



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Hortonis Kids

what we do

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

Letter from the Executive Director



Robin Berkley
Executive Director

Dear friends,

I still remember the first time I visited the Horton's Kids Community Resource Center. It was during our Thanksgiving meal distribution in 2010. It was crowded! Everywhere I looked, I saw staff talking and laughing with families. A steady flow of children ran in and out of the Center – some to pick up food, others to visit with staff, and some to pick up a book or two to take home. Regardless of the reason, they were all happy to be there. I was happy too – I'm not sure I'd ever experienced a place so warm and full of energy. Nearly eight years later, it's grown in size and scope, and the Center continues to be one of my favorite places. It is the heart of Horton's Kids.

With this year's Annual Report, we wanted to bring Horton's Kids to you. Take a tour of our bustling Community Resource Center and see how our programs work together to empower children in three key areas essential to their success: academics, youth development, and health and basic needs. Then, flip the page to hop on the bus and follow us as Horton's Kids expands participants' perspectives with activities throughout the city.

Horton's Kids participants live in Wellington Park, one of DC's most violent and underresourced communities. In 2017, we served 500 children in grades K-12 growing up in this Anacostia neighborhood, where the average family income is less \$10,000 and only 19% of adults have a high school diploma.

We have worked with the Wellington Park community for nearly 30 years, and 2017 was the fifth anniversary of our onsite Center. Located at the entrance to Wellington Park, the Center is a daily stop for children and families. Since its creation, it has grown substantially both in square footage and breadth of service and, by extension, our impact on the children we serve. But no matter how things change, one thing remains the same: Horton's Kids continues to focus on each individual child who passes through the doors. Just like when they enter their own home, children who come into the Center are greeted by name by an adult who cares about them and is there to help them succeed.

I invite you to visit the Center to see our work firsthand. With the comprehensive nature of our programming and the strong relationships we have with the children and families we serve, there is no better way to understand Horton's Kids.

On behalf of Horton's Kids, I am so grateful to the dedicated supporters who make our work possible: our volunteers, board members, donors, and community partners. **Thank you for standing with Horton's Kids in 2017.** I look forward to continuing to work together to empower the children of Wellington Park in the years to come.

With gratitude,

Rui S. By



"If you need food, you come to Horton's Kids. If you need help with homework, you come to Horton's Kids. Whatever you want to talk about, Horton's Kids is here to help." - Nyasia, 12th Grade





Step Inside the Horton's Kids Community Resource Center

The Center is the hub of Horton's Kids' programming. It's a safe space, open six days a week, located at the start of a neighborhood known as Wellington Park. All nearby children in grades K-12 are welcome at our Center and can participate in any of our programs. Whenever we're open, bulletproof glass and armed security guards ensure children's safety.



come in!

For many children, the Center is their first stop on the way home from school. They're **greeted by name** as they walk in, and several of the staff members who welcome them – like Antwain Franklin, pictured left – are also parents of Horton's Kids participants.



life skills

In weekly life skills classes, older youth learn about everything from financial literacy to sexual health. Topics in 2017 included job readiness, interviewing skills, and social media safety.

microsoft computer lab

Our 10 computers enable kids and families to work on **school assignments and resumes**. For many community members, our lab is the only source of internet in the neighborhood.

healthy meals

The Center is often the only consistent source of healthy food in the children's neighborhood. Kids can count on Horton's Kids for **fresh meals and snacks**, and families can visit our food pantry. We distributed 16,850 meals this year.

library

No matter their reading level, children can find engaging books – **and take them home to keep!** – in the Horton's Kids library. **We distributed 1,356 books** in the community this year.

basic needs

Horton's Kids distributes resources like diapers and toiletries, as well as seasonal items like backpacks, school supplies, and warm winter coats. These supplies make sure kids are set up for success.

homework help

Kids **study and finish their schoolwork** at our nightly Homework Help. This year, children spent 867 hours working with adults on homework.

family engagement

Our staff have deep relationships with adults in the community. Parents participate in programs like our fatherhood group and family game nights. In 2017, we also launched our Parents' Advisory Council, where parents share regular feedback on how Horton's Kids can best support children.



PROGRAM KEY

ACADEMICS

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
HEALTH & BASIC NEEDS

discussion groups

Our "Rap Sessions" discussion group for older youth is a safe environment for teenagers to discuss their feelings, concerns, and hopes. This year, participants focused on safe relationships and coping with neighborhood violence. Our 7th grade group, "Agents of Change," helps participants transition from childhood to adolescence.

mental health

Many of our participants are under chronic stress and face trauma from the high rate of violence in the community. Children have access to mental health counseling right in the Center; 25 of our most at-risk participants meet with a therapist each week.



Data & Evaluation

Deputy Director Jhae Thompson joined Horton's Kids in 2017. In addition to overseeing the day-to-day management of all of Horton's Kids' programs, she also leads our data and program evaluation, making sure our work is as effective as possible.

This year, we introduced robust evaluation tools, including a survey of social-emotional development that allows us to compare our results with similar organizations nationally. We began capturing more information about our program results and making data-driven decisions about what will have the biggest impact. And, we shared data with children's schools, ensuring that all adults in a child's life - including parents, teachers, our staff, and volunteers - have the information they need to help every child succeed.



Outside the Community Resource Center

Horton's Kids also offers programs that take children beyond their neighborhood. Exposure to new environments can boost kids' optimism and inspire future plans.

tutoring

Three days a week, participants in grades K-12 hop on the bus at our Community Resource Center to go to tutoring at the Rayburn House Office Building, U.S. Department of Education, and U.S. Department of Transportation. 93% of participants improved their **literacy skills** over the school year.

mentoring

research backs us up - that mentors have a powerful impact on a child's life. Over the 2016-2017 school year, we increased the number of older youth paired with a mentor. We also offered more trainings and structured events to help mentors and mentees bond.



college and career readiness

This school year, we led participants on college and career-focused tours, including a tour of nearby colleges and universities. Our Volunteer Council also hosted a career fair, where participants learned about 12 career fields from experts. Plus, we're recruiting more volunteer college & career coaches, who ensure each child is following a plan to realize postsecondary goals.







field trips and parties

Field trips to local museums, swimming pools, and even trampoline parks give kids the opportunity to learn, have fun, and stay active in a new environment. Kids and their parents come together to celebrate Halloween, Christmas, and Easter at parties with the Junior League of Washington.

summer camp

Studies show that camp can boost relationship skills, self-identity, independence. It makes it easier for children to imagine leaving home and going to college. This summer, we sent 28 kids to camp with all their necessary supplies.

sports and enrichment

Participants build teamwork, communication skills, and confidence during boxing, basketball, flag football, and strength training **sessions**. Children also develop hobbies and learn new interests in coding club and arts enrichment.

Class of 2017

In the 2016-2017 school year, 86% of Horton's Kids seniors graduated from high school - that's twice the neighborhood average. We are so proud of our graduates for their hard work and dedication. Meet some of Horton's Kids' 2017 graduates below.

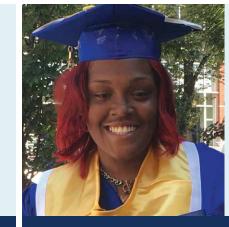
OF HORTON'S KIDS OLDER YOUTH PARTICIPANTS ARE CURRENTLY ON TRACK TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.



Terrod

studies business.

"I am a determined and smart person. **Horton's Kids** helped make me who I am today."



'When I wanted to give up and no one else cared, **Horton's Kids was** there for me."

Patrice

Patrice worked with Horton's Kids for "as long as I can remember." From going to tutoring in elementary and middle school, to attending self-esteem boosting boxing classes as an older youth, she credits Horton's Kids for keeping her motivated. Patrice is now pursuing a career in law enforcement.



Termekkio

ultimately becoming a principal.

"At Horton's Kids, I gained the knowledge that you don't have to be a product of your environment."

Jerrod started coming to Horton's Kids when he was 7 years old.

He worked with the same Horton's Kids mentor since he was a

young child, and was an engaged participant in older youth

programs. Now, he has a full scholarship to college, where he

Jermekkio was an active participant in Horton's Kids' tutoring

and homework help for 13 years. He is currently in college,

where he wants to pay it forward by studying education and

Tena

Jena joined Horton's Kids as a 5-year-old, and quickly became a fan of the field trips and homework help. She also formed a strong relationship with her tutor, who she still keeps in touch with to this day - now as a college student with an academic scholarship.



"They changed my mindset about life and goals. Being in Horton's Kids for over 10 years has made me an optimistic person."



Volunteers

IN 2017, 466 VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED 4,833 HOURS OF THEIR TIME TO HORTON'S KIDS.

Horton's Kids is powered by volunteers. In fact, for the first 12 years of our history, we were entirely volunteer-run. Volunteers make all of our programs possible, serving as tutors, mentors, college and career coaches, homework helpers, special event supporters, and more. Thank you to all of the volunteers who partnered with us in 2017. We're grateful to have your support!

Group Volunteering

In 2017, we were fortunate to have several groups of employees, teammates, and friends come together to volunteer at the Community Resource Center and lead donation drives at their offices.

The team from Willkie Farr & Gallagher volunteered regularly at Homework Help while other groups led clean-ups of our Community Resource Center and packed backpacks for the start of the school year.

2017 Karin Walser **Commitment to Service Award**

The Karin Walser Commitment to Service Award, named for our founder. honors one of our many exceptional supporters who embody one of Horton's Kids' core beliefs: dedicated volunteer service can change a child's life.

Carl Ehrlich was the recipient of the first annual Karin Walser Commitment to Service Award at this year's Give Thanks & Give Back reception. Carl runs popular flag football sessions for participants of all ages and a weightlifting program for older youth. A dedicated volunteer both on and off the field, he has also fundraised to send participants to summer camp and serves as a one-on-one mentor.

Volunteer Council

The Volunteer Council leads and advises Horton's Kids' volunteer activities while supporting the organization's overall programmatic goals.

Jack Kammerer, Chair **Carrie Brown Theresa Conteh Rachel Costello Christopher Curry Hunter Guerin Dr. Roy Jones Ashley McGlone Whitney Meacham Chris Perry Mark Swanson Gabriele Wooten Andrea Zimmermann**



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Thank you to the generous foundations, corporations, and organizations that supported Horton's Kids in 2017. We are grateful for your partnerships as we work together to empower under-resourced DC youth.

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More than 1,000 supporters of all ages - including Members of Congress, administration leadership, and guests from nearly 120 sponsors - joined us at the 9th annual Home Runs for Horton's Kids at Nationals Park on June 21, 2017.

\$1.000 - \$2.499

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"It's clear that children love being at Horton's Kids, it's a place of warmth and love. It's great to see on the ground the difference one organization can make in the lives of kids." - Donor Janet Firshein CRAIG AND CAMERON GILREATH NORMAND LINDA MERCURO

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In-kind contributions help meet needs in the community. Here, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde helps package more than 200 Thanksgiving meal baskets for Horton's Kids.



Deputy Mayor Courtney Snowden and DCPS Chancellor Antwan Wilson spoke about the importance of education at the 10th annual Give Thanks & Give Back reception at Hotel Monaco on November 15, 2017.



Valedictorians Circle members heard from Jake Tapper, CNN anchor and former Horton's Kids volunteer, at an event at the home of donors Lara Johnson and Miles Mason in winter 2017.

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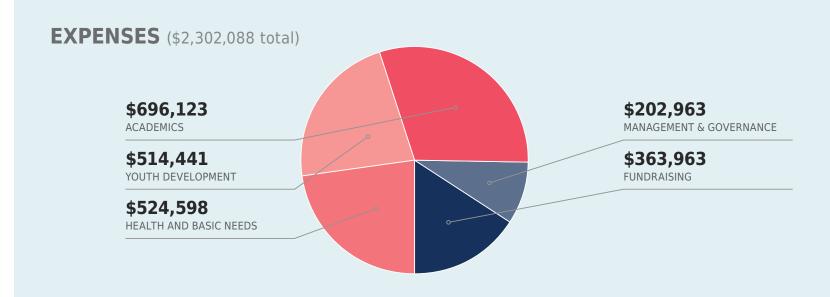


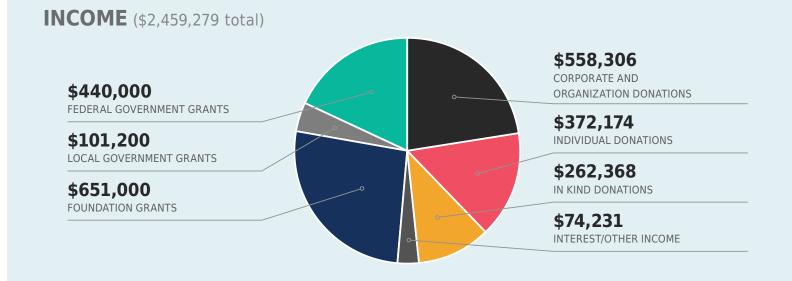


Financials

In FY17, Horton's Kids raised \$2,459,279 and spent \$2,302,088.

A breakdown of our income and expenses is below. We used the annual surplus to replenish our financial reserve after spending \$65,628 in FY16 on strategic, capacity-building investments, including the expansion of the Community Resource Center and the development of a more robust data system to better assess program effectiveness.





Media

Horton's Kids was featured in television, radio, online, and print sources in 2017, including: ABC7 News, Bisnow, The Hill, NBC Washington, Politico, Roll Call, Washington City Paper, WTOP Radio, and WUSA 9.





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Children who participate in Horton's Kids are

2x as likely to graduate from high school.







