



## ***STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET***

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**SCHOOL:** Allentown High School

**ACTIVITY:** Villages in Partnership

**DATE(S):** 4/26/10

**CATEGORY:** Education

**ADVISOR NAME:** Mrs. Sweeney, Ms. Folino & Mrs. Johnson

**ADVISOR E-MAIL:** folinol@ufrsd.net

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### **PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

Last spring, Allentown High School joined hands with Villages in Partnership for the first time. Villages in Partnership (VIP) is a community of people and organizations who dedicate their time helping out the impoverished nation of Malawi, Africa. This country is considered to be the 4th poorest nation in the world, and the group's goal is to create relationships with these unfortunate people and work together to help improve the living conditions in their area. They work to provide communities with safe water, food, agriculture and livestock; in addition to supporting development projects.

### **DESCRIBE THE PLANNING & EXECUTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

One of the co-founders of VIP is a mother of an AHS student, and she approached student council asking us for help with fundraising. Student Council decided to host a 24 hour water walk, which was to take place on the high school's track. Students would make up teams of seven or more people, and at least one person representing their team had to be walking throughout the entire 24 hours. Team members donated money to the group in order to participate, and also received outside sponsors. In order to get the word out, we organized for the co-founder of the organization to speak at an assembly about her involvement in the program.

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

Student Council arranged for the Villages in Partnership representative to speak to the entire student body because her story was such a great one. She told students about her year spent living in Malawi. In Malawi, Villages in Partnership was able to repair mangled bridges, make water more easily obtainable, and construct a community center for the people; but even more importantly, they developed friendships and close relationships with the people they came into contact with. This assembly touched all the students who listened when she spoke, and really informed the students about the conditions in Malawi and how they could help. It gave students a drive to participate in the event and educated them about poverty in the world.

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

Student Council was able to donate money to a great cause, and we were thrilled to help out Villages in Partnership. Last year was the first time doing the event, and it happened a little bit last minute. This year student council members hope to get the word out once again and get even more people involved. The event also fell on the date of SAT Testing, so that was another thing that kept students from participating. So next time we host this event student council will make it at a more convenient time for everyone.