



STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

SCHOOL: Shore Regional High School

ACTIVITY: Senior Citizen Pasta Dinner

DATE(S): _____

CATEGORY: C- Fundraising

ADVISOR NAME: Alison Cronk

ADVISOR E-MAIL: acronk@shoreregional.org

PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT:

On A Thursday night in mid-to-late October, the local senior citizens from West Long Branch, Oceanport, Monmouth Beach, Sea Bright, and other surrounding towns are invited to attend a dinner held in the high school cafeteria. The evening begins earlier, for those who tend to eat earlier in the day, roughly at 6 PM. When the senior arrive they are greeted by our friendly Student Council members and are open to sit wherever they so choose. There are round tables set up, adorned in table cloths and centerpieces with approximately ten to twelve seats at each table. On the table there are snacks to start with. As dinner begins, the seniors are given bread and salad first. Afterward the pasta with sauce is served. Finally, dessert and coffee are placed on tables in a designated location. We make sure to provide both sugar and sugar free desserts for the elderly. While dining, students from the high school entertain the seniors with various styles of music. For example, we are having a pianist, a guitarist, and a Frank Sinatra impersonator at the upcoming event. All of these treats are given to our friendly seniors for only \$3 a person or \$5 a couple.

DESCRIBE THE PLANNING & EXECUTION OF THIS PROJECT:

It is important to get as much food as possible donated to the event. The students are in charge of finding people willing to donate, contacting them, and making the arrangements. Bread is always donated by a local bakery. Pasta and sauce is harder to come across. This year the pasta is being donated by a family and the sauce is being made by a student's family member as well. However, when this is not an option, it is essential to go to local stores and restaurants and to search for the best price of each. The coffee and salad, if unable to be donated, are purchased as well. Each grade level is responsible for providing a different aspect of the meal. Freshman are in charge of drinks, both water and soda. The sophomores are held responsible for salad dressings and snacks. The juniors take care of desserts, each is asked to bring at least one sugar and one sugar free, if not more. The seniors handle milk, sugar, and cream for the coffee, and the table cloths and centerpieces. It is important to advertise in the community so that the seniors can be informed of what is going on. Flyers are made and handed out to local senior homes as well as locations frequently visited by the senior citizens. The advisor of Student Council is in charge of making arrangements to provide to the local assistant living home, Peter Cooper Village with transportation to and from the dinner. The school buses assist in these services. At the dinner, the students are expected to arrive an hour and a half early in jeans and a black top. They are to help decorate the cafeteria, collect the money at the door, serve the meals, and clean up afterward. They are also strongly encouraged to mingle with the senior citizens and have some fun!

DESCRIBE THE BENEFIT OF THIS PROJECT BENEFIT TO SCHOOL AND/OR COMMUNITY:

In addition to raising money for our Student Council and the state charity, this fundraiser allows the students connect to the senior citizens in the community. It also allows the seniors an opportunity to see what the local high school is doing in their school system. It's a fundraiser that is early in the year and requires a lot of planning, so it definitely gets the students on the council working together.

EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PROJECT, REFLECTING ON ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES YOU MIGHT CONSIDER:

Last year we paid for every food we were serving. This, in addition to the poor weather and consequently a poor turn out, led to almost no money being raised. To increase profit, this year we are having everything except the salad be donated. Additionally, we are increasing the amount of advertising we do. However, for those who do come out, it is always an enjoyable experience and the students love hosting the event.