



Horton's Kids
2019
• ANNUAL REPORT •





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.



DEAR FRIENDS,

In 2019, Horton's Kids celebrated thirty years of empowering children in Anacostia and reached milestones never before achieved. That is a testament to the commitment and compassion of our donors, volunteers, staff, and partner agencies. We have asked more of you than ever, but the result of that effort is undeniable.

Thanks to all of you, Horton's Kids continues to make a real impact in the lives of children. In 2019, 100% of seniors graduated from high school for the second year in a row. That is more than double the graduation rate at the local public high school. Check inside for more great information on these efforts!

The question is, where do we go from here? Our board spent the beginning of 2019 finalizing a new strategic plan in order to answer that question. And now it is time to execute on our hopes and dreams for Horton's Kids' future. We are excited about the possibilities that lay before us and will be keeping you informed of exciting new opportunities.

In addition, it is important to remember all the people – the children, parents, volunteers, staff, and others – who have gotten Horton's Kids where we are today. In the following pages, you'll read about a few of the 500 children Horton's Kids supported in 2019, in addition to some of the adults in their lives. The true spirit of Horton's Kids lies in the relationships that translate into real impact for children and families in our neighborhood.

As we turn to the future, Horton's Kids is looking to grow. We would like to see even more children make significant gains in literacy. We would like to increase our mental health supports to serve the needs of all children, especially those who have experienced trauma. And we would like to expand the number of children we impact through our programming. We know that vision is attainable, but only if we work together. We look forward to building the relationships with you that help us support the children of Horton's Kids!

With gratitude,

Ellen Palmer

ELLEN PALMER
BOARD CHAIR



From participating in weekly tutoring and mentorship, to ACT prep sessions, 12th grader EJ has taken advantage of everything Horton's Kids offers. She says the best part about Horton's Kids is the people, especially her tutor, Anne.

For more than two years, EJ and Anne have met every week at the Horton's Kids tutoring program at the U.S. Department of Transportation. They've worked on homework, college applications, and essays.

"Sometimes I procrastinate, but I work well under pressure. Miss Anne has been a good motivator to make sure I'm exploring all my options and getting things done on time," said EJ.

As she finishes her senior year and begins to make plans for college, EJ reflects on another way Anne has helped her prepare for the future.

"She has helped me understand the importance of different perspectives," said EJ. **"We all have such different life experiences. That has been incredibly valuable."**

Anne shares the sentiment.

"It's been amazing watching EJ navigate new social settings and tackle unfamiliar situations. She's so great at facing things head-on and persevering, despite challenges."

During their weekly meetings, Anne and EJ exchange podcast and book recommendations and talk about things outside the classroom – and they don't shy away

from the tough issues. EJ said, "We talk about real world problems, like how disparities disproportionately affect people of color and the challenges people in underserved communities face."

EJ's hard work and academic excellence recently earned her a full ride to college, along with being admitted and receiving scholarships to several other universities. She says she couldn't have done it without Anne. "Miss Anne has helped me with my applications and essays, and gave me advice on possible career paths," EJ said.

EJ wants to pursue a career that empowers her to pay it forward and help children, the same way Anne has helped her.

Whatever path she takes, Anne knows EJ has a bright future ahead, **"The best part about forming a relationship with EJ has been the incredible connection, and the knowledge that soon, she'll be out in the world making it a better place."**

EJ is one of 94 Horton's Kids participants who meet one-on-one with a tutor up to three times each week. Horton's Kids participants spent a total of 98 nights at tutoring in 2019.

91%

of K-12 students
significantly improved
their reading level

241

backpacks
with supplies
distributed

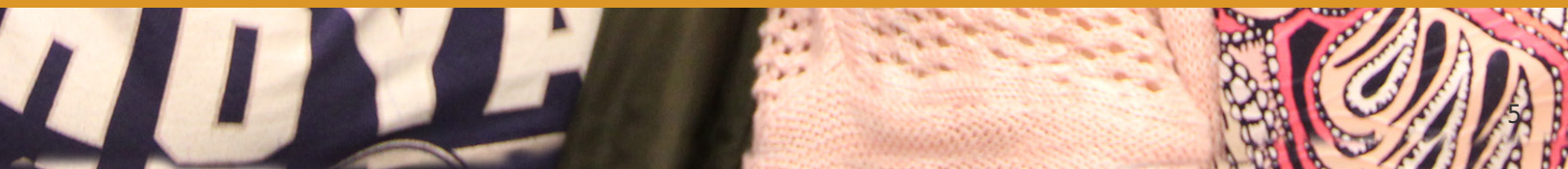
94%

of older youth
on track to
graduate



ACADEMICS

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. These include field trips, arts, sports, and discussion groups.



Jacob and Joseph Green never miss after-school or weekend activities at Horton's Kids. "The twins," as they're affectionately nicknamed, have enjoyed everything from roller skating and trampoline parks, to spending two weeks at sleepaway camp.

For these two aspiring athletes, Horton's Kids is more than a place to get help with their school work — it's also a place to strengthen their physical fitness and practice teamwork. They both participate in flag football, where they regularly learn about perseverance, determination, and good sportsmanship.

"We play football, basketball, and go on fun field trips. My favorite trip was when we got to meet DeSean Jackson and Alfred Morris from the Redskins and go shopping for toys," said Joseph.

For the Green brothers, attending Horton's Kids is a family affair. Their mother and two older sisters were part of the program for years. The twins became regulars at the Community Resource Center from a young age and began attending tutoring when they were 5 years old, instantly forming strong bonds with their tutors.

Jacob's tutor Ellen says they've seen each other through a lot of changes. She said, "When he was younger, he would have so much energy from not being able to play outside, so it was a goal to keep him from doing cartwheels and flips in the tutoring room. As he got older, we used to go in the hallway to study to stay away from the distractions of other kids."

Since then, Ellen has watched him direct that energy onto the football field and learn valuable life lessons.

"Being in Flag Star [Football] has helped me be a better leader and made me be a better person. When you go, you can build your sportsmanship and learn to not give up," said Jacob.

Joseph shares his brother's love of the game. For his tutor Kristin, watching him grow into a talented young athlete has been rewarding. "Joseph loves football and has become quite the football player. He is very confident in his skills and continues to push himself to be the best," she said.

Kristin has known both Jacob and Joseph since they were born and considers them like family. She credits the two as the reason for her long-term volunteer service. "Joseph and Jacob remind me of how fun and silly I can and should be. **The relationships we build are supposed to benefit the children and the community, but most days I feel like I benefit the most,**" she said.

Now in sixth grade, the brothers have ambitious plans for the future. Both aspire to continue playing football through high school, and one day play for the NFL. Kristin believes in their potential, saying, **"If they have their way, one day we will all be watching Jacob or Joseph catch the winning pass at the Super Bowl."**





Horton's Kids serves a geographically isolated neighborhood where the average family has an annual income less than \$10,000. Obtaining food and other basic supplies is a challenge.

At our on-site Community Resource Center, Horton's Kids makes sure these needs are met. We provide access to daily after-school meals, seasonal clothing, school supplies, toiletries, and health screenings for the children we serve. We also operate an emergency pantry so families can supplement their household groceries, and distribute more than 2,200 diapers per month.

These services 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.**

"It's very special knowing that there is a direct and meaningful impact with the kids," said Cris Shaw, Associate Director at Cobec Consulting, one of Horton's Kids' partners. "For our employees, it's been a great way to get involved that is flexible and customized so that everyone can participate in some way."

During 2019, Cobec held in-kind drives to collect food, diapers, and backpacks for distribution to families. Employees also volunteered regularly at Homework Help and wrapped gifts during the holidays. "Everyone is always so excited to help out Horton's Kids and spending time with the kids has been a favorite," said Cris. "Seeing

the kids recognize our staff and form lasting connections means so much to us."

In previous years, employees at Norris George & Ostrow (NG&O) participated exclusively by providing monetary donations during the holidays. After a visit to the Center, Adele Hook from NG&O says she and her team were motivated to get more involved. "I was so impressed with all the services and support being offered. And of course, interacting with the kids was a real bonus," she said.

NG&O has extended their support to provide both financial contributions and in-kind donations. Adele said, "I'm so proud to say that we now participate throughout the whole year, hosting drives for school and camp supplies, food pantry, and of course, holiday gifts."

While providing for the basic needs of the community is important, Adele says supporting Horton's Kids has been a mutually beneficial relationship, **"Horton's Kids' approach, that every child is unique, is beneficial both to the children as well as the volunteers.** While many groups offer food or gifts or other things, providing all of the essential services to help these children succeed really speaks to me," she said. **"I plan to continue on a business and on a personal level to support Horton's Kids for many years to come."**

23,845
diapers
distributed

9,550
meals
distributed

1,600+
xmas gifts
donated



HEALTH & BASIC NEEDS

If children are hungry, it's difficult for them to focus and learn. Horton's Kids provides food, clothing, toiletries, and other items that children need to grow and be healthy. Located just steps from families' homes, our Community Resource Center is open six days a week and provides children what they need to thrive.

Karin Walser Community Reso

Horton's k

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Children with involved parents and stable homes are more likely to stay on track and succeed in school. 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.



Horton's Kids' Community Resource Center isn't just for children; it's also a meeting place for parents and families. Community members visit the Center to socialize, use the computer lab, and receive career guidance.

"Horton's Kids has always been a family to me. I started attending programs when I was 3 years old," said Angel, a parent of three Horton's Kids participants. She credits Horton's Kids founder Karin Walser for keeping her engaged and for motivating her to enroll her children. Angel said that Karin was **"a mentor to me and others in the community. I knew I wanted my kids to be involved, too."**

Angel's children, Kaniah, 15, Ce'Nia, 13, and Kristian 11, all participate in Horton's Kids now. "My kids go to tutoring, field trips, and homework help," she said.

"The Center and all the activities make sure the children have something to do and keeps them out of trouble, which helps the parents a lot."

But it isn't just youth services that bring Angel to the Community Resource Center.

Angel also appreciates the variety of resources available to parents and adults in the community, and reflected on the opportunities that have helped her. **"We can come to the Center to get advice on family issues or use the computer lab. Parents can also get help with job searches and career advice so they can improve their lives. It helps the whole community."**

We work closely with parents like Angel to promote family bonding. This happens at activities like game nights, holiday meals at the Center, and Mother's Day and Father's Day events.

Parents help guide what services we provide and how we provide them. Parents are members of the staff and board of directors, and they convene monthly at Parent Advisory Council meetings, where they discuss community issues and share feedback on how Horton's Kids can best support children.

"For other parents who want to get involved, I would tell them to apply themselves, be open-minded, and have faith. The connection that Horton's Kids has with parents in the neighborhood is special, and it will pay off," Angel said.

Angel applauds Horton's Kids' family-centered approach, and the impact it has made on her and her children over the years.

"Horton's Kids has taught me stability, structure, and overall a more productive way of living. I know they'll do the same for my children."





VOLUNTEERS

Horton's Kids' work is only possible with the support of more than 550 dedicated volunteers each year, serving as tutors, mentors, homework helpers, and special event supporters.

For longtime volunteer Jocelyn, Horton's Kids felt like home immediately. In 2004, she was working on Capitol Hill and a recruitment flyer caught her attention. "I had always volunteered, but when I read the flyer, I was instantly sold. I loved the fact that these programs reach underserved youth in our city, with a focus on education."

Jocelyn is passionate about serving communities with limited access to resources. To her, empowering youth is invaluable, and she saw Horton's Kids as the perfect way to accomplish this goal. "It's a wonderful way to support kids who aren't often considered for the opportunities afforded to others," Jocelyn said.

For others like Jocelyn, Horton's Kids provides an opportunity to give back to the community. **Volunteers spend time each week tutoring at the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Transportation, and Rayburn Office Building.** They also provide Homework Help at the Center and support annual events like Family Picnic and Home Runs for Horton's Kids.

Over the years, Jocelyn has made connections with several participants. "The highlight for me is all the funny anecdotes the kids have. They are fun and spunky and are really curious about you as a volunteer, and it makes learning more enjoyable," she said. For Jocelyn, these relationships keep her coming back.

Jocelyn has also been impressed with the growing impact Horton's Kids has on the kids of Wellington Park, and she's proud to be involved. She said, **"The realization that I'm making a difference is invaluable. It's rewarding knowing that your service is changing the lives of individuals, and the larger community as well."**

Jocelyn hopes her volunteer work will inspire the next generation of volunteers to engage in service too. **"These kids will remember you, and who knows — maybe seeing your dedication and commitment will inspire them to help others in the same way."**

To learn more about individual or group volunteer opportunities, please contact volunteer@hortonskids.org

591

active volunteers
in 2019

5,173

volunteer hours
contributed



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

As Patrice looks back on her childhood, she feels a wave of nostalgia. “I honestly don’t remember my life before Horton’s Kids — that’s how long I’ve been involved.”

Since the age of five, Patrice has participated in countless activities, and she recalls how she felt when she first began attending programs. “I remember barely being able to climb up on the school bus seats because I was so little, heading to the library eager to do homework and activities with my tutor,” she said.

Now, at age 22, Patrice is finishing her first year as an employee of the Fairmont Washington, D.C., Georgetown. She took interest in the hospitality industry when she attended the culinary training program that the Fairmont hosted for Horton’s Kids youth in February 2019. Through this unique partnership, she and her cohort learned how to create meals and safely handle food, while developing a variety of culinary skills.

After completing her training program, the Fairmont hired Patrice as a receptionist at their luxury restaurant Juniper, where she was recently named employee of the month.

“The Fairmont Hotel has taught me so many things, but the main thing I’ve learned is that love comes in all shapes and colors. I’ve met some of the most amazing, genuine people here, from the guests to the employees — every race, shape, and color. They taught me no matter how you look, everyone is amazing, inside and out,” said Patrice.

Patrice credits Horton’s Kids with allowing her to graduate high school and with providing life lessons that prepared her for success beyond graduation. From working as an Alumni Fellow at the Community Resource Center, to the encouragement she received after becoming a mom and getting a place of her own, Patrice says the support she’s been given from staff and volunteers is life-changing.

Horton’s Kids provides an array of personalized supports for program alumni. For those entering the workforce like Patrice, this includes resume writing and interview skills workshops, job search help, and connections to workforce training programs and soft-landing employment opportunities.

Alumni also receive financial assistance to remove barriers to securing and starting a job, like covering transportation costs or buying professional clothing.

“Horton’s Kids helped me acquire the skills I will need in the workforce and also in life. They were always encouraging and were always there when I needed advice and an extra push in the right direction,” said Patrice.

As for the future, Patrice says she is keeping her options open. **“I love people, and I love my job. I don’t know what the future holds for me, but I know it will be bright!”**

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Thank you to the generous foundations, corporations, and organizations that supported Horton's Kids in 2019. We are grateful for your partnerships as we work together to empower under-resourced DC youth.

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More than 1,000 people, including 153 sponsors and 15 members of Congress and their staff, attended the **2019 Home Runs for Horton's Kids**. Thank you again to our sponsors and supporters who raised **\$663,050** to empower the children and families we serve.

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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* indicates membership in The 1989 Society, a new giving circle recognizing donors who have made a commitment to empowering Horton's Kids participants through a planned gift.



The 2019 **Give Thanks and Give Back** was a record-breaking event, raising **\$264,838** for Horton's Kids to provide academic supports, youth development activities, and health & basic needs services to children in Southeast D.C.



The 2019 **Karin Walser Commitment to Service Award** was presented to long-time volunteer **Dr. Roy Jones**. Roy has supported Horton's Kids participants in many ways, including as a devoted tutor and mentor to Jena from the time she was in kindergarten through her high school graduation. Working together on homework and school projects, they developed a special bond that continues now that Jena is in college. Roy continues to share his talents and trademark smile with Horton's Kids participants.

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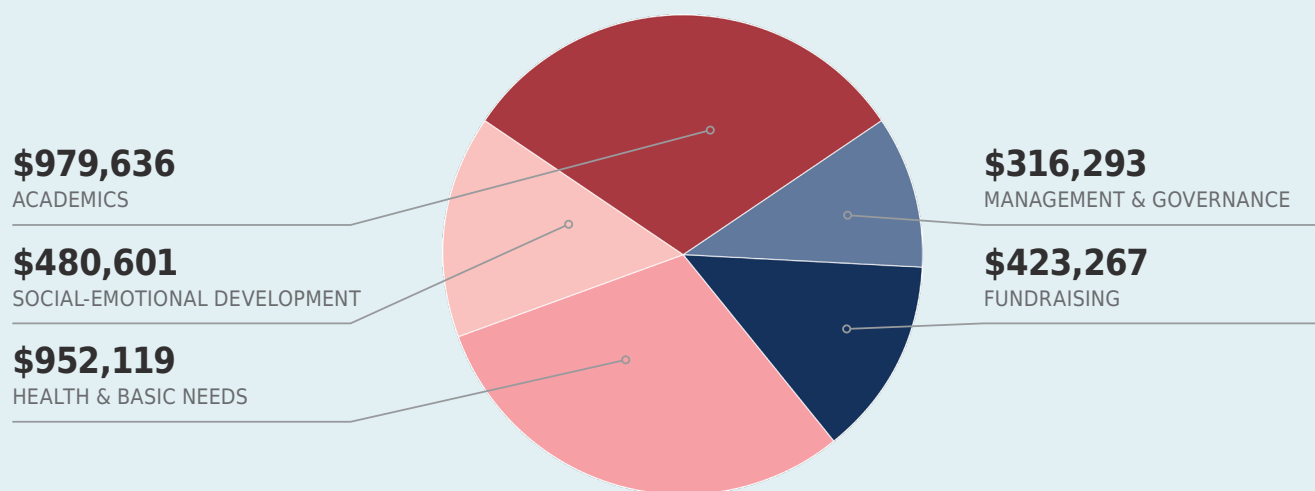
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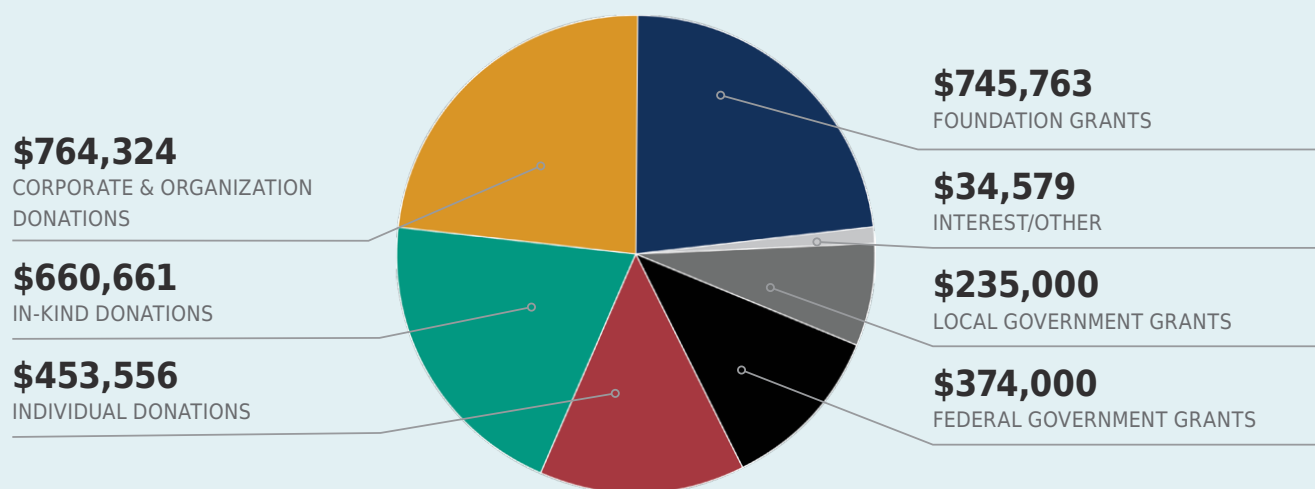
FINANCIALS

In FY19, Horton's Kids raised \$3,267,901 and spent \$3,151,916. Our surplus was invested in the organization reserves to ensure Horton's Kids' long-lasting financial health.

EXPENSES (\$3,151,916 total)



INCOME (\$3,267,901 total)





Horton's Kids

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

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