

Guilford County Proposal for funding

Name of Organization	YMCA of High Point
Business address	PO Box 6258 High Point, NC 27262
Tax ID	56-0530014
Contact Person Name and Title	Mary Ann Edwards
Email address:	maedwards1994@gmail.com
Contact phone:	704-618-8016
Total amount requested:	\$20,000.00

Organization description

The YMCA of High Point Association is one of the leading non-profits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. This Association is comprised of 3 branches – 2 of whom are located in Guilford County (Hartley Drive Branch and Carl Chavis Branch). These locations serve youth, families and seniors through an array of programs and activities that meet the needs of the diverse population of citizens within the High Point community. These programs include youth and adult sports, fitness, after school, state licensed childcare, summer camps and a free Teen membership program.

The childcare and teen programs have become more important than ever since the coronavirus outbreak. With the closing of schools in mid-March, children of all ages, grades, and socio-economic backgrounds have lacked the physical, social and emotional outlets needed to grow, thrive and survive. Many children who found school to be their safe haven away from physical and mental abuse in the home have been isolated in that very environment that could be more abusive than even due to the stresses that come with job loss, food insecurity and lack of structure.

Need

Students in Guilford County have been out of school 3 months. The shift in the role of those fostering student success went from teachers and school staff to parents/guardians.

Most students from low income families in low income neighborhoods did not have the right supplies, tools, access to internet, or family structure to be able to navigate virtual learning successfully.

More students had to take on adult roles in the wake of this pandemic – caring for themselves and siblings as parents struggled with work or unemployment. COVID-19 crisis created feelings

of isolation as students were unable to connect with friends and peers, learning together and building relationships, thus creating feelings of frustration and mental anguish.

Even in the continuing wake of this pandemic, students will need a safe haven, that provides the opportunity to learn, grow, relax and experience some sense of normalcy.

Program

This program will provide supportive, collaborative learning, in a fun environment through virtual interaction.

50 youth ages 7 to 17 will be served each week for 5 weeks beginning week of July 13, 2020 and running through the week of August 10th, 2020. 5 different locations throughout the city will be identified as VR learning sites.

Each child will get 50 minutes of virtual time – free to them.

Program selections will include:

- Education – reading / math / science / communication skills
- Google Earth – virtual tours - travel in real time to anywhere in the world
- Underwater excursions – walk through coral reefs; submarines, etc.
- Job simulations – choose your profession
- 3-D art
- Rhythm games
- Sledding / skydiving
- Discovery games
- Escape room
- Multilingual selections

A student portfolio will be kept to document progress.

Social distancing will be practiced, along with masks, and handwashing.

Sanitation stations will be set-up. Games will be wiped down and cleaned between each usage.

Program Objectives and Outcomes

- Pre and post mood assessment will be administered. Children's mood, social behavior will be assessed prior to game and after game.
- Dexterity skills, hand/eye coordination will be enhanced.
- Ability to pay close attention to detail, concentration and problem-solving skills will be increase
- Reading and math skills will increase.
- Social and emotional learning will also be addressed.

- Exposure to new and different learning environments.
- Children will enjoy learning.

The YMCA will facilitate the program, select and set-up sites and enter into agreement with VR Dimensions.

VR Dimensions, LLC founded October, 2018 by Warren & Fatima Miller will be the provider of services. This company provides Mobile 3-D virtual reality experiences and simulations. VR Dimensions will set-up, monitor and breakdown equipment at each site each week. A master gamer technician will always be on-site to monitor and provide technical assistance.

Budget

\$3000.00 per week X 5 weeks	\$15,000.00
Administrative costs	5,000.00
Total	\$20,000.00

