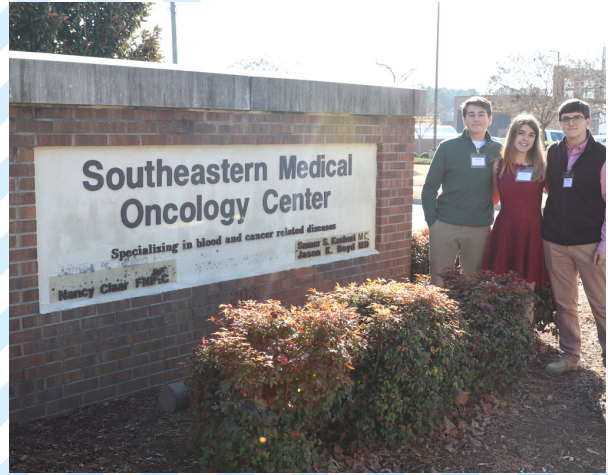


# COMMUNITY GIVING PROJECT



## NO ONE FIGHTS ALONE

Nick Eberwein

Marrah Ste. Marie

Preston Styons

February 28, 2020

Corinth Holders High School DECA Chapter

Corinth Holders High School  
6875 Applewhite Road  
Wendell, North Carolina 27591

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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Campaign Focus

Cancer affects over 1.7 million lives in just the United States each year. Of these 1.7 million, 600,000 people will die. Cancer brings out darkness in the brightest of people. When Corinth Holders High School(CHHS) DECA was choosing their 2019-2020 Community Service Project, they chose to pick a beneficiary that helps a cause that the chapter can relate to on a personal level. Almost every chapter member at CHHS DECA has known someone who has been diagnosed with cancer. It is especially personal to chapter president, Nick Eberwein, and chapter advisor, Stephanie Grimes, both having lost a parent from cancer. The chapter wanted to help the life of cancer patients in the school's local community. The chapter felt that by helping lives of cancer patients, they could bring some light in such a dark period in their lives.





## Project Overview

CHHS decided to donate gift bags to a local oncology center, Southeastern Medical Oncology Center (SMOC). These gift bags included homemade blankets or pillows, healthcare products such as lotions, hand sanitizers, sugar-free gum, as well as a pair of socks. The chapter began the project with a donation drive to collect fleece for the blankets and pillows. To generate money for the healthcare supplies, the chapter hosted a penny wars fundraiser and a Cancer Awareness Week. Totaling \$707 between the two fundraisers. Chapter members were able to create homemade blankets every Wednesday and Friday during lunch. Once all the supplies were ordered and the blankets were made, the chapter bagged the items into donated gym bags. The gift bags were donated on December 20, 2019 to Southeastern Medical Oncology Center, located in Goldsboro, NC.

## SMOC Donation Event

On December 20, 2019, chapter members along with band members traveled to SMOC. As the band performed for the patients, chapter members walked around the facility and gave the bags to patients as they received their chemotherapy. Seeing the smile on each patient's face let the chapter know that the project was successful.





# PROJECT OUTCOMES



**42**  
Gift Bags  
Donated to  
SMOC  
Patients



**\$707**  
Raised



**82%**  
Chapter  
Involvement



Hosted a  
Cancer  
Awareness  
Week

# II. INITIATING THE PROJECT

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

When the Corinth Holders High School DECA Chapter was choosing their community service project for the 2019-2020 school year, they took the task with great thought and purpose. Their chapter officer team worked with the rest of the chapter to determine what cause they wanted to benefit. After discussing possible beneficiaries, the chapter felt drawn to benefit a cancer-oriented organization. Almost every chapter member, has been affected by cancer either by a direct family member or has known a friend or distant family member with cancer. Cancer has especially impacted the chapter advisor, Stephanie Grimes as well as President Nick Eberwein, both having lost a parent from cancer. Once the chapter found what they wanted to base their service project around, they began to search for the organization that they would benefit. Chapter members believed that local oncology centers, such as those not owned by major university hospitals or state funded cancer centers, didn't receive the amount of support that other oncology centers received. After discussing, the chapter decided they would be choosing a local oncology center as the 2019-2020 community service beneficiary.



The chapter visiting Southeastern Medical Oncology Center

# PROJECT SCOPE

Every minute, three people in the United States are diagnosed with cancer. This leaves extraordinary measures of pain, burden, and emotions on thousands of people. If it wasn't for the extra long days, over a decade of training, and all the blood, sweat, and tears that doctors go through before earning the MD at the end of their name, these numbers would be even higher. CHHS DECA President, Nick Eberwein, lost his mom at the age of 13 from stage 4 thyroid cancer. During this time, he watched his mom suffer with constant pain, he watch his family struggle financially, and care for his family in the best way he could. His mother attended a state funded oncology center. While she was able to get her medical needs treated, she found that she didn't feel a personal connection with any of the doctors, nurses, or staff. This was the idea behind finding a locally owned oncology center as the beneficiary for CHHS DECA's yearly community service project.



Nick Eberwein with one of the patients



CHHS Community Giving Project Team

The chapter wanted to help a local oncology center that offered personalized care for patients in their life changing battle. Corinth Holders High School DECA wanted to help these patients in their journey, by donating gifts to them, keeping them company during chemo sessions, as well as volunteering at the oncology center. It was important to the chapter that the journey these patients took were accompanied with love, affection, and support. The chapter discovered that there was an oncology center about 45 minutes away from their school that was locally owned and operated by four dedicated doctors. Southeastern Medical Oncology Center, better known as SMOC is located in Goldsboro, North Carolina. SMOC strives to have a personal connection with each patient and offers monthly support groups along with art therapy and music therapy classes. Since SMOC is not a corporation or clinic, the majority of their activities are run by volunteers. The Corinth Holders High School DECA chapter hopes to be part of these volunteers and show their endless support to what SMOC does for the patients on their life changing journey.

# III. PLANNING AND ORGANIZING

## PROJECT GOALS

During the planning process, the chapter felt that it was necessary to develop goals for the project. This would help those on the Human Resource Management Team to stay on task throughout the project by breaking it into smaller steps that would include the overall purposes and visions. By reaching these goals, the project would fulfill its intended purposes and increase the success rate.

### I. OBTAIN MONEY FOR PROJECT EXPENSES

The first goal the chapter decided on was to propose a way to obtain money for project expenses. The chapter determined they needed to raise \$555 to buy all materials that were vital for the success of the project.



Students of CHHS ran a Penny Wars



Nurses working at SMOC

### II. FIND A LOCAL PRIVATELY OWNED ONCOLOGY CENTER

The second goal the chapter had was to find a local privately owned oncology center. The chapter felt that finding a privately owned oncology center, versus choosing a major university hospital affiliated center, would be more personalized and give smaller offices the love and support that the chapter could offer.

### III. IMPLEMENT A DONATION EVENT WITH AT LEAST 60% INVOLVEMENT

For the chapters third goal, they wanted to implement a donation event at the oncology center with at least 60% chapter involvement. They felt that by utilizing as much as the chapter as they could, the project would be as successful as possible.



Marrah Ste. Marie holding the bags to be given to patients



# HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



**NICK EBERWEIN**  
Event Coordinator



**ASHLEY SHABO**  
Director of Finance



**MARRAH STE. MARIE**  
Project Operations  
Leader



**IAN KENNEDY**  
Director of Public  
Relations



**PRESTON STYONS**  
Promotional  
Manager



**NATALIA GAMONEDA**  
Director of Social  
Media

Throughout the project, many students held leadership positions to help fulfill tasks and make sure the project remained successful. To keep the project on course, the chapter elected Marrah Ste. Marie as Project Operations Leader. Marrah worked to communicate with each division of the leadership team, develop a positive public image, and obtain sponsorships. Under Marrah was Ian Kennedy, Director of Public Relations. His roles included answering questions and resolving concerns and conflicts with sponsors. The chapter elected chapter president, Nick Eberwein as Event Coordinator. Nick's job was to plan all necessary events for the project's success and work with Southeastern Medical Oncology Center to make sure all needs and requirements were met. He also managed the budget along with Ashley Shabo, the Director of Finance. Her role was to manage all the money raised and make sure the budget is evenly distributed and managed. The chapter elected Preston Styons as the Promotional Manager. He was responsible for promoting the community service project in all aspects; including creating flyers, social media posts, and making school announcements. Under Preston was Natalia Gamoneda, Director of Social Media. She posted about all of the project events, made segments for the school broadcast news system, and encouraged students to post about the project on their personal social media.

# SCHEDULE

## MILESTONES

### 1. COMMUNICATE WITH SMOC

The first milestone was to communicate with SMOC regarding the entire project. The chapter had to first find out if the oncology center would be willing to accept donations or allow the chapter to visit the center. The Project Operations Leader reached out to SMOC's non-profit manager, Lee Parish, and asked about SMOC's policies and discussed the chapters plans. Lee was ecstatic with the idea. He asked if a few project leaders would be able to visit the next board meeting that SMOC had to discuss the project's plans. Marrah Ste. Marie, Nick Eberwein, and Preston Styons along with the chapter advisor, traveled to SMOC during their October board meeting. The doctors and board members were blown away with the chapters aspirations and ideas for the project. They even had a few ideas of their own. After the meeting, the chapter leadership team was truly excited for the next step in the project and had high hopes for the successfulness of the project.

### 2. IMPLEMENT A DONATION DRIVE

#### DRIVE

The next objective was to utilize the school to implement a donation drive at Corinth Holders High School. To do this the chapter would need to promote their cause and gain student and chapter member involvement in order to raise money and support.

### 3. CREATE BLANKETS

The next task would be to create blankets for the patients. Using donated fleece, the project leadership team hoped to give handmade blankets to show personalization in the gifts for patients.

### 4. PURCHASE HEALTH CARE PRODUCTS

The next objective was to use the raised funds and sponsorships to purchase needed materials and supplies. The chapter would need donations to create gifts for patients along with money to buy specific, approved health care products

### 5. ORGANIZE DONATION EVENT

The final step for the plan would be to organize an event in which items could be donated. The event would be a surprise for patients that, the team hoped, would raise spirits and bring positivity.



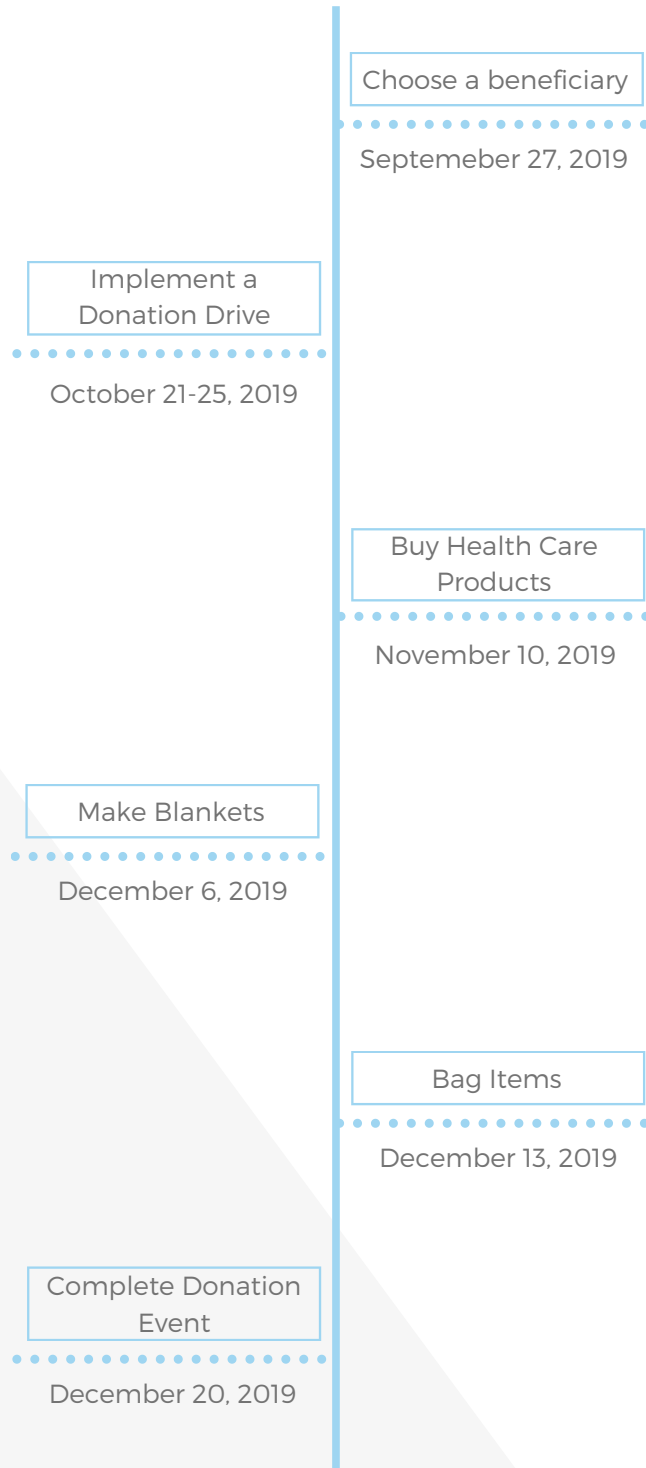
CHHS makes blankets for patients



CGP Team with donation bags

# TIMELINE TO REACH MILESTONES

Once the chapter conducted project goals and determined the milestones needed, they began to write out a timeline to keep the project on schedule. The first event was to hold a penny wars fundraiser. The fundraiser started with an interest meeting to see which chapter members were interested in volunteering to coordinate and collect funds. Penny wars fundraisers are a simple and effective way to quickly earn money. Each grade level at CHHS went against each to see which class could raise the most money. The project leadership team determined that the penny wars fundraiser needed to be completed by October 28, 2019 in order to have enough time to buy the supplies. To go along with the penny wars, the chapter needed to place donation boxes throughout the school to collect fleece. The fleece was important to complete the next event on the timeline. Homemade blankets were created so that the chapter could donate personalized blankets to chemo patients. The leadership team wanted to make homemade blankets instead of buying blankets because they felt that making the blankets added a personal touch. To create blankets, students and chapter members attended meetings during one of the two lunches every Friday starting on November 6th and finishing on December 6th. It was vital that the blankets were completed by December 6th, so that the leadership team could wash the blankets in the approved solution to keep the chemo patients skin from being irritated. In addition to blankets, the chapter also wanted to buy health care products to donate to SMOC. Items such as unscented lotions, hand sanitizer, and lip balm were bought off of websites like amazon.com, walgreens.com, and cvs.com. The chapter knew that shipping would take at least a week to two weeks, so they ordered the items by November 10, 2019. Every Friday in the month of November, the leadership managers and directors met to plan the donation event. It was important to meet weekly to make sure the team was staying on schedule. Once the items arrived and the blankets were created, the chapter bagged the items on December 13, 2019. The chapter then planned on when they could donate the supplies. They decided to plan the event during the holiday season to bring spirit and joy to the patients at Southeastern Medical Oncology Center. The Event Coordinator contacted SMOC to see when the chapter could donate.



# QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The leadership team wanted to be able to evaluate how successful the project was. The following quality management plan would be able to be reviewed after the project and measure the successfulness of the project.

## GIFT BAGS CREATED

The chapter felt that the patient gift bags created was by far the most important aspect of the project. This was how each patient would be able to receive a gift from CHHS DECA and bring happiness and a distraction during their weekly chemotherapy appointment. The amount of bags created would show the chapter how successful the project was.

## HEALTHCARE SUPPLIES

In order for the project to be successful, the chapter needed to order healthcare supplies for individual gift bags for each patient at Southeastern Medical Oncology Center. These items ranged from lotion to sugar-free gum.



Bags for donation



Band kids performing at SMOC

## VOLUNTEERS

The project relied heavily on volunteers and chapter involvement. With a decrease in chapter size compared to last year, this would be hard to achieve. This meant it would be necessary to look outside of DECA for volunteers. Not only does this build CHHS DECA's relationship with outside clubs and organizations, but this adds more a community aspect to the project.

## BAND-DECA PARTNERSHIP

In order to gain volunteers for the donation event and increase the school wide involvement of the project, DECA looked for other opportunities to gain volunteers. DECA partnered with the Corinth Holders High School Band and Ensembles, and created small chamber group ensembles to perform at SMOC.

# RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Corinth Holders High School chapter knew that in planning their project, it would be a fragile process that they needed to cushion as much as possible to make sure all aspects of the event would go smoothly. The chapter planned for three potential issues: member participation, budgeting issues and not reaching financial goals, and also delays to any of the dates on the established timeline. The issue of member involvement stemmed from the dramatic decrease in chapter size. The Corinth Holders chapter consisted of only 75 members. However the team made the project dependent upon member involvement. This meant that not only would they have to recruit as many members as possible, but they also would have to get involvement from students not in DECA. To create opportunities for non DECA kids, the chapter made donation boxes and spread them around the school, made meetings to make blankets and cards open to everyone, and they created a small ensemble of band students to perform for patients as they received treatment. The second issue was fear of not reaching financial goals. The chapter worried that the fundraisers would not be successful, or that the project would cost more than anticipated. They made sure to have multiple promotion plans for their fundraisers, and finally they made sure to check prices of all tangible items and planned their budget to have extra money in the end to tie up any loose ends. The third and final risk that the chapter planned for was delays of any kind. To prevent this the chapter stuck to a strict schedule with events they could control (such as days to make blankets, and days the band would perform) and allowed extra room for dates they couldn't control (such as delivery dates for online ordered items, and when they could go to SMOC). The chapter used these reasonable risks and planning to try and have as much of a successful project as possible.

## PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET

During the planning stage of the project, the leadership team created a budget. This was to keep the project well within reason and to make sure the project doesn't cost more than it needed to cost. The budget was created prior to fundraising. This was helpful because the leadership team needed to know how much money to aim for during the fundraising portion of the project. The cost of healthcare supplies was the only purchase the chapter thought they would need to pay for. They may also have to pay for fleece and fabric if enough wasn't donated. All of these factors were implemented into the proposed budget. The team estimated that the project would cost \$555.

## IV. EXECUTION

After the project was planned out, it was time to begin executing and implementing the project. The leadership team kept the three goals that were made at the beginning of the project as motivation during this phase of the project. The first order of business during the execution phase was to choose a beneficiary for the project. The project leadership team researched local oncology centers in the local area for two weeks before discovering Southeastern Medical Oncology Center, located in Goldsboro, NC. Southeastern Medical Oncology Center, more commonly known as SMOC is a privately owned oncology and hematology center that treats patients with cancer and blood disorders in the southeastern region of North Carolina. They have been operating since 1984 and strive to have a personal connection with each and every one of their patients. Nick Eberwein and Marrah Ste. Marie contacted SMOC to find out their regulations and rules on donations. After explaining the chapter's plans to the non-profit manager, Lee Parrish, he was amazed and welcomed us to their next board meeting to present our ideas to the board. The leadership team managers traveled to SMOC on October 4th and presented their plan during the board meeting. SMOC loved the chapter's ideas and even gave them a few of their own. Once the chapter chose their oncology center that they wished to be their beneficiary, it was time to cross that goal off of the list.



Community Giving Project Team

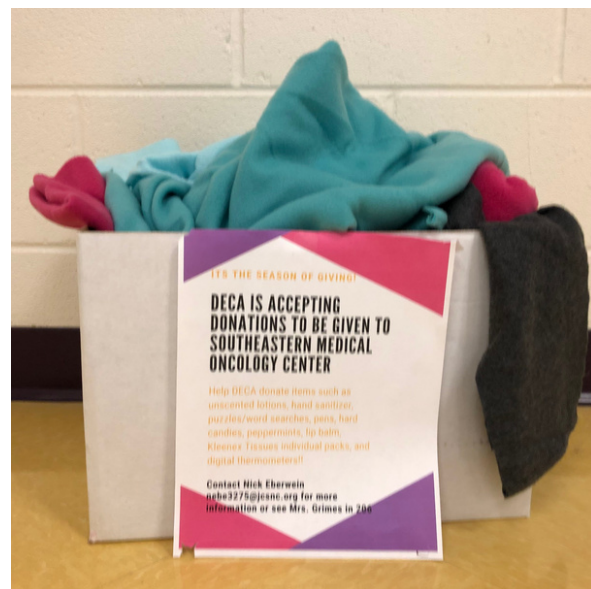
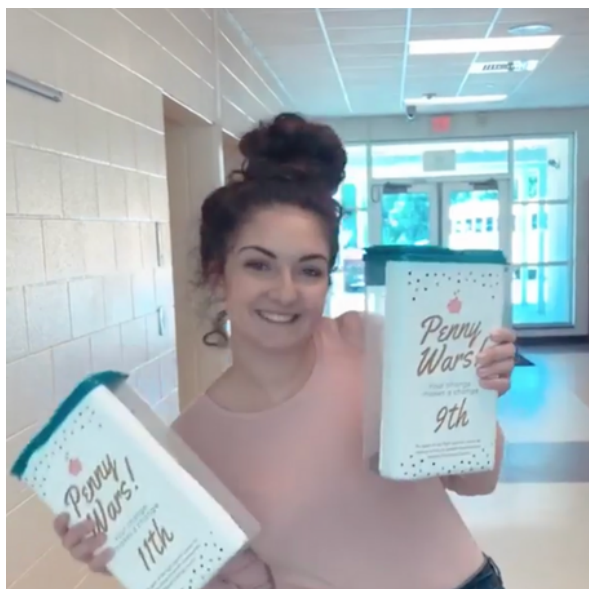


Community Awareness Project Team

**SMOC**  
**Southeastern Medical  
Oncology Center**  
Expert, compassionate cancer care close to home.

## IV. EXECUTION

The chapter wanted to give each patient a personal gift bag with a homemade blanket and a few healthcare items to show each patient the endless support that they have. These bags would require obtaining fleece to make blankets along with earning money to buy the supplies to put in the bag. To earn money to order supplies, the chapter wanted to host a fundraiser to raise funds for the project. On the week of October 21st through 25th, the CHHS DECA hosted a penny wars fundraiser. Penny wars fundraisers are a simple yet highly effective way to raise money. Each grade level competed against each other to show which grade level could earn the most money. The rules of penny wars are pennies add to your total, and silver coins and dollar bills take away value from your total.



. In the end, the team with the most pennies wins. The leadership team designed a schedule, and chapter members signed up to walk around the lunchroom with the grade level donation boxes and encourage their classmates to donate. Overall, the chapter raised \$275 from penny wars, and this money went towards ordering supplies needed for the project. In the same week as penny wars, the chapter also implemented a fleece and fabric donation drive. The chapter asked for donations of fleece, fabric, and other materials needed to make blankets and pillows for chemo patients at SMOC. This donation drive lasted from October 21st through November 4th. The chapter earned an abundance of different colored fleece and fabric through the drive. Once the fundraiser and drive were over, the leadership team looked to order supplies that could be placed in gift bags for each patient at SMOC. They found that the supplies would cost more than originally anticipated.

# IV. EXECUTION

The leadership team looked to find another way to earn money for the much-needed supplies. They came upon the idea of using the cancer-based theme of their project and having a cancer awareness week. During the cancer awareness week, students could buy t-shirts that represented a specific cancer for each day of the week. Cancer Awareness Week was held on the week of November 4th through November 8th. The leadership team wished to bring awareness to the five most prominent cancers in the area: Lung Cancer, Colon Cancer, Brain Cancer, Skin Cancer, and Breast Cancer. A sign and logo company, "What's Your Sign" donated a large banner to be hung in the front of the school as well as wristbands that were passed out during Cancer Awareness Week. Purple wristbands represented overall cancer awareness, white wristbands represented you knowing someone who has had cancer, or witnessed cancer in your direct family, and red wristbands, meaning that you yourself had cancer.



Purple Wristbands were donated for Cancer Awareness Week



Chapter member, Joey Iorio, hangs up poster

These wristbands were made to bring awareness to cancer and show just how many people it affects in our local school community. The chapter sold t-shirts that correlated with a specific cancer for each day of the week. These t-shirts were made using the CHHS DECA school-based enterprise, "Davy Jones' Locker", a custom t-shirt store. The t-shirts were sold for \$15 each. By the end of the week the chapter sold 36 t-shirts with a profit of \$432. Totaling \$707 between penny wars and Cancer Awareness Week.



# IV. EXECUTION

At this point, the chapter had more than enough money to buy supplies for SMOC patients. The leadership team researched online to find the best place to order medical and healthcare supplies to donate to patients. The chapter wished to buy items such as hand sanitizers, lotions, sugar-free gum, tissues, etc. After researching, the leadership team found that the best place to buy bulk items was Amazon.com. The chapter ordered all the supplies on November 10th, hoping everything would arrive by December 1st. After ordering the supplies was out of the way, the chapter began to make homemade blankets. They felt that making homemade blankets had a more personal message than buying them. Every Wednesday during both A and B lunch, as well as every Friday during A lunch, chapter members along with other students were able to visit the DECA advisor's room and help make blankets using the donated materials. This began on November 6th. The process began with cutting fleece into appropriate blanket sizes. Then four squares are cut out from each corner of the blanket. From there, chapter members cut inch long strips throughout the entire perimeter of the blanket. Then the strips are tied into knots and the blanket was finished. On average, the chapter made around 8 blankets per lunch period and this lasted for 4 weeks.



## IV. EXECUTION

At this point, the team had around three weeks left to prepare for the donation event. The band director at Corinth Holders High School found out about the project and wanted to become involved. She had the idea of allowing the band to perform at SMOC for the patients, not only during the donation event but on other days to get patient's minds off of chemo during their weekly trip to SMOC. SMOC was ecstatic when they heard of the idea and wanted the band to begin immediately. Small ensembles of about five to seven students, performed at a time. The band performed on December 10th, 12th, 17th, 18, 19th, and 20th, the day of the donation event. The patients loved the songs, some of them even requested songs they wanted to hear the band play. Not only did this put a smile on the patients faces, but established a relationship between DECA and the Bands and Ensembles program. Rack Room Shoes of Morrisville, NC surprised the chapter once again by gifting 45 pairs of fluffy socks to be gifted to patients. The healthcare supplies arrived on December 12, 2019. The following day, the chapter bagged all items into the donated bags. This process was completed in one day, thanks to all the help from chapter members. At this point, everything was completed except for the event. The leadership team double checked every bag, and prepared for the day of the event. On December 20th, 15 chapter members and 4 band members traveled to Southeastern Medical Oncology Center.



During this time, the band played holiday music as chapter members walked through the chemotherapy room and gifted bags to patients. It was truly special to see how grateful the patients were. Volunteers also sat with patients during chemo to keep them company. The chapter stayed for around 30 minutes before departing from SMOC. Overall, the chapter gifted 47 gift bags to SMOC patients. 35 blankets and 12 pillows along with the healthcare items were placed in each bag. There were 21 patients receiving chemo while the chapter was at SMOC. The leftover bags would be given to other patients on the following Monday. With the leftover money, the chapter purchased a large bulk package of tissues, as well as 3 large containers of hand sanitizer. These items were donated to SMOC's facility. The chapter felt accomplished that they were able to bring joy to patients in such a dark time. The smile on their faces is something that each chapter member felt they could never forget.

# V. MONITORING AND CONTROLLING

## SCHEDULE

The project schedule was maintained through weekly meetings by the leadership team. The event coordinator, Nick Eberwein, as well as the Project Operations leader, Marrah Ste. Marie. The schedule was created starting at the beginning of the school year all the way to the end of the project, being updated weekly. It was important that the leaders of the project stuck to the schedule to avoid complications and issues that could affect that quality of the project.

## PROJECT QUALITY

The project quality was monitored through frequent updates from chapter members updating the rest of the chapter on the progress of the project. The chapter met to discuss the overall quality of the project and to find any possible problems that may be encountered and how to solve those problems effectively and efficiently. The project quality was monitored by Marrah Ste. Marie, Project Operations Leader.

## BUDGET

The budget was also monitored during the weekly leadership meetings. Director of Finance, Ashley Shabo gave reports on updates regarding monetary values and donations. The budget was updated after the fundraising portion of the project. After the Penny Wars fundraiser, the team found that not enough money was made to order all of the supplies. The chapter looked to find a new way to gain the remainder of the needed money.

### INCOME:

Date:	Item:	Price:	Total Monetary Value:	
9-27-19	N/A		\$0	Starting Amount of Money: \$0
10-28-19	Penny Wars Fundraiser		\$275	
11-6-19	Fleece	Abundance of Fleece	\$275	
11-08-19	Cancer Awareness Week		\$432	
11-12-19	Gym Bags	50 Bags	\$707	
12-05-19	Socks	45 Pairs	\$707	
				Total Revenue: \$707

### EXPENSES:

Date:	Item:	Price of Item:	Quantity:	Total:
11-04-19	T-Shirts	\$3 each	40	\$120
11-10-19	Hand Sanitizer	\$54.6(\$1.8 each)	3	\$134
11-10-19	Lotion	\$23(\$.76 each)	3	\$69
11-10-19	Gum	\$7.90(Pack of 10)	5	\$39.50
11-10-19	Lib Balm	\$2.84(Pack of 3)	15	\$43
11-10-19	Word Searches	\$10(Pack of 10)	5	\$50
11-10-19	Pens	\$8(Pack of 8)	7	\$56
11-10-19	Candy	\$26(15 packs per bag)	3	\$78
				Total: \$589.50
11-15-19	Extra Supplies	\$117.50		Total:\$707.00

# CONTROLLING

## BUDGETING ISSUES



Chapter members discuss the project

After the Penny Wars fundraiser, the chapter still needed around \$300 to purchase the supplies for the gift bags. To fix this issue, the chapter hosted a Cancer Awareness Week. They sold t-shirts and promoted cancer at the same time to raise money. Cancer Awareness Week was successful and earned \$288. This was more than enough to purchase the needed supplies.

## CHAPTER PARTICIPATION



Volunteers put together bags for patients

In order to get as much volunteers as possible, the chapter opened up the project to more than just the DECA chapter. Students from all around the school were able to help in the process of making blankets, packing supplies, as well as visiting SMOC. DECA also partnered with Corinth Holders High School Bands and Ensembles. The band created several small groups to perform at SMOC.

## PROMOTION OF PROJECT



Members passed out wristbands on Cancer Awareness Week

In the beginning of the project, the team struggled to promote the project among their peers. The Promotions Manager, Preston Styons, composed a plan on how to promote the project. The plan included daily social media posts, announcing on the school announcement system, placing posters throughout the school, placing an ad in the school news cast, Pirate TV, and posting on the chapter website. After the plan was enforced, the chapter saw a huge incline in participation at blanket meetings and other aspects of the project.

# VI. CLOSING THE PROJECT

After the project, the leadership team sat down to decide if the project was successful. The team used the project goals as well as the quality management plan when evaluating the project.

## GIFT BAGS CREATED

The chapter was happy to say that they created 42 gift bags for patients at Southeastern Medical Oncology Center. This was by far the biggest accomplishment of the project. Chapter members felt happy that they were able to put a smile on cancer patient's faces. Each bag contained either a handmade blanket or pillow, two hand sanitizers, two lotions, one pack of sugar-free gum, one pair of socks, one pack of tissues, a bag of candy, a word search, and a pack of pens.

## HEALTHCARE SUPPLIES

The chapter spent \$589.50 on supplies to go into each gift bag. The chapter decided to buy the supplies in bulk online to get the most out of their money. The supplies were ordered on November 10, 2019, and were delivered on December 12, 2019. Although late, it was plenty of time to bag the items before the chapter visited SMOC on December 20, 2019. The chapter felt successful that they were able to fundraise enough money to buy healthcare items for SMOC patients.

## VOLUNTEERS

Corinth Holders High School saw a dramatic decrease in chapter size in comparison from the previous school year. This year's community service project heavily depended on volunteers. The leadership team looked outside of the chapter for volunteers throughout the project. Opening up opportunities for students to make blankets and pillows, bag healthcare supplies into gym bags, visit SMOC to pass out bags and sit with patients.

## BAND-DECA PARTNERSHIP

CHHS DECA and the CHHS Bands and Ensembles, formed a partnership over the course of the project. Band members performed at SMOC and were able to be volunteers. Corinth Holders High School DECA hopes to continue their partnership with the band in continuing years.

# LESSONS LEARNED

The 2019-2020 Community Giving Project taught Corinth Holders DECA more than skills on budgeting, project building, and leadership. It taught chapter members the tragedies of cancer. While sitting with patients at SMOC, chapter members listened to patients stories, their lives, and how cancer has affected them.

The leadership team developed many skills such as organization, promotion, and time management. They found that during the initiating phase, they struggled to find an oncology center that wasn't funded by the state or a university hospital. They had to look outside of their local area to find a center. Luckily for the chapter, SMOC was just 45 minutes from the school. During the planning and organizing phase, the leadership team struggled to plan each event in a timely order. The chapter advisor sat down with the team to encourage them and help lay out a timeline. Once the planning was done, the team began to execute their mission. They found that during the phase it ran mostly smooth except that they didn't gain enough money through the penny wars fundraiser. The chapter hosted an additional fundraiser, Cancer Awareness Week. The chapter sold t-shirts to earn the remainder of money.

# LESSONS LEARNED

While monitoring the project, the leadership team found that they needed to find a way to monitor the money. They created a spreadsheet to help them keep track of money and donations. Overall the chapter learned many skills through the project that they can apply to future projects and their everyday life.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

The Corinth Holders High School chapter found this project to be very emotional and moving. Creating blankets and gift bags allowed the chapter to bond and work for a cause. It empowered and warmed the hearts of teachers when they heard of the idea. The project also allowed the chapter to learn skills in project building and leadership. Working with the patients was something none of the members of the chapter, especially the community giving project, will ever forget. CHHS hopes to carry the project on by bringing the band to SMOC over the spring, and bringing bags to patients every year for the holidays. The nurses thought the project was a great way to make the patients feel love and light in a dark time of life. The patients' gratitude was immeasurable by feeling the care of the community and students. The Corinth Holders High School DECA chapter is forever grateful to have had this opportunity to help cancer patients in the community.

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Marrah Ste. Marie and Tristan Hardin assembling bags for patients