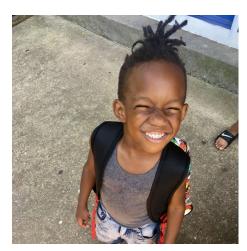
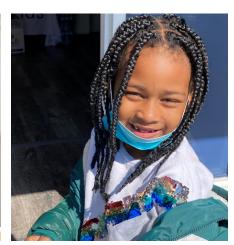


Horton's Kids empowers children growing up in DC's most under-resourced communities so that they graduate from high school ready for success in college, career, and life.









LETTER FROM **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

This year was an exercise in flexibility, patience, and hope. Prior to March 2020, we anticipated our biggest challenges in the coming year to be the closure of the Wellington Park Community Resource Center for renovation and expansion into Stanton Oaks. We couldn't have imagined that these events would happen against the backdrop of a global pandemic and an awakening around racial justice and equity. Now we are transforming these challenges into opportunities for innovation and forward momentum. I have been continually impressed by everyone's willingness to pivot and reorganize, constantly prioritizing community connection and monitoring the disproportionate impact of these crises on the children and families in Anacostia.

Horton's Kids is built on relationships. While we have been unable to open the doors to our typically robust daily programming, we have navigated the past year with a deepened investment in our teams and the relationships that allow us to stay connected and responsive to the needs of children and families. These relationships extend beyond the children, youth, and families in the program to community members, school partners, business partners, and other neighborhood organizations. It is this approach that will inevitably pave the way for a successful expansion into Stanton Oaks over the next few years. The opportunity to embed Horton's Kids within a new community and bring resources and support to hundreds more children is a vision that is finally being realized. What an incredible opportunity during a time of immense need.

Most importantly, the urgency to address racial (in)equity comprehensively as an organization has propelled Horton's Kids forward in closely examining how we operationalize our core values of **Commitment, Compassion, Connectedness, Equity, and Integrity**. This involves not only building on our strengths from the past 30 years, but also taking a critical look at ways in which we can and will do even better. This work requires staff and board commitment, as well as outside facilitation with expertise in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices. We have generated some positive forward momentum and we are excited about what this next year will bring.

Looking ahead, we are actively planning for recovery. This involves putting robust plans in place, alongside our school partners, to address staggering academic and social-emotional learning loss. Our summer programs will provide intensive intervention for our youngest learners, while also offering engaging academic and enrichment offerings to our entire K-12 community. We want to ensure that students feel ready and confident to enter the school building and resume in-person learning this fall. The parents and caregivers in the community deserve the biggest recognition for their herculean effort in keeping their children connected and engaged. Their partnership and commitment have humbled all of us, igniting the charge to do everything possible to ensure the children of Wellington Park and Stanton Oaks have access to the supports and opportunities required to fulfill their potential.

With Gratitude.

ERICA AHDOOT

Effeld

Covid-19 Response & recovery



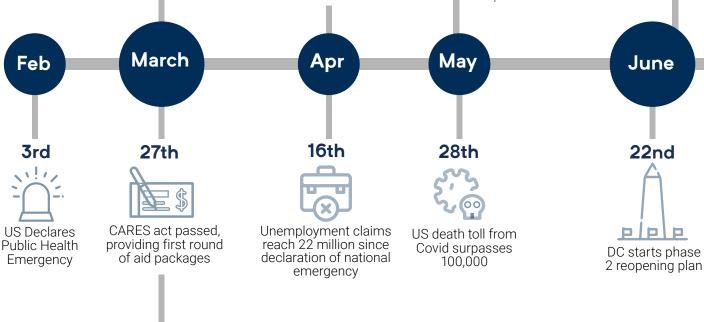
Horton's Kids suspends all off-site programming, reduces Center operations, and implements virtual check-ins; CRC open daily for grocery bags, meals for kids, and enrichment activity kits.



HK begins distribution of e-tablets, laptops, and Wi-Fi devices to aid in distance learning.



HK creates the Family Resilience Fund to enhance mental health and enrichment programs, distribute hundreds of books, STEM and art kits, and other stress-reducing resources for both children and parents.

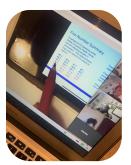


Mayor Bowser announces stay at home order for all of DC, Virginia, and Maryland follow suit

30th



HK's comprehensive summer programs begin virtually. Activities included: cooking, art and dance classes, as well as educational supports like blog writing and book clubs. Meal distribution continues.



HK begins gathering and condensing school schedules, portal logins, and teacher lists for each student. Virtual tutoring, homework help, and literacy inventions begin for the school year.



HK raises \$236k at year-end to continue removing barriers to access for children/families in Ward 8.





HK distributes 659 winter clothing items and 843 Christmas gifts throughout the month.



HK distributes 149 Thanksgiving meals in Wellington Park & Stanton Oaks.





21st



Congress reaches on agreement on second aid package offering \$900 billion ineconomic relief



19th



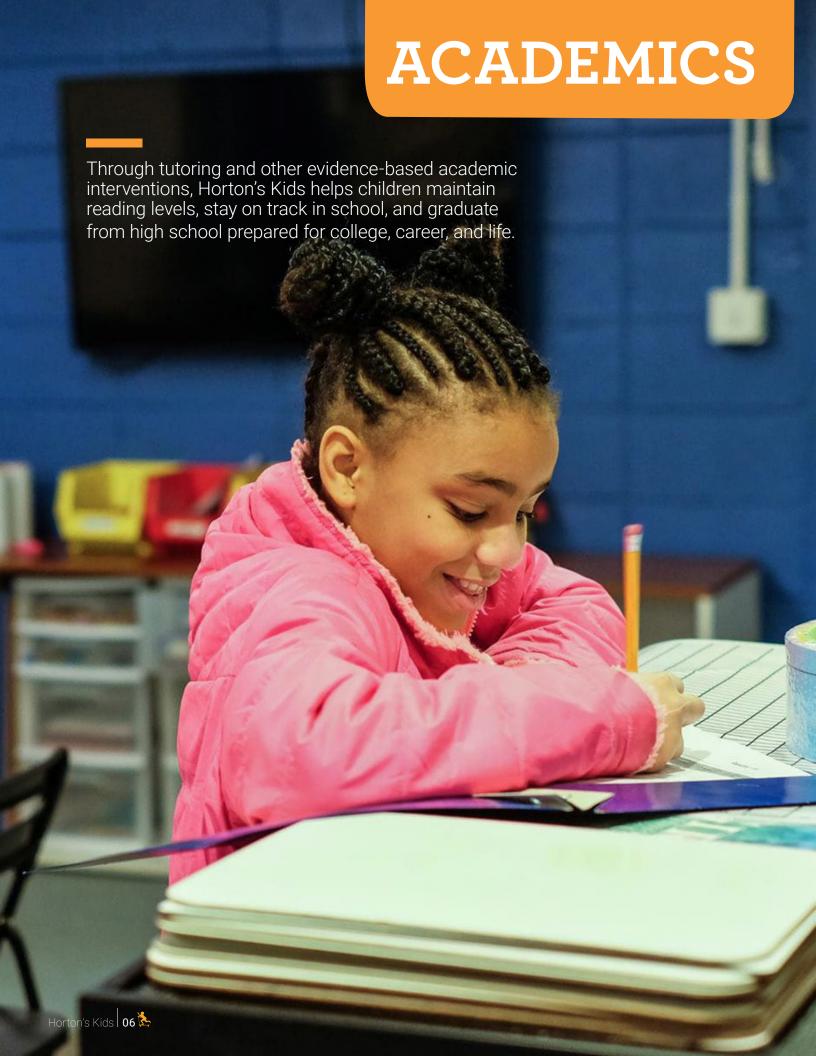
Global cases top 40 million



-8th



The U.S. becomes the first country in the world to record 10 million cases



PARTNERSHIPS PAVE THE WAY

TO LEARNING RECOVERY

In July 2020, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that all public schools would continue remote learning through the end of the year. This presented an array new challenges for residents in Ward 8, where access to technology and Wi-Fi is already limited. As caregivers helped their children transition to the virtual classroom, they faced new concerns about attendance, the use of new learning platforms, and learning loss.

"Our priority was to ensure that every family had the proper technology and internet access needed for distance learning. Then our focus shifted directly to increasing school engagement and advocacy, and strengthening relationships between school staff, parents, and students," said Gina Burd, Senior Director of Academics.

To accomplish this, Horton's Kids' academic staff began collecting school schedules and portal lists for caregivers and offered hands-on training for the technology and platforms used for distance learning. Progress monitoring and attendance reports allowed us to directly intervene if a child started to fall behind. Our staff also met with Deans, counselors, support staff, and teachers to ensure students were receiving the academic and social-emotional support required to thrive.

For KIPP College Prep senior Monae, the shift to virtual learning created feelings of fear and uncertainty. "The first week of virtual learning, I was worried I was going to be too distracted at home to do my classes right," said Monae. She worried that her math grade would suffer without any in-person assistance.

Through regular check-ins with her Dean, virtual homework help, and targeted communications with KIPP, our team was able to tailor Monae's distance learning experience to work for her. Since working with Horton's Kids' staff member Natalie on math homework, she was able to get her grade up to a B average for the past two semesters and finish her senior year strong. Monae reflected,



"Ms. Natalie helped me with my math class and her communication style made it easy for me to understand. She knows where I'm at and where I'm coming from."

Monae feels enthusiastic about what lies ahead as she makes plans to enroll in a certified nursing assistant (CNA) program. "If I work hard as a CNA, who knows, I could become a nurse someday. I'm excited to find a job where I can help people," she said.

As in-person learning resumes, school engagement and advocacy will continue to be a cornerstone of Horton's Kids' academic and social-emotional supports. These partnerships will be instrumental in the intensive recovery effort aimed at mitigating the learning loss experienced by Ward 8 students in 2020.







The children in Ward 8 are among those most adversely affected by the Covid-19 health crisis. Like most families in 2020, prolonged social distancing has increased kids' emotional stressors while decreasing their connection to community. As children searched for safe, socially distant activities, 2nd grader Makenzie found her tribe by logging on to Horton's Kids' virtual enrichment activities.



"One day my mom told me to log on to whatever zoom was. It was my first time, and I didn't know anybody. Once I started doing the activities, I was like "This is where I belong!" I keep attending because of the fun activities, but also because the staff's personalities," said Mackenzie.

In March when school closed and communities started isolating, Makenzie's mother Shatrica became worried that Makenzie and her other daughter Makayla wouldn't have enough opportunities to socialize and stay active. When Horton's Kids pivoted to provide virtual activities like reading and discussion groups, online games, and dance and exercise classes, Shatrica says it was a natural fit. She reflected that "logging on to HK programs has been easy and amazing. Every activity that Horton's Kids has offered for Makenzie has been amazing and helped her grow."

Makenzie agrees. For the past year, she's logged on six times each week to participate in enrichment activities and hang out with what she calls "The HK." She shared,

"I like doing the discussion groups and the reading groups but especially playing "Among Us" together. I really loved the capoeira classes in the winter. I still know the moves! I like it because I get to use my body and move around a bunch."

Regular check-ins with Horton's Kids staff and other kids in the community has helped Makenzie deal with stress brought on by the pandemic. Each Wednesday, Makenzie joins the Elementary School Discussion Group along with Horton's Kids staff and other elementaryaged kids to de-stress together by playing games, watching movies, and talking about the highs and lows of life during Covid-19. Makenzie reflected that the pandemic has "been hard because we couldn't go out. We had to stay quarantined so much. When this is over I can't wait to go to the pool and I'll be able to see my family more often!"

As Makenzie grappled with the uncertainties that she and many other children in the community faced, she knew she could rely on Horton's Kids to make her day better. "I know that the people at Horton's Kids like me and miss me when I'm gone, and that they care for me. Horton's Kids is like my second family," she shared.

Looking to the future, Makenzie plans to continue cultivating special skills through Horton's Kids youth development programs to prepare for the bright and ambitious future she has already mapped out, "I want to have four jobs—veterinarian, singer, be on Broadway — period, and I'll be the president."







HEALTH & BASIC NEEDS



On a normal day, our Community Resource Centers are one-stop-shops for essential items for children and families living in Wellington Park and Stanton Oaks. There they can access daily afterschool meals, supplemental groceries, seasonal clothing, school supplies, toiletries, diapers, and other health and basic needs supplies.

When our robust in-person programs were forced to close in March, we remained closely connected to community members. Thanks to the trusting relationships that we have built over three decades, families were candid with Horton's Kids about what they needed to stay stable, safe, and healthy during the pandemic.

With caregivers frequently expressing concern about having enough food, we called on several community partners to provide additional pantry items and meal services. These helped supplement In times of crisis, there is healing power in uniting ongoing meal distribution efforts made possible by the hundreds of people across the region who donated to our food pantry, and ensured that everyone in Wellington Park and Stanton Oaks had adequate food supplies.

To ensure the safety of community members and limit person-to-person contact, we outfitted our two minivans to function as delivery vehicles, allowing us to make on-call supply deliveries to anyone in need.

Beyond basic needs supports, we quickly pivoted to help families navigate other challenges in the wake of business and school closures. Staff members provided round-the-clock guidance on unemployment claims, aid checks, and COVID-19 testing sites.

In May, Horton's Kids' launched the Family Resilience Fund (FRF). The FRF is in use daily providing for the unexpected expenses families encounter. From Wi-Fi and hotspots to supplementing twice-weekly grocery bag deliveries to enhancing our ongoing mental health and enrichment services, the FRF has been available to close the gap.

together to uplift others. Horton's Kids remains committed to providing critical supports to hundreds of children and their families throughout the pandemic.



World Central Kitchen provided twiceweekly boxed lunches to children and families



LDR Growth Partners supplied locallysourced Mighty Meals to community members in Wellington Park



Fairmont Washington, DC Georgetown regularly delivered fresh produce, water bottles, and canned goods to enhance our meal distributions



Horton's Kids' minivan stocked and ready for neighborhood deliveries



18,388 MEALS **SERVED IN 2020**



22.340 DIAPERS DISTRIBUTED



659 WINTER CLOTHING ITEMS DISTRIBUTED



Since its launch in May 2020, Horton's Kids' Family Resilience Fund (FRF) has expanded access to technology, supplemented our weekly meal distributions, enhanced ongoing mental health and enrichment programs, and assisted families with anything else they might need.

When Wellington Park resident *Akilah lost her job due to layoffs from Covid-19, her first thought was how she would cover the utility bills for the month. As her first stimulus check dwindled, the financial burden began to take its toll on Akilah and her family.

Shortly after, her 14-year-old daughter Courtney started her ninth-grade year online. This new learning environment presented an array of new challenges for Courtney as she struggled with technology, risked falling behind on lessons, and required extra help with homework. With Akilah's energy focused on managing the household and searching for a new job, she had trouble finding the time to help Courtney with her schoolwork. With so much on her plate, she found herself feeling overwhelmed, anxious, and alone.

As part of our household and family engagement structure, Akilah was able to check-in weekly with our staff and speak candidly about the challenges she faced. She was able to access resources from the FRF to help cover some of her utility bills and access employment resources to help with her job search. Horton's Kids staff worked with Akilah to find a therapist and connect her to other critical mental health resources.

Her daughter also worked with our mental health specialist to create a positive coping and resilience plan to help process the additional trauma and feelings of isolation caused by the pandemic.

Knowing that students often need additional assistance in the virtual classroom, our academic team supported Courtney to advocate for her needs with teachers and classmates. She worked with Horton's Kids' tutors and staff to better grasp the material and to ensure that she was completing assignments on time. Having the tools to adapt to the transition to online learning, Courtney was able achieve A's and B's in all of her core classes.

With these wraparound interventions and deep trusting relationships cultivated with Akilah, she was able to find positive ways to cope, and connect to resources that will help her and her family as the crisis continues. In March 2021, Akilah was thrilled to received two job offers in the same week.

While there are still challenges to come, Akilah feels optimistic and hopeful for the first time in a long time. She is prioritizing her self-care and ensuring that she and her family are on their way to achieving all their dreams.

*The names in this story have been changed to protect the identity of the subjects







VOLUNTEERS

The impact of Covid-19 was felt by every member of the Horton's Kids community. Volunteer tutors and their tutees felt the emotional toll of being separated without knowing when in-person tutoring or mentoring would resume. Many volunteers were worried about how their counterparts were coping. For long-time volunteer Richard Hernandez and his tutee Quadir, facing these challenges together made a lasting impact on them both.

Both tutors and tutees had to adapt to a completely virtual learning environment. For Richard and Quadir there were unexpected benefits to the switch. "We've been having a blast discussing the book we've been reading. Having another volunteer in the same "virtual room" helps to foster greater discussions of topics discussed in the book and brings in another point of view that our student learns from. It is something we wouldn't have in a one-on-one in-person setting," reflected Richard. For virtual tutoring, Horton's Kids pairs students with two volunteers at a time. This provides individualized attention that students rarely receive in the larger distanced-learning classroom.

Richard shared that although video interactions are not ideal, the regular check-ins with students can be the boost they need to get through a tough week. "If you've been working with the same student for a while, a phone call goes a long way! It is hard not seeing our students in-person but catching up on a call only strengthens our bonds with them. It could make their day."

Volunteers have always been a pillar of the Horton's Kids model and a driving force behind the organization's impact. Richard shared more about his relationship with Quadir, "I know he is also looking forward to our tutoring session. We share handshakes, smiles, inside jokes, and stories with each other. It doesn't get much better than that. The small difference I can make is an added bonus." As these weekly video sessions continue into spring, Richard looks forward to seeing Quadir in person one day soon.



As interest in volunteering increased during the pandemic, Horton's Kids offered safe new opportunities through the creation of our Volunteer Opportunity Bank. Updated monthly, the Bank provides meaningful ways for new and returning volunteers to get engaged. Some volunteer projects have included assembling movie night snack kits, talking to participants about their careers, and creating reading lists for students that focus on Black identity and excellence.

Despite the lingering uncertainty of 2020, the dedication, flexibility, and patience of our volunteers has remained steadfast. Thank you for all you do to ensure that the children we serve achieve their goals.





1,736 VOLUNTEER HOURS



STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS LOGGED ON FOR A TOTAL OF 303 VIRTUAL TUTORING AND HOMEWORK HELP SESSIONS IN 2020!



NEW COMMUNITIES, NEW POSSIBILITIES

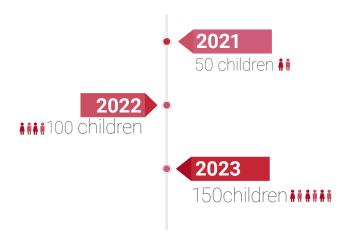
For the past 31 years, Horton's Kids has served the Wellington Park community in Southeast DC's Anacostia neighborhood. For 11 of those years, we have operated the Wellington Park Community Resource Center located on the ground floor of one of the buildings in the community. In October 2020, with seed funding from Redwood Housing, Horton's Kids began an exciting new chapter with the opening of our second Community Resource Center, serving children and families living in the Stanton Oaks community. The **Stanton Oaks Community Resource Center** is an 8-minute walk from the Wellington Park Center and also runs out of a ground floor apartment located within one of the buildings.

Knowing that Stanton Oaks confronts many of the same barriers as Wellington Park, Horton's Kids was eager to expand our comprehensive and holistic place-based program model. We focus on the entire family through various channels of year-round engagement. In anticipation of this expansion, our team began building connections to the community in Fall 2019. We coordinated monthly food and toiletries distributions, actively engaging residents in conversations about Horton's Kids and our plans to partner with the children and families of Stanton Oaks in the coming months and years.

Since opening the Center doors in October, we have enrolled close to 50 children and their families in our programs and many more community members have come to the Center to pick up groceries, toiletries, diapers, holiday gifts and meals, PPE, and cleaning supplies.

"Our priority is to get to know the families and make sure that we're visible and available for support at all times – especially during this time of change and uncertainty," said Horton's Kids' Executive Director Erica Ahdoot.

Enrollment is a key focus of our growth trajectory over the next three years, with the goal of enrolling 50 new children and their families every year. By 2023, we hope to be serving over 150 children and their families through our comprehensive programs and hundreds more community residents needing access to essential health and basic needs items throughout the year.



STANTON OAKS ENROLLMENT PROJECTED GROWTH

We are very excited to have the support of Redwood Housing as we expand and work in partnership with them as the new property managers of Wellington Park and Stanton Oaks. Already Redwood has demonstrated clear support for the work of Horton's Kids: in addition to providing seed funding for program expansion, they have extensively renovated both Centers and provided them rent free to Horton's Kids





Fall 2020 distributions at the Stanton Oaks Community Resource Center

2020 INDIVIDUAL DONOR LIST

Thank you to the Horton's Kids 2019 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.

\$20,000+

Anonymous (2) Simmy and Brian Jain Walid and Helen Kattan

\$10,000-\$19,999

Henrietta Fielek TJ and Patrick McGreevy and Family Joseph Neckles

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Brooke Bainum Cathy Bernard Howie Bierman and Jill Coleman Meridel Bulle-Vu and Michael Vu Dr. Dolores Cole Joseph Davis and Evelyn Loeb Dr. Kristin DeBord and Christopher Farrow Chas Eberle and Ali O'Donnell Janet Firshein Fernanda and Brian Fisher Jeff and Ethan Gelber Michelle and Peter High Dr. Roy Jones Joseph W. Kaempfer, Jr and Georgie Warner Jack Kammerer Pamela Kanstoroom Lisa Kountoupes and Jack Sava Marc and Emily Lampkin Ellen and Scott Palmer Marli and Art Pasternak Asheley Potts Bumgardner Tara and Craig Primis Allison Remsen* John and Rebecca Richardson Dr. Billie Short

The 2020 Karin Walser Commitment to Service Award was presented to Courtney Alexander, Catherine Cone, Amy Gellatly, Craig Goldblatt, Isley Gostin, Rebecca Lindhurst, and Mirela Missova. This team of individuals worked tirelessly to ensure that residents of Wellington Park were represented and safeguarded through the bankruptcy of the owner of their apartment complex. On behalf of Horton's Kids and the Wellington Park community, we extend our deepest gratitude to these individuals for their commitment to service.

\$2,500-\$4,999

Anonymous (2) Elizabeth and Justin Bausch Aaron Buchsbaum and Rosa Hugo Sean Cavanaugh and Rima Cohen Julie Crom Phil Deutch and Marne Levine Paul and Liz Dougherty Jessica Feddersen and Dr. Chris Poirier Billy Fettweis and Jamie Bosley Carlin Gaver and Noah Kristula-Green Maria and Rich Gold Lindsay and Joshua Greenleaf McKenzie Haynes and Travis Ollom John and Adele Hook Sari Horenstein Don and Angela Irwin Jason and Crystal Kampf Marci Kanstoroom and Derek Scissors Erna and Michael Kerst Neal Kumar Rick Lane Joseph and Patricia Lonardo Miles Mason and Lara Johnson Virginia and Bobby McMillin John and Emily Pappas Glenn and Hilary Scherrer Neesa Patel Sood

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Give Thanks & Give Back 2020: A Virtual Celebration of **Resilience** was livestreamed on our website, Facebook, and YouTube pages on November 18, and reached a nightof audience of over 600 viewers. Despite moving to a virtual format, donor support remained steadfast - bringing in a total \$257,005 to provide academic supports, youth development activities & basic needs services to families in Southeast D.C.

Missed the event? Check it out here ->

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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.

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Skyline Apartments

HOME RUN'S FOR HORTON'S KIDS

required that all entertainment venues remain closed until made the difficult decision that we could not move forward continued, bringing in a total of \$337,510. Thank you to our sponsors and supporters for your unwavering commitment to the children and families we serve, during an especially challenging year.



In October, families stopped by our Community Resource Centers for our annual Halloween costume distribution

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Senior Director Of Strategic Initiatives And Engagement

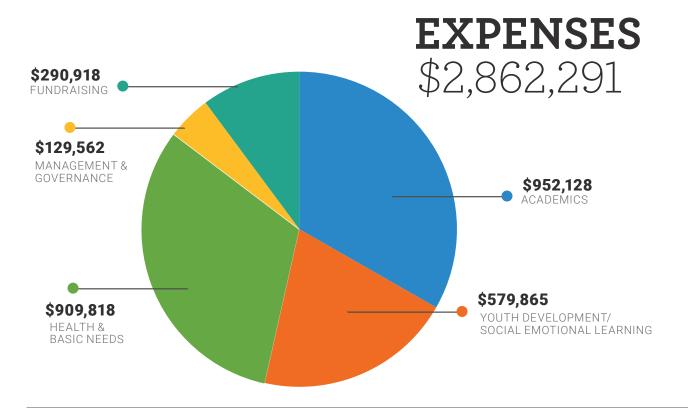
BRAD SICKELS

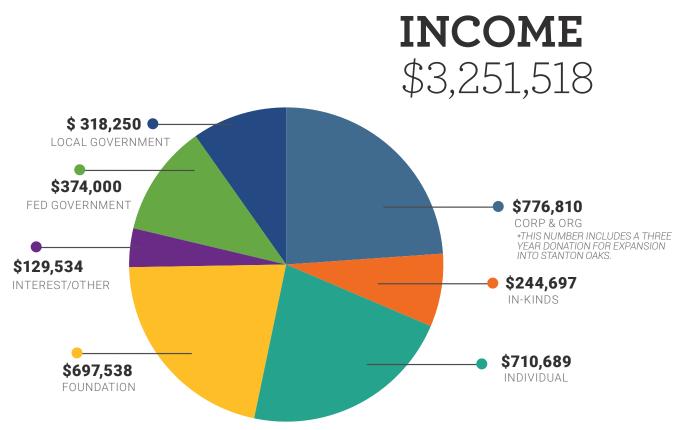
Senior Manager, Events And Communications

NELSON SUERO NIN

Accounting And Administrative Manager

FINANCIALS







Horton's Kids

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

MAILING ADDRESS

Checks can be mailed to our lock box location at: Horton's Kids

PO Box 71159 Charlotte, NC 28272-1159

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS

Wellington Park CRC

2500 Pomeroy Rd SE Washington, DC 20020

Stanton Oaks CRC

2424 Elvans Rd SE Washington, DC 20020

GET INVOLVED:

DONATE

hortonskids.org/donate

VOLUNTEER hortonskids.org/volunteer