



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2024.** 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: Practical Nursing Students Assist a Family with Special Needs Child

Program Category: Health & Human Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Monica Smith-Callahan

Title: Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs

Signature: *M. Callahan*

Program Overview

Henrico County Public Schools nursing students assisted a family with a special needs child during the holidays, while aligning with the program's learning requirements in the process.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Henrico County-St. Mary's Hospital School of Practical Nursing students at the HCPS Adult Education Center at Regency help address needs in the community every year and take part in community service projects. During the 2023-24 school year, one of their projects involved a family of three: a single mother with a 3-year-old and an 8-year-old with autism. Autistic children can have sensory issues and often have dietary restrictions. Recognizing this, the nursing students worked hard to discover the nature of the family's needs. They were thoughtful when discussing what the family might need and met and discussed the needs as a group. Students wanted to make this family's holiday as special as possible. The family had endured the death of the mother's father and children's grandfather as well during the holiday season, and this added to a difficult time for the family.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The practical nursing students at Henrico County Public Schools' Adult Education Center at Regency demonstrated cooperative spirit and love for their community by coming together and going above and beyond to help. They also understood how their end-of-program student learning program outcomes have played a part in what they have learned during their time in the program. This was a wonderful project for the class. All the students rallied around the family.

How Program Was Carried Out

The students were advised of the needs of the family through correspondence with one of the instructors and worked with the mother's sister to make a list. The students, in conjunction with another program project, tied their work to some of the goals and end-of-program student learning outcomes. The students' end-of-program student learning outcomes include human flourishing, nursing judgement, spirit of inquiry and professional identity. As students grow in the program toward becoming nurses, they learn many things about caring for their clients' basic needs. The students made ornaments depicting each of these end-of-program student learning outcomes.

They placed the items they collected for this family in collection boxes under an "end-of-program student learning outcomes holiday tree" until it was time to donate them.

The list of items for the family included twin bed sheets, especially soft ones made of cotton or other material for the autistic child, and comforters to match for each child. Additional items included warm winter coats, hats, mittens and boots. When asked about toys, the mother's sister stated that the autistic child liked "fidget" or sensory toys of any kind and the youngest liked dinosaur-themed toys. They both liked Legos and Squishmallows stuffed animals.

Students were concerned about getting foods that the children would like that were also gluten free, and inquired about possible allergies to ensure the children did not have peanut allergies.

Two nursing students had autistic siblings and were understanding of the needs of the children.

The students collected a box of food, along with the other items. Some students purchased clothing as well.

Financing and Staffing

The practical nursing students at the Adult Education Center at Regency donated their own funds. They all came together and decided what they were able to give. These students wanted to give and embraced this community service project. The students each have special gifts and contribute to the needs of others as they have learned to care for others. There were no additional costs.

Program Results

The children and their mother were surprised and overwhelmed by the giving and outpouring from others — especially because the students did not even know them. The children were overcome with joy by the needed items they received, the coats to keep them warm, the boots to keep their feet dry, the toys for fun and the food items for nourishment. Just knowing that the family was so grateful brought the practical nursing students joy. They felt great satisfaction in giving to others in need. They were happy to help a family — especially during the holiday season. Not only was the family in need, it had special needs and were grieving the loss of family members.

Brief Summary

Henrico County Public Schools nursing students assisted a family with a special needs child during the holidays, while aligning with the program's learning requirements in the process. Henrico County-St. Mary's Hospital School of Practical Nursing students at the HCPS Adult Education Center at Regency help address needs in the community every year and take part in community service projects. During the 2023-24 school year, one of their projects involved a family of three: a single mother with a 3-year-old and an 8-year-old with autism. Autistic children can have sensory issues and often have dietary restrictions. Recognizing this, the nursing students worked hard to discover the nature of the family's needs. They were thoughtful when

discussing what the family might need and met and discussed the needs as a group. Students wanted to make this family's holiday as special as possible. The family had endured the death of the mother's father and children's grandfather

Practical Nursing Students Assist a Family with Special Needs Child Supplemental Material



