

# DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL HIGH TECH DONATES MASKS TO ESSENTIAL WORKERS

*DeSoto's High School High Tech club has donated 120 masks to the local Publix grocery store.*

When the students at DHS were furloughed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it would have been easy for the students to call an end to the club's volunteer activities.

However, they decided that there had to be a way for them to help. Through an incessant number of phone calls and text messages, the club decided that they could do so by using 3D printing technology to create "mask holders" for those who need to wear masks for a prolonged amount of time.

"At first I didn't think there was anything we could do to help really, but then I saw the news article and knew we had a printer like that. It

gives you a good feeling to be able to help right now," said Junior member Samanta Reyes.

HSHT used grant funds provided by the Able Trust to buy a 3D printer three years ago. The printer was previously used to incorporate STEM activities into their program, but now served another purpose. Using a 3D printing file that was linked in a news article, they had everything they needed to begin printing.

The next step in their process was to determine who to make the masks for. There were so many choices; however, the club ultimately decided to go with Publix. The grocery chain was quick to take up the offer and requested 120 masks.

Students were unable to go to the high school to print, so club sponsors Tawnya Caudill and

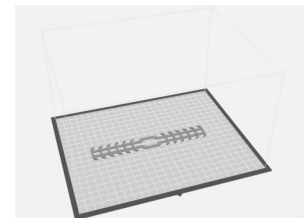
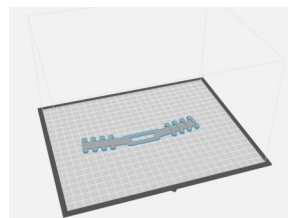
Courtney Gammad set to the task of printing the mask holders for them. Each mask took approximately 42 minutes to print, but they were able to "stack" the printing and cut the time down to roughly 30 minutes a mask. After a week of printing, club member Randall Muse was able to deliver the final set of holders to a very appreciative Publix store.

DeSoto's Director of ESE Christina McCray says, "Our High School High Tech students and coordinators continue to make the school dis-

trict very proud. This elite group of individuals continue to amaze me by their hard work and dedication even during such an unprecedented time."



*Freshman member Randall Muse "shaking hands" with one of the Publix managers. Randall delivered the last set of mask holders.*



*Two versions of the mask holders were printed to accommodate different head shapes. Holders also came in several different colors.*