

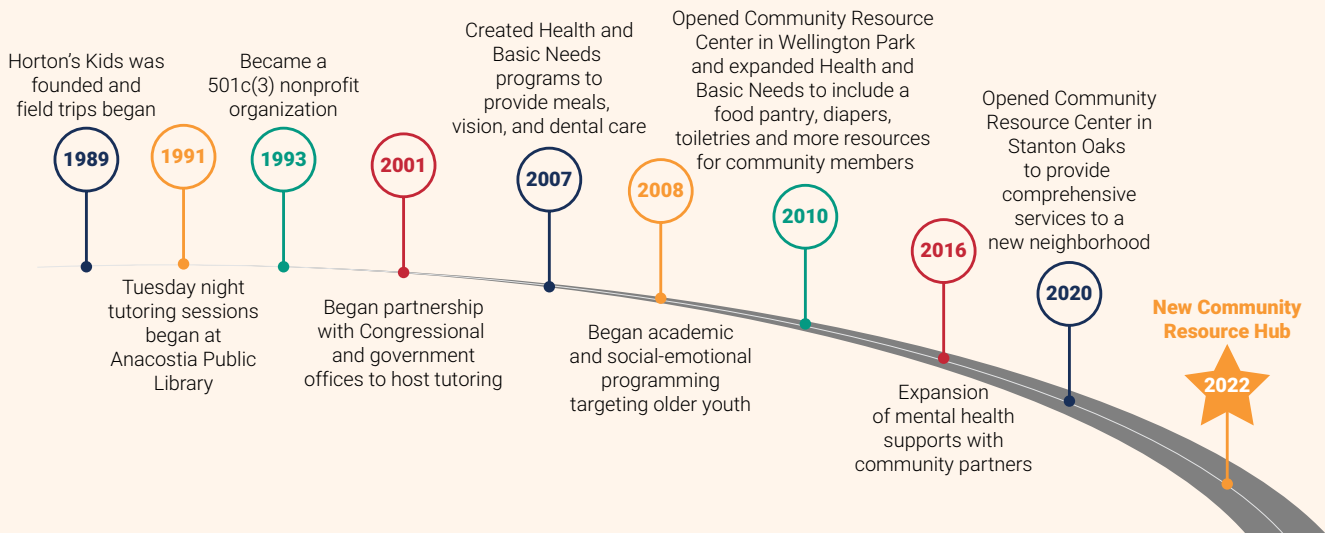


Expanding Our Reach, Deepening our Roots

For over 30 years, Horton's Kids has empowered children growing up in Southeast DC's most under-resourced neighborhoods. We support the physical, educational, and social-emotional development of over 500 children in grades PreK-12 annually so that they graduate from high school ready for success in college, career, and life. Our holistic, multi-generational approach provides comprehensive programs and services for the children as well as their parents and caregivers—targeting economic assets including housing, job readiness, and health and well-being to promote each individual child's success.

Our History of Service

Horton's Kids provides support and services to children close to home. From our earliest years on basketball courts and picnic tables, to establishing Community Resource Centers within the housing developments we serve; we are committed to creating safe places for children to learn and thrive.



Our impact is dramatic: children enrolled in Horton's Kids' programs are twice as likely to graduate from high school than the average student in their neighborhoods.

The time is NOW for Horton's Kids to launch our next phase of growth.

In 2021, we purchased a large church in the heart of Southeast DC. Rooted within the local community, this church will become the new **Horton's Kids Community Resource Hub** (Horton's Hub), allowing us to expand our presence in the neighborhood and strategically position us for future growth and partnerships. The new Horton's Hub help us meet the increased needs in our community, boost our programs and services, and **serve hundreds more students and families residing in the 16 additional affordable housing communities within a half-mile radius.**

Southeast DC: A History of Disinvestment

Neighborhoods in Southeast DC are home to children with ambitious dreams and all the potential needed to achieve them. Still, many families in these communities face a persistent and debilitating equity gap; **33%** of families live below the poverty line, over **13,000** children are enrolled in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), and the high school graduation rate is **59%**. Decades of systemic disinvestment and racism have severely limited the opportunities, resources and support to ensure that children can achieve their goals and thrive later in life.

The past 18-months have revealed (and reinforced) the need for more direct services and strategic investment in Southeast DC. The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the inequalities experienced by residents living in Wellington Park and Stanton Oaks, where access to quality housing, educational opportunities, and a clean environment are already limited.

Meanwhile, the civic and racial unrest our country experienced in 2020 has also profoundly impacted the communities we serve, leaving many grief-stricken and anxious. These events compounded the already-challenging realities of racism children and families navigate daily. Though our community members are resilient, systemic racism and its effects result in prolonged exposure to stress and trauma.

In response, we must reaffirm our collective commitment to Southeast DC's children and their right to a safe, happy, and hopeful future.

The new Horton's Hub aligns with our participants' urgent education and development needs and their families. With a more substantial, embedded local presence, we can hone our multigenerational approach by engaging with more people of all ages and incomes, establishing more long-term partnerships, and making real progress towards systemic change in the community. Horton's Kids has strong staff leadership, full commitment from our Board of Directors, and the positioning to undertake this critical endeavor.

Our Innovative Model for Community Investment

We believe that with a long-term commitment and the proper resources, every child can succeed. For over three decades, Horton's Kids has been refining an impact model designed to help students graduate from high school ready for college, career, and life. This holistic, community-based model allows us to tailor our services to fit the unique needs of every child.

PROGRAMS

Our work focuses on four key determinants of children's life outcomes, including:



ACADEMICS

We narrow the equity gap for children from low-income families through 1-on-1 tutoring, homework help, literacy intervention, and IEP support. Our school advocacy efforts help parents enroll children in high performing schools and provide guidance on how to best support their child by strengthening relationships with their children's schools.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

We provide children with the essential items needed to be focused, engaged and school-ready, including meals, backpacks, school supplies, books, and winter coats, and connect them to wellness resources for health screenings and mental health support. Families can also access items from our food and supply pantry including toothpaste, shampoo, and other toiletry items not covered by SNAP benefits.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING & ENRICHMENT

We use an evidence-based curriculum to help students develop critical skills, like perseverance, empathy, growth mindset, and problem solving. Children learn new skills through enrichment programs (including cooking classes, arts and crafts, team sports, gardening and more!), and gain new experiences on local weekend field trips and at summer camps. Discussion groups provide a safe format for older youth to express their feelings and provide support to their peers.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

We support families in maintaining household stability and deepening engagement and advocacy in their children's educational attainment. Through regular household outreach, Parent Advisory Council meetings, formal surveys, and numerous touchpoints and events throughout the year, we develop programs to serve both children and families (i.e., launching a program to help caregivers get ID cards and hosting game nights at our Resource Centers).

In 1989, the District used the Capital City Inn as a temporary shelter for families experiencing homelessness. Our founder Karin Walser met several of the children late one night at a gas station across from the Inn. She offered to take them on a field trip. Building on Karin's vision, Horton's Kids has grown from taking a car full of children on weekend field trips to providing year-round academic, youth development, health and wellness, and family engagement support to hundreds of children and their families in DC.

PROXIMITY

The Horton's Kids model works because our programs are available close to home. Instead of having to take long bus rides to another neighborhood, students can find Horton's Kids right in their own apartment buildings. Our work began in Wellington Park, a subsidized housing apartment complex in Southeast DC. Horton's Kids operates out of Wellington Park Community Resource Center, located on the ground floor of one of the buildings in the community. In October 2020, Horton's Kids opened a second location at the Stanton Oaks Community Resource Center, with the goal of making a 13+ year commitment to 150 more children and their families over the next three years.

Horton's Kids is also active in the Southeast DC community. Our holistic, place-based model relies on partnerships with other local organizations, neighborhood groups, and businesses to better understand families' most pressing needs, coordinate resources, and maximize our collective impact.



2020–2021 OUTCOMES

Despite the logistical challenges of operating during COVID-19, Horton's Kids maintained connection with students and their caregivers, ensuring their academic journey continued and their basic needs were met.



ACADEMICS

- For the last 5 years, 100% of students enrolled in Horton's Kids have graduated from high school
- Students and volunteers logged 303 virtual tutoring and homework help sessions in 2020
- 100% of students were equipped for virtual learning through \$30K in technology distributions
- 100% of K-7th grade in-person Summer 2021 program participants maintained or grew their reading level



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- 42 8th-12th grade students received individual mentorship and coaching
- 50 virtual enrichment and life skills lessons were offered to K-12th grade students
- 80% of in-person Summer 2021 program participants rated as 'typical' or 'strong' in their social emotional learning skills



HEALTH & WELLNESS

- 659 winter clothing items distributed
- 18,388 meals served to community
- 22,340 diapers distributed



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- 6 parents on the Horton's Kids Staff
- 2,072 household check-ins since March 2020 providing access to services and general well-being

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

For Horton's Kids' senior Monae, the shift to virtual learning created feelings of fear and uncertainty. Since working with Horton's Kids' staff member Natalie on math homework, she was able to raise her grades and finish her senior year strong. Monae now feels enthusiastic about what lies ahead as she makes plans to enroll in a certified nursing assistant (CNA) program.

"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... 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."



Our Next Phase of Growth: A Transformational Community Hub

Right now, Horton's Kids has an opportunity to reach more children and families in Southeast DC's low-income housing communities with the new **Horton's Kids Community Resource Hub** strategically located within half a mile of both Horton's Kids' place-based Community Resources Centers. Because the new location is not tied to a specific neighborhood, it will serve as a **neutral, safe space and a hub for future expansion**. This central location will serve as a beacon for **16 additional low-income housing communities (with at least 50 apartment units each) and 13 public, private and charter schools** and as an operational hub anchoring our satellite Community Resources Centers for decades to come.

Following a due diligence process that highlighted the benefits of owning a Southeast-based property, Horton's Kids acquired a 9,000 square foot community church at the end of 2021. Owning and operating the new Hub positions Horton's Kids as a true Southeast DC-based nonprofit and demonstrates our permanent commitment to the neighborhood. Horton's Hub will allow Horton's Kids to locate its headquarters and larger programs in Southeast DC, while freeing up space in the existing and future Community Resource Centers to serve more children and families in-place in the housing communities.

The Horton's Kids Community Resource Hub is estimated to open by Fall 2022.

After permitting, we anticipate six months of renovations to create a dynamic, multi-purpose space accommodating the wide-ranging needs of PreK-12 students and their caregivers. Through this campaign, we also aim to provide three years of program and operational support needed to launch Horton's Hub. To fund this project, Horton's Kids is making a contribution from its reserve account and securing a bank loan, which will be paid through annual operating expenditures. The remaining revenue needed will be solicited through our campaign.

To purchase, renovate, staff, and ensure the sustainability of the new Horton's Kids Community Resource Hub, we aim to raise \$4M to \$5M from generous donors.

YOUR SUPPORT OF SECURING FUTURES FOR SOUTHEAST WILL FUND



\$2.4M

BUILDING PURCHASE



\$3M

RENOVATIONS AND FURNISHINGS



\$1M

PROGRAMMATIC AND OPERATIONAL GROWTH

Partner With Us

We rely on support from our close friends and partners to make the dream of our Horton's Kids Community Resource Hub a reality. With your help, we can make sure that every child in Southeast DC has the resources they need to graduate high school, pursue their dreams, and build the life they deserve.

Please consider making a personally significant gift today.

All campaign gifts above \$10,000 will be included on a special donor plaque. Horton's Hub naming opportunities are available for gifts above \$15,000. All gifts and pledges must be received by December 31, 2024.

For more information about Horton's Kids and our vision for the future of community investment in Southeast DC, please contact Leigh Player, Chief Development Officer, at leigh@hortonskids.org or 202-544-5033 ext. 14.