

America's Promise Alliance Names Hanover County One of 100 Best Communities for Young People

*In Partnership with Capital One, Competition Recognizes Outstanding,
Innovative Efforts That Benefit Children and Youth*

America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth is pleased to announce that Hanover County is a winner of a national competition to identify the *100 Best Communities for Young People*. In partnership with Capital One, the *100 Best* competition honors communities – ranging from small towns to urban neighborhoods across America – for their commitment to provide healthy, safe and caring environments for young people. Hundreds of communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands took part in the competition.

Hanover County is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of the strength and commitment of its non-profits, coalitions, community and business partners serving the 25,461 youth that call Hanover County home. Highlights include:

- Hanover County has been a designated Community of Promise by America's Promise since 2003. Of the seven localities in Virginia chosen for the *100 Best Communities for Young People* competition, Hanover is the only one holding the Community of Promise designation
- Hanover's rich history, land and rural heritage provide our youth with over 1,100 acres of green space (including equestrian parks, ball fields, boat landings, and cross country trails), 30 nationally registered historic sites and landmarks, and cultural events from which to learn and to enjoy.
- Youth leadership and volunteer opportunities are also integral to Hanover. Through inclusion-based programs for kids with special needs like the After-School Integration Program, to programs that enable youth to be decision makers and advisors like Hanover Youth Perspective, to programs that teach leadership through servitude like Emerging Leaders and Hanover Youth Service Council, Hanover children and youth are introduced to becoming contributing, responsible, productive members of the greater community.
- Hanover Career Student Resource, a non-profit organization of teachers, business leaders and parents, helps students explore career options and provides 5,000 career guides to all 10th, 11th and 12th graders in the county. The one of a kind career guide and e-guide includes interview and resume tips and profiles of 330 participating businesses that provide mentorship, internship and apprenticeship opportunities to Hanover students.
- Graduate Warranty program, a school board policy guaranteeing the competence of Hanover high school graduates since 1992. Hanover guarantees employers and post-secondary institutions that its students will be capable of communication, computation

and career skills. If the student does not have these three basic skills necessary for success in the workplace or college, the school district will pay for remedial training.

- Hanover County has the sixth highest graduation rate in Virginia with 99.2%, compared to the state average of 76.7%.

“Nothing is more important than seeing that our children and youth have the resources and support systems they need to thrive and succeed,” said America’s Promise Founding Chairman General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.). “When a community provides all that its young people need to be healthy and secure, they deserve to be honored and showcased as an outstanding example of what it takes to successfully nurture this nation’s young people.”

“I am sure that all Hanoverians are as proud as I am of having achieved this recognition,” said John E. Gordon Jr. of the Hanover County Board of Supervisors. “Hanover is a very special place where its citizens care about the well being of all; particularly our young people. Our commitment to ‘continuous improvement’ in education and in all service areas will insure that all Hanoverians will have opportunities to achieve their full potential.”

“For those of us who are blessed to live and/or serve in Hanover County presently, we know that Hanover is, indeed, one of the best places to be,” said Stewart D. Roberson, Superintendent of Hanover County Public Schools. “Particularly gratifying is this recognition that our community is among the best for children. Our community involvement, our student-centeredness, our teamwork, and more work in the favor of all who call Hanover home.”

Hanover County’s application was enhanced by the contributions of four high school students – Kaitlin Gastrock, a 9 grader at Atlee; Billy Rison, an 11 grader at Patrick Henry; Rebecca Craymer, a 12 grader at Hanover; and Kaitlyn Wark, a 12 grader at Atlee – who illustrated by essay, poem or film why they thought Hanover is a great place to grow up.

“The contributions made by our youth were critical to Hanover County achieving this recognition,” said Robert R. Setliff, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. “I am very appreciative of the great work done by the people who prepared this application and all of the people who have made Hanover such a special place to live.”

A complete list of winners can be found at www.americaspromise.org. *100 Best Communities for Young People* was first launched in 2005 by General Powell in partnership with Capital One Financial Corporation. Other members of America’s Promise Alliance — including United Way of America, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Big Brothers Big Sisters, National Association of Counties and the American Association of School Administrators and many others — took leading roles in encouraging communities to compete in the *100 Best* competition.

The 2007 *100 Best Communities for Young People* competition opened in September 2006. Hanover County and the other winners applied for the honor and were chosen by a distinguished selection panel of civic, business and nonprofit leaders, including United Way of America President Brian Gallagher, U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue, NBC News Washington Bureau Chief and Moderator of *Meet the Press* Tim Russert, CEOs for Cities' President and CEO Carol Coleta, and former Denver mayor Wellington Webb.

The selection panel evaluated *100 Best* entries that required detailed information about each community's efforts to fulfill the Five Promises – the fundamental resources our children and youth need to succeed: caring adults who are actively involved in their lives; safe places in which to learn and grow; a healthy start toward adulthood; an effective education that builds marketable skills; and opportunities to help others.

“We held this competition to appeal to America's competitive spirit to encourage communities to become great places to grow up.” said Marguerite W. Kondracke, President and CEO of America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth. “Our winners' outstanding efforts to deliver the Five Promises are shining examples of what it means to keep America's Promise for our young people.”

"Capital One believes that every family should have the opportunity to provide for their children in ways that ensure future success," said Capital One President of Global Financial Services and America's Promise board member Larry Klane, a member of the 2007 selection panel. "Through the *100 Best* competition, we can recognize communities that foster the type of environment where children and families have opportunities and resources to realize their potential."

For more details about the *100 Best* competition and the winners, please visit www.americaspromise.org.

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About Hanover's Promise

Hanover's Promise is a part of the national America's Promise movement and has been a Community of Promise since 2003. Hanover's Promise serves as Hanover County's clearinghouse in providing information related to youth services, resources and opportunities, as well as recognizing local businesses and organizations that are keeping the promise. For more information about Hanover's Promise visit www.hanoverspromise.org or contact Kara Dunleavy at (804) 365-4180 or kkdunleavy@co.hanover.va.us

About America's Promise

Founded by retired General Colin L. Powell, the America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest private-public partnership committed to ensuring that every child receives the five fundamental resources – the Five Promises - essential for success: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education and opportunities to help others.

Alma J. Powell currently serves as chair. Marguerite W. Kondracke serves as president and chief executive officer. Among the founding partners are the Corporation for National and Community Service, Points of Light Foundation, The United Way of America, Communities In Schools and MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership. America's Promise grew out of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in 1997, where Presidents Bush, Carter, Clinton and Ford, with Nancy Reagan representing President Reagan, challenged the country to make children and youth a national priority. President George W. Bush affirmed his commitment in 2001.

About Capital One

Headquartered in McLean, Virginia, Capital One Financial Corporation (www.capitalone.com) is a financial holding company, with more than 324 locations in Texas and Louisiana. Its principal subsidiaries, Capital One Bank, Capital One, F.S.B., Capital One Auto Finance, Inc., and Capital One, N.A., offer a broad spectrum of financial products and services to consumers, small businesses and commercial clients. Capital One's subsidiaries collectively had \$47.2 billion in deposits and \$108.4 billion in managed loans outstanding as of June 30, 2006. Capital One, a Fortune 500 company, trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "COF" and is included in the S&P 500 index.