, the students were not able to only learn their required class material and skills, but apply them in a way that is memorable to help promote lifelong learning.

How Program Was Carried Out

Before the start of the school year, the materials processing teachers across the school division were approached about an idea to mass-produce something that could benefit a group or organization. This resulted in the concept for the mass production of a toy that could be given to the division's charitable partner, the Henrico Christmas Mother. The original idea was for different parts to be built at different schools and later assembled. As the year started, teachers provided many toy ideas that their students had brought them to consider. To capitalize on the impressive variety of designs, teachers agreed that each school should create one or more of its own toys.

Beginning Oct. 1 (after safety instruction had concluded), teachers and students began constructing their school's selected toy. Some schools had one class working on one idea, while others had multiple classes working on five different toy designs. Schools were able to use a lot of scrap material in their classes to make the toys. Some even recruited an engineering class at their school to create the wheels for a toy car using 3D printing.

By the week of Thanksgiving, schools had completed their projects and the toys and were ready for pickup. Toys were collected and delivered in early December to the Henrico Christmas Mother

to be made available to families in need. In all, students had worked to mass-produce 10 different designs of toys, with more than 200 individual toys donated to charity.

Financing and Staffing

Schools were able to purchase materials needed as part of the instructional process for this project. However, much of the wood used for the project came from various scrap pieces that had accumulated over the years. The cost to construct each toy was about \$3, with a total project cost of around \$600.

Program Results

Throughout the process, students and teachers communicated their excitement about the project. Teachers were excited about new ideas, and students were excited that they got to see their hard work benefit their community. After the toys were delivered to the Henrico Christmas Mother, they were made available to those in need as a holiday gift. All of the toys were given away, and ideas are already under consideration for next year.

Brief Summary

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