



PHFA's Housing
Services Department
Best Practices

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

Regency Park Apartments/ Robotics

Categories: Youth Services

Outcomes:

Robotics provides students with a real life application of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in a fun and exciting way.

Robotics reinforces the following valuable skills: core educational values, increased community partnerships, and strong community volunteers.

Program Components:

- Each lesson has an academic focus: students are learning about the parts of the robots, how they function, and what can be done with robots in gaming and real life situations.
- Each lesson also has a hands-on element: Students are learning how to assemble and create the robot with guidance from adult volunteers.
- Students learn how the robots communicate with the remote and the computer in order for the students to have a functioning robot.

Units: 126

Management Agent:

Interstate Realty
Management (IRM)

Service Coordinator:

Crystal Lowery

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Background:

The Robotics program started as an idea in the fall of 2009. Stern Robotics provided free training to adult volunteers to staff a robot program and mentor students. Interstate Realty Management (IRM) provided the initial funding for the start up of the program. Regency Park Apartments provides the facility for the Vex Robotics team to meet free of charge. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers/Coatesville Area School District pays all other costs of the program such as additional parts, tools, transportation, food and providing adult volunteers. The Regency Park Resident Association has pledged to support the team in any way they can.



The Robotics Program teaches science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in a very real and exciting way for children. The benefits of the program are far reaching. The obvious benefits are a familiarity with mechanical and design techniques and learning hand-eye coordination skills. Robotics promotes team building and the ability to work with others effectively to reach a common goal. It assists students by increasing their communication skills as well as fostering a spirit of cooperation. Lastly, the program will open up a world of opportunity for students. It will expose them to the advantages of science, technology, engineering and mathematics as career choices.

This program teaches the children that these areas of academics can be interesting and even fun. They have also learned that nothing is beyond their scope of understanding and no goal is out of reach for them. They learn that they can use technology effectively. The community knows that these students can be successful in areas other than sports and takes pride in knowing

that this team is limitless. They will foster a living environment that is conducive to the health, education and welfare of their children.

The entire community can embrace this program while supporting the students' efforts. This is a non-traditional activity that promotes science, technology, engineering, and math as opposed to the traditional sports teams or drill teams. The Vex Robotics team will give our students, parents, and residents a sense of pride. This type of program is not typical for low-income environments.

Investment in Services:

The start up cost for the program was \$1,200.00. The funding for the program is shared by Interstate Realty Management (IRM), 21st Century Community Learning Centers/Coatesville Area School District. The program is staffed by adult volunteers. The volunteers contribute in the following ways; teaching program and design and instruction in the actual hands-on building of the robots. Paid staff from Coatesville Area School District, along with the Social Service Coordinator, monitor and oversee the program.

For more information,
contact PHFA's Housing Services Department:

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