

# 2018 Annual Report

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Horton's Kids

Children who participate  
in Horton's Kids are  
**TWICE AS LIKELY**  
to graduate from  
high school.







# WHAT WE DO

Horton’s Kids empowers children living in one of Washington, D.C.’s most under-resourced communities so that they graduate from high school ready for success in college, career, and life.



## DEAR FRIENDS,

When I tell people about Horton’s Kids and its impact, I often talk about the fact that we’ve been in Southeast D.C. for 30 years, that we support roughly 500 children in the community, and that our high school graduation rate in 2018 was 100%. I might also mention that we provided more than 10,500 meals last year, or that we had more than 500 volunteers who made Horton’s Kids’ comprehensive programming possible.

While all of these statistics are important, what makes Horton’s Kids truly special is the people. Horton’s Kids brings together a diverse group – kids, parents, staff, and volunteers – who work around the clock to achieve a single, shared goal: to help every child reach their full potential. From the first grader improving her reading skills at tutoring, to the high school junior attending college visits with his mentor, to a parent volunteering to help children learn their letters, to a Horton’s Kids staff member visiting a family in their home – the true spirit of Horton’s Kids lies in the authentic relationships that translate into real impact for children and families.

These relationships are possible, in part, because Horton’s Kids is based in the community where the children and families in our program live. Our onsite Center, which is open six days a week, is often the first stop for kids coming home from school, a place to celebrate victories and gather when times are tough. This is especially important in this remote Anacostia neighborhood, Wellington Park, which is one of the most under-resourced communities in Washington, D.C. The average family earns less than \$10,000 annually, and it has some of the highest rates of violent crime in the city. But Wellington Park is far more than the sum of its challenges. The community is filled with warm, caring children and families who are full of talent and potential. Like most of us, they have big dreams for the future, and they’re working hard to achieve them.

With this year’s Annual Report, we wanted to introduce you to a few of the people who make Horton’s Kids special. As you read their stories, you’ll see how Horton’s Kids’ personalized, holistic approach – academics, social-emotional development, health and basic needs, and family engagement – makes a significant difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. You’ll also get to see how those kids are making a difference in their own community and in the lives of each of the volunteers who support Horton’s Kids’ mission.

I encourage you to come to our Community Resource Center to meet some of these fantastic people yourself. You’ll see firsthand how your support impacts the Wellington Park community.

On behalf of our staff and board, thank you for your support of Horton’s Kids. As we start 2019 and celebrate 30 years of impact, I look forward to continuing to work together to empower the children of Wellington Park into the next 30 years and beyond.

With gratitude,

**ROBIN BERKLEY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





When Dion was five, he started attending tutoring with Horton's Kids. He remembers being tired, and not particularly excited to work on homework after a long day at school. Then he met his tutor, Hunter, for the first time.

"We were working on my math, and I was tired, and he told some joke that made me laugh," said Dion. That would be the first of many jokes Hunter would tell Dion over the year, and this became part of the reason Dion started looking forward to tutoring.

"He's a very kind and goofy person," said Dion.

Six years later Dion is now 11, and he's still working with Hunter every Tuesday. Their relationship has grown beyond tutor-tutee, into a true friendship. Dion can talk to Hunter about more than school.

"He's like a best friend to me," said Dion. "We get each other. If we're angry, sad, mad, we can help each other out."

Hunter feels the same way about Dion.

"I love Dion like a son or little brother," he said. "It's definitely more of a friendship relationship. It's gone beyond seeing each other once a week."

Dion says that because of their close relationship, he feels motivated to work hard on his schoolwork. And he has. **In 2018, Dion improved his reading skills by two grade levels.** He was one of the 85% of tutoring participants who significantly improved their reading levels last year.

"His reading has definitely improved," said Hunter. "He is able to retain and learn really quickly each time we meet. We'll learn something new, and the next week it's like he's known it all along."

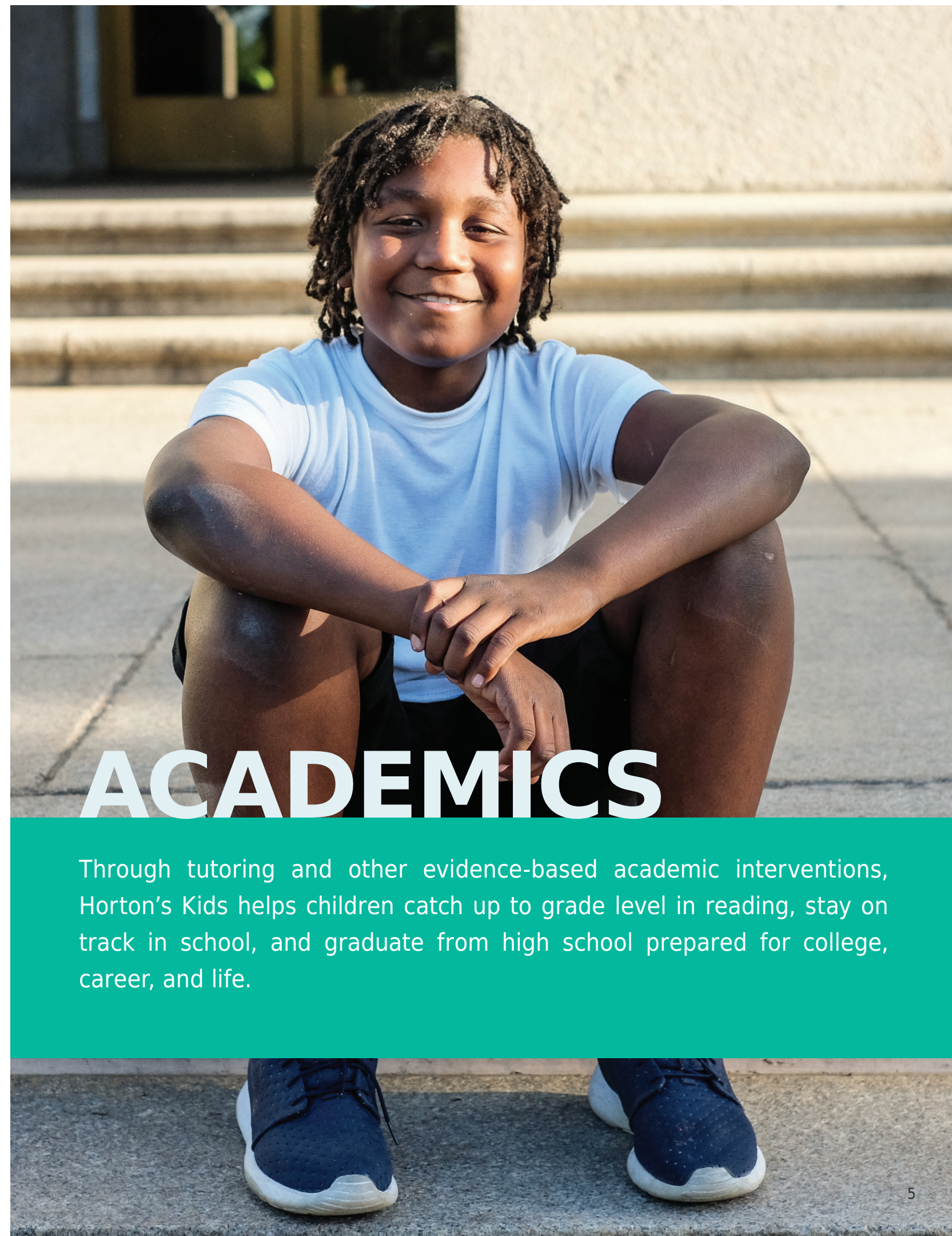
Dion really enjoys school now, particularly geography. He is even thinking about becoming a geography teacher when he grows up.

"I like geography, because I get to learn about new places and things," he said. "Right now we're learning all about East Asia which is really cool."

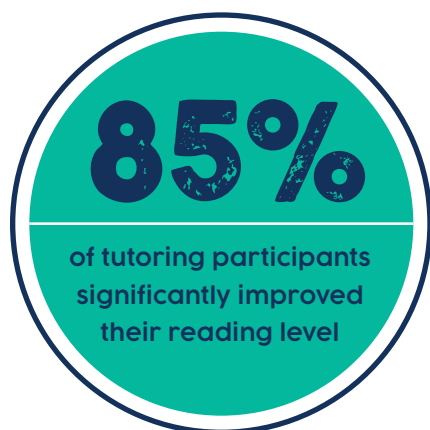
Dion knows that before he can be a geography teacher, he needs to graduate from high school and college. His goal is to get into a good high school in D.C., which is part of why he's happy to keep coming to Horton's Kids every day.

"I like how they can help me with my homework and keep me on track with my schedules so I won't mess up," he said.

**"I just want to stay on track and get myself accepted into a good high school so I can make my mom proud."**



Through tutoring and other evidence-based academic interventions, Horton's Kids helps children catch up to grade level in reading, stay on track in school, and graduate from high school prepared for college, career, and life.







# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Success in college and career requires more than academics. Horton's Kids helps participants of all ages develop practical life skills and social and emotional abilities through a variety of after-school and weekend activities. This includes field trips, arts, sports, mentors, and discussion groups.



Emani, 16, has been around Horton's Kids for as long as she can remember.

"My mom used to work here, so I would come with her," she said. "I was really little, like 2 or 3 [when I started]."

**For her, Horton's Kids has always been a safe space where she could find someone to speak to when she needed it, spend time with her best friends, or find a good book to read.** She also really enjoys the variety of programming available including tutoring, field trips, and discussion forums known as RAP sessions.

"I love all of it. The community service. The RAP sessions," she said. "It's important, because it helps you to see about different parts in life."

Another Horton's Kids program Emani enjoys is the mentoring program because it's a way for her to learn new things, and it provides a safe space for her. Starting in 7th grade, Horton's Kids participants are paired with mentors who provide guidance and support on any number of topics that impact teenagers, from academics to friendship to goal setting.

Emani met her mentor, Colleen, three years ago, and the friendship they have developed is evident to anyone who sees them together.

"We just had a good bond. She's just very nice and funny and smart, and I like spending time with her," said Emani.

Colleen describes their meeting similarly.

"I just felt like we had this bond, and it was so exciting to be approved to work with her," she said.

Their commitment to service might be one of the reasons they get along so well. Colleen is a Captain in the U.S. Marine

Corps, and has enjoyed her mentoring experience with Emani so much that she's convinced several of her fellow Marines to volunteer as mentors and homework helpers.

"Certain people who join the military join because they want to help shape and mold people," she said. "But that doesn't just stop with the Marines. You can have the opportunity to open a channel for some of the kids here."

Like Colleen, Emani is interested in giving back and helping people. She regularly participates in community service projects through Horton's Kids and on her own time. She even served food for Colleen's Marine Corps battalion one Christmas, because she knew the Marines had to work on the holiday.

"She's always looking for service opportunities," said Colleen. "Which is so inspiring in a teenager, because she's also so spunky and just a typical teenager."

Emani's desire to give back extends to her post-graduation plans.

"I want to be a nurse, and be able to help people," she said.

She has visited several colleges as part of Horton's Kids' older youth program, and hopes to study nursing at Bowie State in southern Maryland. She believes that her relationship with Colleen has helped keep her on track to achieving this goal.

**"She always helps me with my homework," she said. "She taught me to never give up, and to always try before you say you can't do it."**

42

youth paired  
with mentors

96%

of older youth  
on track to  
graduate

80%

of youth improved  
their social-  
emotional skills





For the families that Horton’s Kids serves, the average household income is less than \$10,000 annually, and the neighborhood they live in is geographically isolated.

In fact, the closest grocery is more than 30 minutes away by bus. Often this can mean difficult decisions for parents when it comes to providing for their children.

To help families rise above these challenges, Horton’s Kids provides meals to hundreds of kids each week, and distributes take home food every weekend. Families can come visit the food pantry and select items to supplement their home groceries. And we provide more than 2,200 diapers each month, a household staple that isn’t covered by WIC.

These supports are made possible thanks to the generosity of individual and corporate donors who support the work of Horton’s Kids through charitable contributions and in-kind donations. **We are grateful to all of our partners who help ensure health and basic needs are met 365 days a year.**

“I’ve always admired Horton’s Kids’ ability to make such a tangible impact in the lives of kids,” says Adam Gluck, Head of US External Affairs for Sanofi. “When I started in this role, I saw it as an opportunity for Sanofi to give back to one of our local communities.”

Throughout 2018, Sanofi held monthly in-kind donation drives at its Washington D.C. office to help support the families of

Wellington Park. Employees came together and collected items such as food, summer camp gear, back to school supplies, diapers, Halloween costumes, and holiday gifts. In all, **Sanofi provided more than 1,000 items, spanning the entire year.**

While all of the donations are important, Adam confesses the Halloween costumes were his favorite, because they reminded him of a quintessential part of childhood.

“We focus on helping people reach their full potential,” he said. “We’re proud of the relationship we’ve developed over the last year. Whether that’s [providing] food security or Halloween costumes, it’s part of being a kid and growing up and being your best self.”

Adam, and the entire Sanofi office, are looking forward to continuing their partnership with Horton’s Kids in 2019, and doing more in-kind drives in the future.

“[Horton’s Kids] understands that part of developing and getting to a place where you can be your best self and achieve your potential isn’t just about going to school, and isn’t just about having a tutor, and isn’t just about having food in your stomach,” he said. “It’s about a much more holistic approach to being a kid.”



# HEALTH & BASIC NEEDS

If children are hungry, it’s difficult for them to focus and learn. Horton’s Kids provides food, clothing, toiletries, coats, and other items that children need to grow and be healthy. This takes place in our Community Resource Center, a safe and welcoming space open six days a week and located just steps from the children’s homes.





# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Children with involved parents and stable homes are more likely to stay on track and succeed in school. Knowing this, Horton's Kids partners closely with parents to promote their children's progress, while providing families with essential resources that reduce stress and promote stability.



Walk into the Horton's Kids Community Resource Center on any given weekday, and you'll be overcome by the sounds and sights of children eating healthy meals, getting homework help, or spending time with friends and staff members, catching up on their days.

You'll also likely be joined by parents who are coming by to see how things are going.

"I spend a lot of time here when they get out of school," said Tianna, a parent of two Horton's Kids participants. "I come and help in the rooms and see what they're working on with homework."

Tianna's two daughters, Tiasia, 12, and Xayonna, 8, started attending Horton's Kids programs because Tianna wanted them to access all the things Horton's Kids has to offer.

"I told them, you've got to get to know the people there. I know that Horton's Kids has a lot of things to offer them. They get to come and use the computer, get help with their homework, get backpacks, and all kinds of things they need."

But it isn't just programming for her daughters that brings Tianna to the Community Resource Center.

"When I come into the Center, I can get job help and job resources," Tianna said. "I attend parent meetings when they have them and meet with the other parents."

Tianna takes advantages of weekly opportunities for parents and community members to come to the Center to use the computer lab and receive help with job applications. She also appreciates the variety of ways Horton's Kids assists entire families.

**"They help you a lot here. They help you get jobs. They do the food pantry. And everything they have is accessible. It's not just a one-time thing," said Tianna. "It's a stress off the parents who worry about some of the items they won't be able to provide to their kids."**

Because we know that children with engaged parents are more likely to succeed, family engagement with parents like Tianna is a key pillar of our personalized, holistic approach. Family activities including game nights, family picnic, and our Mother's Day dinner allow families to bond in a safe and fun setting.

In addition to social activities, Horton's Kids engages parents at all levels to provide programmatic input. We have parents on staff and on our board of directors, and we convene a monthly Parent Advisory Council meeting at the Center where parents discuss issues going on in the community and with their children.

"Most of the parents that attend, you can talk to them. They're really down to earth. It's like a community in the community," she said. "It really helps. The parents can find out what is going on with their children and stay informed."

Tianna believes that this "whole family" approach will really pay off for her children.

**"I know if they push themselves and have Horton's Kids by their side, they're going to make it."**

12

Parent Advisory  
Council  
meetings

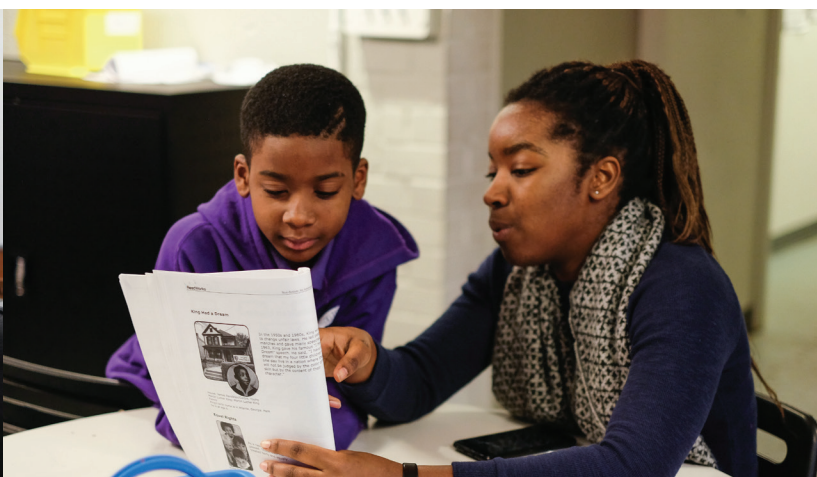
550+

family  
visits

5

parents on  
Horton's Kids  
staff





# VOLUNTEERS

# CLASS OF 2018



As an organization founded and run by volunteers for its first 15 years, volunteerism is rooted in the DNA of Horton's Kids.

For longtime volunteer Tomlyne, the desire to give back is embedded in her DNA as well.

"I grew up in Prince George's County, and my mom is very much involved

in volunteering and giving back," she said. She took this lesson to heart as an adult and started giving her time.

**Tomlyne is one of more than 500 Horton's Kids volunteers who spend time each week tutoring at the Department of Education, Department of Transportation, or Rayburn Office Building, providing Homework Help at the Center, or supporting annual events like Home Runs for Horton's Kids.** Without the hundreds of hours provided by volunteers annually, Horton's Kids wouldn't be able to provide programming to more than 500 children each year.

Many of these volunteers, like Tomlyne, have developed deep relationships with the community, which is why they continue to give back despite busy schedules. Tomlyne has volunteered regularly for more than a decade.

"I first got involved around 2002 as a floater tutor," she said. "I would fill in when a tutor couldn't come in for that day."

Since then, she's volunteered in a number of capacities, including making lunches for kids, volunteering at family picnic, chaperoning weekend activities, regularly helping with Homework Help at the Community Resource Center, and participating in the community cleanup day each spring.

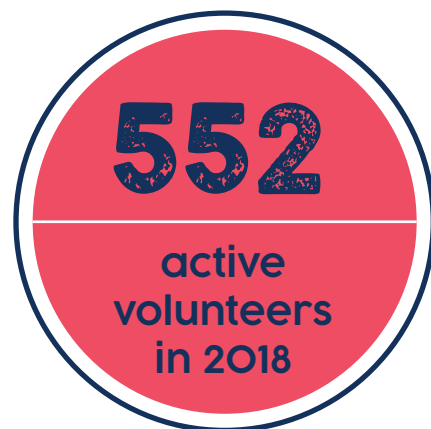
"I think the neighborhood cleanup is really one of my favorite memories, because it gets the whole neighborhood involved, not just the children," she said. "It's truly a community event."

In the time that she's volunteered with Horton's Kids, Tomlyne says she's been impressed with the way Horton's Kids has continued to grow and serve the community of Wellington Park, which is one of the most under-resourced communities in Washington, D.C.

**"I stay with Horton's Kids because I see the investment they have in the neighborhood," she said. "As they grow, what they do becomes stronger and better."**

Tomlyne also hopes to empower the next generation of volunteers, the way her mom inspired to give back to the community.

"It's important for the kids to see representations of themselves, and to know that when they get older, they can give back too," she said.



In June, 100% of Horton's Kids seniors graduated from high school. These students, with the support of family and friends, were able to realize a life-long dream of walking across the stage in their cap and gown to accept their diploma. Mentors, college and career coaches, and Horton's Kids staff exuberantly joined the graduates in their celebration.

Horton's Kids ensures that each graduate has clear, actionable post-secondary plans. For many of the 2018 graduates, this meant starting college in the fall. For others, it meant pursuing internships or vocational training that will lead to a career.

This year, Horton's Kids expanded the financial supports we provide to program alumni, including gift cards and cash to pay for travel, books, toiletries, and other incidentals that aren't covered by a meal plan. We also helped alumni enroll and pay for training programs that would prepare them for careers that don't require a college diploma. Providing this support eases the transition to college and career and reduces expenses so they can focus on their success.

## HONORING TAQUAN



Shortly before he was supposed to start college at the University of the District of Columbia, TaQuan, a member of Horton's Kids 2018 graduating class, was shot and killed on a trip to the local corner store to get a soda.

TaQuan was an active participant in Horton's Kids for four years. He regularly attended programs and routinely made people laugh with his humor and good-natured teasing. He was an extremely positive and energetic young man and a role model to his younger siblings. With the help of his mother, his Horton's Kids Case Manager, and his College and Career Coach, Andrea, TaQuan managed to overcome numerous challenges to graduate from high school and put himself on a path to success.

DJ, a fellow 2018 graduate and friend of TaQuan's, remembers him as a constant source of laughter who worked hard to accomplish his goals and be a role model.

"TaQuan was a childhood friend of mine who I went to Horton's Kids and played football and basketball with," said DJ. "He was always happy and enthusiastic."



INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

Thank you to the generous foundations, corporations, and organizations that supported Horton’s Kids in 2018. We are grateful for your partnerships as we work together to empower under-resourced DC youth.

\$250,000+

21st Century Community Learning Centers

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More than 1,000 people attended the 10th Annual Home Runs for Horton’s Kids, raising \$603,250 to support the families of Wellington Park.

**"Home Runs for Horton's Kids is one of my favorite events in D.C.** When else can you bat from Nationals' home plate and support the deserving children of D.C. at the same time?"  
2018 Event Co-Chair Representative Kevin Brady



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Thank you to the Horton's Kids 2018 Valedictorians Circle, a community of our most generous individual donors. Members sustain Horton's Kids' programming with gifts of \$1,000 or more in a calendar year.

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The 2018 Give Thanks & Give Back was a record-breaking event, raising \$237,532 for Horton's Kids to provide academic supports, social-emotional development activities, and health & basic needs services to children in Southeast D.C.



The 2018 Karin Walser Commitment to Service Award was presented to long-time volunteers Susan Wawrzyniak and Tim Gabel. Susan and Tim are committed supporters of the children of Wellington Park, spending countless hours tutoring, getting to know families involved with Horton's Kids, ensuring their needs are met, and making joyful childhood memories.



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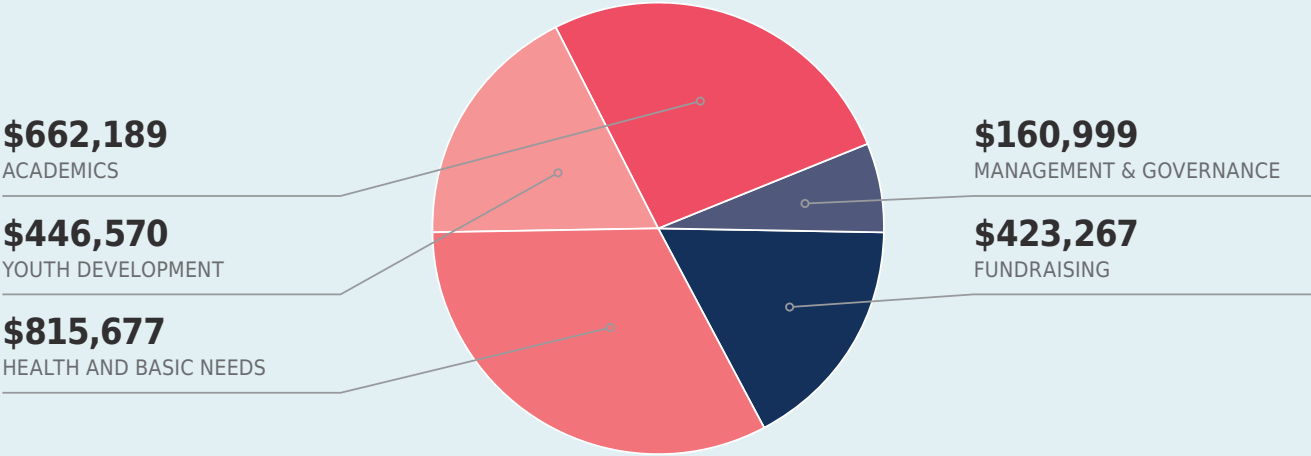
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Volunteer Coordinator

\*As of December 31, 2018

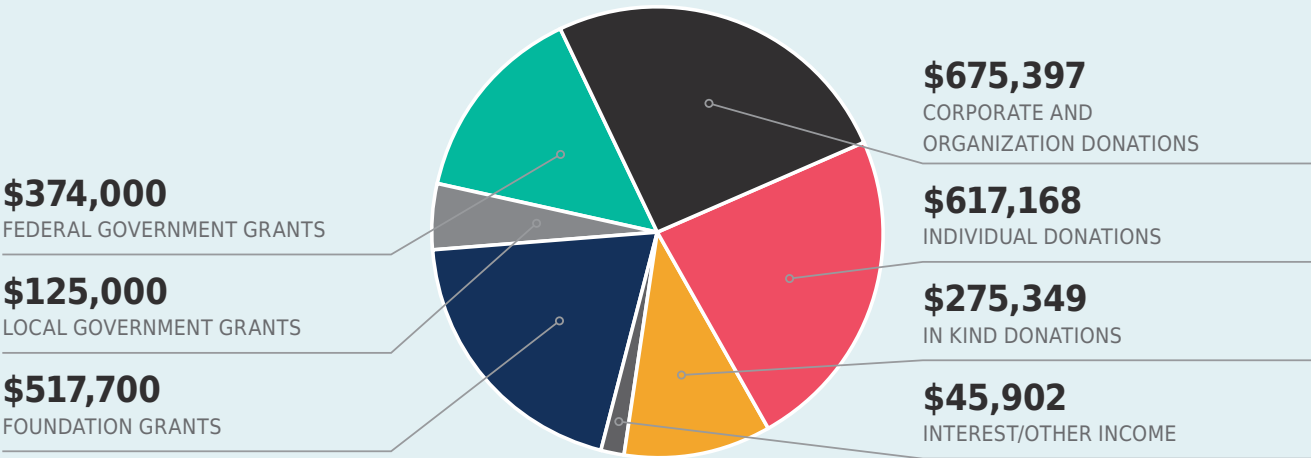
# FINANCIALS

In FY18, Horton's Kids raised \$2,630,516 and spent \$2,508,702. Much of our surplus was due to a bequest that we received from the estate of a generous donor who cared deeply about education. Our surplus was invested in the organization reserves to ensure Horton's Kids' long-lasting financial health.

## EXPENSES (\$2,508,702 total)



## INCOME (\$2,630,516 total)







#### **HEADQUARTERS OFFICE**

400 Virginia Avenue SW  
Suite C-130  
Washington, DC 20024

#### **COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**

2500 Pomeroy Road SE  
Washington, DC 20020

#### **GET INVOLVED**

##### **Donate:**

[hortonskids.org/donate](https://hortonskids.org/donate)

##### **Volunteer:**

[volunteer@hortonskids.org](mailto:volunteer@hortonskids.org)

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