



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** Please include this submission form with the 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: Community Night Out
Program Category: Health and Human Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis
Title: Public Relations Specialist
Department: Public Relations
Telephone: 804-501-4933 Website: www.henrico.us
Email: dav127@henrico.us

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton
Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration
Signature: 

Program Overview

The Advanced Career Education (ACE) Center Night Out is the largest fundraising event for the ACE Center at Highland Springs High School in Henrico County, Virginia. The ACE Center Night Out originated as an extension of Teacher Appreciation Week. There was such a community outpouring of support for Teacher Appreciation Week from community partners that the decision to add a silent and live auction component to our fundraising efforts for the ACE Center at Highland Springs. This event has been hugely successful and allows community members and partners to contribute to our students' educational success.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Each year the ACE Center at Highland Springs is faced with the need to raise funds to pay for student supplies and for students to participate in state and national level competitions such as Skills USA and Health Occupations Students of America. Students work hard to earn these spots by competing at the school division level. Students may qualify to compete at higher levels, but sometimes costs are prohibitive. Many of our students are unable to afford the cost to participate in these competitions, which may be as far away as Florida and span over several days. With the proceeds from the silent and live auctions, we have been able to assist students with the costs. These competitions are invaluable: they provide students with the opportunity to showcase the skills they have learned and mastered in their career and technical education programs at the ACE Center at Highland Springs and to strengthen their presentation and leadership skills. Students have returned from these higher-level events with increased confidence and more insight into what it means to be professional and ready for the workplace. A few years ago, one of our student participants had never been on a plane before and some of our participating students had never left Virginia. Some who earned the opportunity to participate in a state competition in Virginia Beach had never seen the ocean. Students may have momentarily enjoyed getting their feet wet in the ocean. Still, the benefits of the exposure to these competitions impact our students for a lifetime and help them to define their career paths.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The ACE Center Night Out fundraiser is a means to an end. All of these efforts — by our faculty and staff, students and community partners — help our students become confident leaders in their fields who will ultimately be employed, contributing members of our community. We have managed to tap thousands of dollars that go directly to bolstering the skills and confidence of our students.

How Program Was Carried Out

The Silent and Live Auctions/ACE Center Night Out aims to raise money to support students with supplies and help fund student participation in state and national-level competitions.

The ACE Center at Highland Springs Silent and Live Auction Committee began contacting other localities (Henrico, Richmond and Chesterfield), state and national vendors to ask for donations in January of the auction year. The committee works on this until April.

The committee reserves a local venue in Henrico County as soon as the current auction concludes. The event was previously held in the cafeteria of Highland Springs High School. A community member allowed the school to have the event in her venue (The Virginia Cliffe Inn) in Henrico County last year.

Local, state and national merchants and vendors have contributed hotel stays, gift baskets, trips and gift certificates for goods and services such as dry cleaning and car washes, and “staycations” at national chain and boutique hotels. The event is held each year in early May and overlaps Teacher Appreciation Week.

Financing and Staffing

The approximate costs associated with sponsoring this fundraising event are:

- \$500 to rent the local venue at the Virginia Cliffe Inn in Glen Allen.
- In 2017 and 2018, the event was held in the Highland Springs High School cafeteria at no cost.
- \$200 for supplies (materials for gift baskets, frames and event decorations such as pictures of students involved in their programs)
- \$300 for food (heavy hors d'oeuvres)
- Live jazz ensemble featuring an ACE Center at Highland Springs graduate at no cost
- Student speakers on the value of their ACE Center programs and the competitions they attended, at no cost
- Postage costs depend on the number of flyers mailed

This event may be replicated on a smaller or larger scale. We have done both. Faculty members on the school committee plan, set up, operate and break down the event.

Program Results

The ACE Center Night Out has consistently been a highly successful fundraising event.

- In 2017, we raised approximately \$12,000.
- In 2018, we raised approximately \$14,000.
- In 2019, we raised approximately \$16,000.

These events have been great opportunities for students, parents and community members to show their support for the students at the ACE Center at Highland Springs. Vendors and merchants throughout the area, region, state and nation have continued to be generous supporters of our ACE Center Night Out event, as well as our Teacher Appreciation Week event.

Brief Summary

The brilliant and hardworking students of Henrico's ACE Center deserve the chance to participate and showcase themselves in regional and nationwide events, and the ACE Center Night Out has helped provide opportunities for some of these students who otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend these events. The fundraiser features silent and live auctions, and the proceeds go directly toward helping students develop their skills and confidence as they embark on their career paths. Other local entities and businesses have also supported these students by lending resources, whether that's money, goods or services that assist in the event itself. The ACE Center Night Out raised \$32,000 over the course of three years that went on to benefit many deserving ACE Center students.

**Community Night Out
Supplemental Material**

