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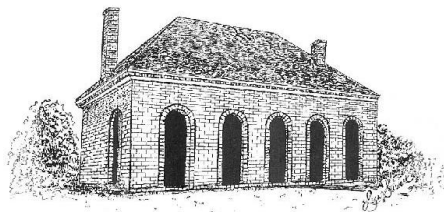
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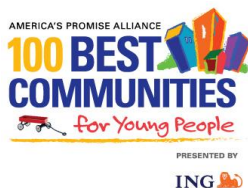
NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
September 21, 2010



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ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

P.O. BOX 470, HANOVER, VA 23069
WWW.CO.HANOVER.VA.US

PHONE: 804-365-6005
FAX: 804-365-6234

Contact: Tom Harris
Public Information
804-365-6402

**Hanover County Named One of the Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People
By America's Promise Alliance and ING**

*Competition Recognizes Communities Taking Action to Help Reduce Local Dropout Rates and
Create Brighter Futures for Young People*

The efforts of Hanover County civic and community leaders were honored today when America's Promise Alliance (the Alliance), the nation's largest partnership organization dedicated to youth and children, announced Hanover County had been named a winner of the Alliance's *100 Best Communities for Young People (100 Best)* competition presented by ING. Its 2010 recognition marks the third win for Hanover County in the competition. Hanover was one of eight localities in Virginia and one of only two in Central Virginia to receive the recognition.

The *100 Best* designation recognizes those communities that make youth a priority by implementing programs that help keep children in school and prepare them for college and the 21st century workforce. The competition was open to all communities that make children and youth a priority, including small towns, large cities, counties and school districts. In addition to enhancing local educational opportunities, most winning communities have taken steps to facilitate improved access to health care for its young people, encourage youth civic engagement and supply developmental resources that create better places for young people to live and grow.

"Through its innovative and far-reaching programs, Hanover County is taking bold and effective steps to help their young people graduate and lead healthy, productive lives," said Marguerite W. Kondracke, America's Promise Alliance president and CEO. "Hanover County serves as an example to inspire and educate other communities across the nation to tackle the challenges facing their city and children and to implement initiatives that give them the essential resources they need to succeed in life."

Hanover County was named one of the nation's *100 Best* because of its support networks created for vulnerable youth and its collaborative solutions developed to improve the lives of young people. **The Fatherhood Initiative**, formed by a community church, Head Start and the Hanover Preschool Initiative (HPI), encourages fathers and male role models to become more active at children's schools through events such as Father Fridays, Breakfast with Dad and Family Fitness Night.

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The County’s investment in youth programs includes providing critical life skills for foster children to plan for their success. Founded in 2001, the **Cares for Kids Program** addresses the multiple needs of foster care children by pairing them with community partners and volunteers to fulfill each child’s academic needs, such as a computer for homework. In addition, the Hanover Department of Social Services implemented a Learn Your Rights workshop to provide foster care youth with practical information including how to drive a car, rent an apartment or continue one’s education after high school.

“Many organizations in Hanover County have come together in a coordinated effort to support our youth,” said G.E. Via III, Chairman of the Hanover County Board of Supervisors. “This dedicated effort was undertaken based on our total commitment to our youth, who are the future of our County. That these efforts are once again recognized by the America’s Promise Alliance makes us all proud. We are honored to receive this award.”

“We truly appreciate receiving this award as one of our country’s 100 best communities for young people,” said Debbie Coats, Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. “It shows great things really can be accomplished when a community works together toward the same goal. Hanover County’s administration, school system, business community and civic organizations have all worked together with parents to create a healthy environment for our young people to expand their talents, refine their skills and fulfill their dreams so they will become the future of our great nation.”

South Anna Supervisor John Gordon added: “It is again an honor for the citizens of Hanover to be recognized for our commitment to providing young people with the skills needed to become successful adults. We share a great deal of pride in our young people and are committed to working with each of them as they travel their individual path towards achieving full potential.”

On September 21, 2010, Hanover County and the other winners spanning 37 states were recognized at a ceremony in front of the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Each of the winning communities was formally recognized with a designation on a map of the U.S., illustrating the geographic and demographic diversity of the winning 100 communities. In addition to the *100 Best* distinction, Hanover County and the other top communities will receive two road signs identifying the county as one of *100 Best*, as well as a trophy to be presented to county officials at a local event to be held this winter or early spring. The public will be invited to celebrate Hanover’s three time designation and community-wide efforts that have lead to this national honor.

Alliance Chair Alma Powell and President and CEO Marguerite W. Kondracke revealed the list of winners during the national celebration. They were joined by Rhonda Mims, president of the ING Foundation and senior vice president, ING’s Office of Corporate Responsibility and Multicultural Affairs and *Twilight*’s Kellan Lutz, who both share a passion for the development of young people.

“*100 Best* is an essential building block of an inspiring national movement that gives everyone a chance to ensure every young person graduates,” said Powell. “These winning communities refuse to let the challenges they face be the determining factor in the lives of their children and youth. Instead, they are helping to build an infrastructure of assertive, successful and dynamic young people that are the future of this country.”

For more information about “Hanover’s Promise”, contact the Hanover County Department of Community Resources at 804-365-4300 or e-mail larobertson@co.hanover.va.us.

The entire 2010 list of *100 Best Communities for Young People* and their accomplishments can be found at www.americaspromise.org/100Best.

About 100 Best

First held in 2005, *100 Best* honors communities large and small, rural and urban, that are making progress to help young people achieve their potential, which includes earning a high school diploma, securing a good job, and playing an active, productive role in America's economic vitality. This year, more than 350 communities in 50 states registered online for the *100 Best* distinction at www.americaspromise.org/100best.

Being a *100 Best* community not only demonstrates commitment to local young people; the award fosters local pride, bolsters economic development and shines the spotlight on the people and programs that are building better communities. The competition also facilitates the sharing of best practices among communities nationwide regarding education, access to health care, reading score improvement, youth service and pre-school enrollment, among many other areas.

About America's Promise Alliance

America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest partnership organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth. Through the collective power of our partner network, we raise awareness, support communities and engage in nonpartisan advocacy to ensure that young people receive more of the fundamental resources they need to graduate high school prepared for college, work and life. Building on the legacy of our Founding Chairman General Colin Powell, the Alliance believes the success of our young people is grounded in the Five Promises—caring adults; safe places; a healthy start; an effective education; and opportunities to help others. For more information about America's Promise Alliance, visit www.americaspromise.org.

About ING

ING is a global financial institution of Dutch origin offering banking, investments, life insurance, and retirement services to over 85 million residential, corporate and institutional clients in more than 40 countries. With a diverse workforce of about 115,000 people, ING is dedicated to setting the standard in helping our clients manage their financial future.

In the U.S., the ING (NYSE: ING) family of companies offers a comprehensive array of financial services to retail and institutional clients, which includes life insurance, retirement plans, mutual funds, managed accounts, alternative investments, direct banking, institutional investment management, annuities, employee benefits, and financial planning. ING holds top-tier rankings in key U.S. markets and serves nearly 30 million customers across the nation.

ING's diversity management philosophy and commitment to workplace diversity, diversity marketing, corporate citizenship and supplier diversity fosters an inclusive environment for employees that supports a distinctive product and service experience for the financial services consumer. For more information, visit www.ing.com/us.

About the ING Foundation

The ING Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in communities where ING operates and its employees and customers live. Through charitable giving and employee volunteerism, the foundation focuses on programs in the areas of financial literacy, children's education, diversity, and environmental sustainability. For more information, visit www.ing-usafoundation.com.