



COMMITMENT
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COMPASSION
EQUITY
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EQUITY
INTEGRITY
COMMITMENT

Horton's Kids

2022
Annual Report



Dear Horton's Kids Supporters,

2022 was a special year for Horton's Kids. Thanks to your ongoing support, we've continued providing high-quality programs and services to children and families in Southeast DC while embarking on a new chapter in the organization's history.

Our continued success as one of the city's community-based high-intensity tutoring hubs has been a game changer for young learners despite the ongoing challenges posed by Covid-19. Our dedicated team of tutors and volunteers worked tirelessly in 2022 to help students make significant academic gains, **with 100% of participants assessed maintaining or growing their reading level.**

In Summer 2022, we again welcomed over 100 K-8th grade participants into our summer program, providing math and literacy instruction, social-emotional skill-building, enrichment activities, and field trips. We also piloted an internship program with support from Southern Company for older high school students and Horton's Kids alumni, offering 10 students in-person, paid internships at prominent businesses like Venn Strategies, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, and Sanofi.

Program enrollment continued to grow at our Stanton Oaks location as we strengthened our presence in the community and built new relationships with families and neighbors. We've also continued to expand health and wellness resources at our locations – providing families with access to healthy meals, wellness workshops, and mental health resources.

While we continued to deliver high quality programs at our two existing Centers, the groundwork for Horton's Kids next chapter was being laid a half a mile away. Phase one renovations at our new **Horton's Kids Community Resource Hub** were completed in November. Youth programming at Horton's Hub began in January 2023, allowing us to proactively partner with organizations to explore new programming opportunities for participants and their families. We are grateful to the early supporters of our **Securing Futures for Southeast campaign** for your commitment to Horton's Kids and the families we serve.

Horton's Kids closed out 2022 finalizing a five-year strategic plan that began earlier in the year. We prioritized input and feedback from all stakeholders, with student and family voices centered in the process. The forthcoming plan will provide a comprehensive road map for program refinement and expansion over the next five years, including how to best utilize our two residence-based Community Resource Centers and the new Horton's Hub headquarters to serve the surrounding communities. With your continued partnership, we look forward to strengthening our role as a cornerstone of the community, and to further elevating our impact in the year to come.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Horton's Kids and the families we serve.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica Ahdoort'.

ERICA AHDOOT | **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Expanding Our Reach, **Deepening Our Roots**



Horton's Hub
2233 Hunter PI SE
Washington, DC
20020

8
large rooms outfitted
for youth programs

19,000
sq. ft. of indoor and
outdoor space

Access to adequate programming space has always been a challenge for Horton's Kids. In December 2021, we were able to purchase a large community church and begin renovations to transform the building into the new **Horton's Kids Community Resource Hub (Horton's Hub)**. With 19,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space, Horton's Hub is a central location that provides direct programming and enhances the offerings available at our neighborhood Resource Centers. This safe, supportive space for our participants helps combat the resounding impacts of Covid-19 and ensures their futures are full of opportunity and promise.

Demolition began in March 2022 and, over the next nine months, we watched as our new home took shape. Phase One renovation projects included the addition of two large multipurpose rooms, student and family support rooms, a media lab, youth lounge, and private counseling space. Construction concluded in early November and our programs and administrative staff moved into the Hub later that month. Everyone is enjoying Horton's Kids' new home and we successfully began programming in January 2023.

In February 2023, we announced the public phase of our **Securing Futures for Southeast** campaign. This critical \$5M fundraising effort will allow us to meet the increased needs in our community, boost our programs and services, and serve hundreds more students and families. **To date we have raised \$3.3M of our \$5M campaign goal.** We are now calling on our generous community of supporters to help us raise the remaining campaign funds to support programmatic expansion and complete Phase Two projects like a playground, community garden, and storefront for our distribution center.

Campaign **Donors** (as of 12/31/22)

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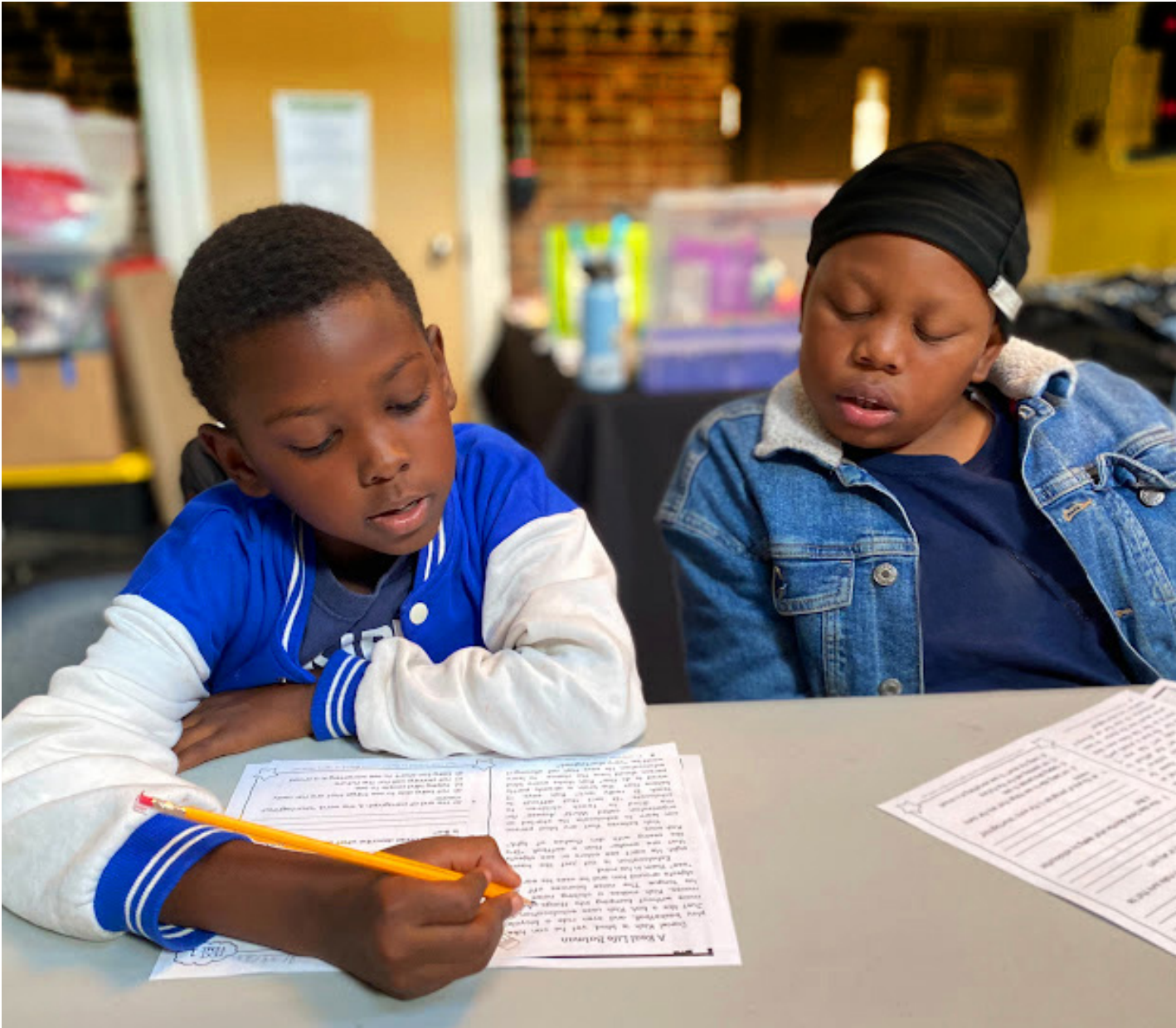
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Horton’s Kids helps children improve reading levels, stay on track in school, and graduate from high school prepared for college, career, and life.

HITTING THE BOOKS

Fifth-grader Mezziah spends most afternoons at Horton’s Kids, where she regularly participates in tutoring and homework help. **“If I didn’t come to Horton’s Kids I would just be bored at home watching TV. At Horton’s Kids, we read every day and reading helps you get smarter.”**

Taking advantage of these academic supports had a drastic impact on Mezziah’s report card. After the first quarter of the school year, Mezziah’s grade in reading was a “C”. By the end of the second quarter, Mezziah was able to increase that grade to an “A”.

As we’ve continued efforts to recover unfinished learning in recent years, Horton’s Kids has adapted its academic program model to prioritize high-intensity tutoring for participants in grades K-5. Each week, Mezziah can receive up to four hours of academic supports. Mezziah says she especially looks forward to programs because **“At Horton’s Kids, I get help from my favorite teacher Ms. Astrid.”**

By day, Ms. Astrid is a 7th grade teacher, but when her school day ends, she joins Horton’s Kids as one of our part-time teachers. **“Participants have more autonomy within the structure of after-school programs to have fun and be social, while still receiving the knowledge and skills to become better readers,”** she said.

With gaps in reading and math still being reported nation-wide, Ms. Astrid says that students continue to face unique challenges. **“The pandemic has delayed the age-appropriate behaviors that manifest in classrooms. I am seeing participants who are showing behaviors typical of students two grade levels below their current grade level.”**

Fortunately, Ms. Astrid can see the impact of Horton’s Kids on students like Mezziah. **“Mezziah is eager to read and has opened up socially when we work in small groups. I’ve witnessed her become more vocal when participating in front of her peers.”**



Mezziah, Grade 5

To help participants retain the skills they’re building, Horton’s Kids staff has increased the frequency of positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS), an evidence-based framework for supporting student behavioral health. Students earn “HK Bucks” for demonstrating good behavior, helping peers, and attending programs, and can spend their earnings at the “HK Store”. **“The coolest toy I’ve bought was a slime making kit which was awesome because my favorite book is the My Pet Slime series,”** said Mezziah.

This year, Mezziah is earning many more HK Bucks with her attendance at programs tripling. Her increased engagement and academic gains demonstrate why we must continue to adapt our programs to meet the evolving needs of our youngest learners.



100%

of seniors graduated on time for the sixth year in a row



100%

of K-5 students assessed during 2022 summer camp maintained or grew their reading level



162

hours of high-intensity tutoring provided



Horton's Kids provides food, clothing, personal hygiene products, and connects families to wellness resources for health screenings and mental health support.

PROMOTING WELLNESS

“This room has a lot of space. In here I get to live it up without any problems. I don’t get mad; I get to be happy and mind my business. I’m just having a great time.”
-HK participant, grade 3

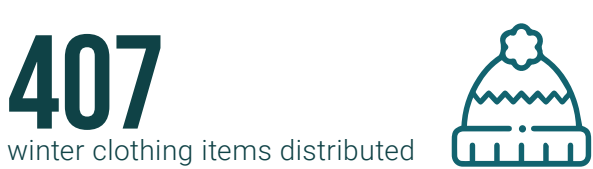
Horton’s Kids works directly with community members to create and tailor programs that address their evolving needs. With a recent rise in violence in DC and recurring gun-related tragedies at the national level, **offering resources to support both mental and physical health has become more critical than ever.**

In a recent survey of parents and caregivers enrolled in our programs, **46% expressed concerns about access to food and 41% identified mental health supports or referrals as the biggest issue facing their community.**

In 2022, we created designated health and wellness spaces in each of our Community Resource Centers. These rooms serve as neutral, calming spaces where participants and families can gather to speak with service providers, practice mindfulness techniques, or take a break from the stir of regular programs. They feature comfortable seating, sensory toys, art materials, and round tables for group work.

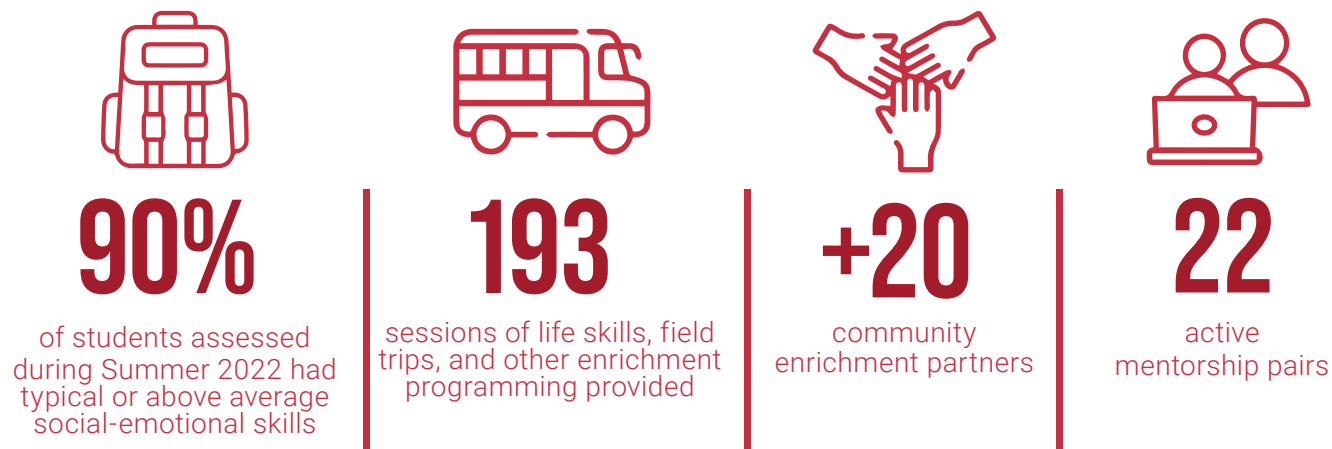
Throughout our 2022 summer camp programs, participants utilized wellness rooms to calm down, self-regulate, or meet 1:1 with their teachers and staff. Beginning in the fall, our local service partner Preventive Measures began meeting with children and families to build personalized mental health support plans, manage medications, and offer healing and grief support after incidents of violence. These initiatives add to Horton’s Kids ongoing distribution of fresh produce and pantry staples, cleaning supply and personal hygiene kits, backpacks, and winter clothing items.

With the opening of Horton’s Community Resource Hub in 2023, we’ve continue to build out our health and wellness supports. Horton’s Hub will feature the organization’s first-ever **Distribution Center and Storefront** to facilitate “quick-service” supply distribution to even more families in Southeast DC.





Horton's Kids helps participants strengthen their social and emotional abilities, broaden their horizons, and explore their strengths.



EXPLORING EXTRACURRICULARS

After school, eighth grader Erin could be any number of places: on the basketball court with her school's team, on the stage rehearsing for the school musical, or at home writing poetry. But many nights, you can also find Erin at Horton's Kids, **"I keep coming because Horton's Kids gives us an extra opportunity to learn more and grow from the community around us."**

Erin describes herself as an energetic person who likes to dance, show her goofy side, and have fun. Through Horton's Kids youth development programs, Erin has been able to have unique experiences and discover new interests: **"I found out I like playing football because I tried it with Horton's Kids. Football is high energy and I like that we get to run around, boys and girls, together,"** she said.

Another thrilling activity Erin enjoys is mountain biking, which she discovered during her two-week trip to Camp Horizons in Virginia. **"I thought it was just riding a bike down hills, but it takes more skill. You have to learn when to shift gears to make it easier or harder, and when to brake."** Horton's Kids partners with Camp Horizon and other camps across the country to send 15+ participants to sleepaway camp every summer.

After attending sleepaway camp for the last two summers, Erin is excited to return and see the friends she's made. She reflected, **"Making friends at camp is different than making friends at Horton's Kids because everyone comes from such different places. I've made friends who are from Hawaii, Canada, and Russia."**

Erin has also built stronger relationships with other Horton's Kids participants who attend Camp Horizon. These experiences have helped her become more outgoing when attending programs at Horton's Kids.



Erin, Grade 8

Horton's Kids' youth development programs aim to equip participants with the skills needed to meet the opportunities of adolescence and adulthood. Erin says her involvement in Horton's Kids and other extracurriculars have helped her recognize her potential and pursue her goals and passions with confidence. **"I am excited that I have the opportunity to go to better high schools because now I have stronger relationships with my teachers and a higher GPA. So next year, I hope to go to Duke Ellington School of the Arts for high school so that I can get better at writing poetry and rapping and one day become a famous R&B singer."**



Horton's Kids partners closely with caregivers to bolster their children's progress, while providing families with essential resources that reduce stress and promote stability.

SECURING FUTURES

Angel Jones (pictured at right) was born in Wellington Park and her roots with Horton's Kids span more than three decades. She and her siblings were some of the organization's first participants - attending weekend field trips and enrichment activities and forming relationships with volunteers.

“Being out of the neighborhood had a big impact on our lives, how we carry ourselves, treating people the way you want to be treated, loving people the way you want to be loved,” she said. “It was having a village to show us different ways we can go in this life. Our parents taught us the same things so it was double or triple the teaching.”

Today, Angel's two youngest children are taking advantage of many of the resources and experiences their mother enjoyed, from academic tutoring and mentoring to summer jobs and sleepaway camp.

“It’s an honor to have them involved in the same organization and growing the same way I did,” said Angel, who remembers the support and guidance Horton's Kids provided as a teenager when her mom passed away. **“They’re still there. They never left. They’re family to me, I get emotional talking about it.”**

Horton's Kids continuously works to create a supportive community environment for parents and kids alike. We are glad that Angel continues to see Horton's Kids as a resource that she and her children can benefit from - especially as the organization's programs evolve.

Growing up, Angel took note of the sense of community among parents – especially mothers. Now that she is a mother, she wants to contribute to the community as an advocate for parents and caregivers from Stanton Oaks and Wellington Park. In 2022 Angel affirmed her position as a community advocate by joining the Horton's Kids Board of Directors.

“I thought about the parents,” she said. **“I thought about being there for my community – to research and bring support and resources back to parents. Being on the board meant giving back to an organization and people who gave so much.”**

Having community members serve at the board leadership level is part of Horton's Kids' commitment to equity and involvement by, for, and from the community. Their perspective, lived experience, and passion for their communities is invaluable.



Angel Jones, Horton's Kids Board of Directors, Program Alum

Angel is looking forward to using her leadership position to find new ways to keep parents and caregivers engaged and connected with Horton's Kids and each other.

“You never know how someone else’s life is until you connect with them. They may be going through the same thing, or perhaps something worse. You learn a lot from sharing, then you can get through things together.”

7

community members on board or staff



60

social events and workshops targeted at caregivers and families





Chandler Kircher, Volunteer

ALLIES FOR CHANGE

A large motivator for people looking to volunteer with Horton’s Kids is creating an impact for our participants. **“The most exciting moments are seeing the kids’ “aha” moments as they build their skills and grow on their own timelines,”** shared Chandler Kircher, who began tutoring elementary school-aged kids at Horton’s Kids programs in the fall of 2022.

In 2022, our volunteer experience fundamentally changed when Horton’s Kids shifted all programs to Southeast DC and started earlier in the evenings to better accommodate kids in proximity to their homes. Volunteers say this shift has felt more impactful while simultaneously broadening their perspective as residents of the District.

As a recent DC transplant, Chandler reflected that **“before starting to volunteer at Horton’s Kids, I had never crossed the river to come to Anacostia and knew relatively little about the area. Now, I am gaining a greater understanding of systemic racism, gentrification, and other barriers that have left communities like Wellington Park and Stanton Oaks marginalized and under-invested.”**

Horton’s Kids acknowledges that having the time to volunteer is a privilege. We will continue to work to make volunteering more accessible and expand our volunteer base to provide participants access to consistent, adult role models who share similar lived experiences. We are grateful to volunteers like Chandler, who value the impact of making the trip to Anacostia: **“Allyship is essential to building healthy and safe communities. Therefore, individuals who face less systemic barriers should use their privileges to volunteer because they will always be afforded more opportunities to do so.”**

103

active volunteers



14

volunteer social and networking events



22

volunteer mentors



REACHING FOR THE STARS

When Jerrod Thompson first walked into Horton’s Kids Community Resource Center at age five, he recalls feeling shy and keeping to himself. At his mother’s request, he began joining his sisters on field trips with Horton’s Kids. He remembers visiting amusement parks, museums, and movie theaters and participating in daily homework help and tutoring sessions at the Rayburn building on Capitol Hill.

Throughout elementary and middle school, Jerrod was paired with tutors and mentors who helped him make improvements to his grades and encouraged him to explore his hobbies and interests. Jerrod says these relationships helped him come out of his shell and doubt himself less. **“I started to feel more confident and excited to try new things. I joined the school band and eventually realized that I had a passion for playing and writing music.”**

When the time came to make post-graduate plans, Jerrod says Horton’s Kids older youth programs were pivotal in helping him see what paths were possible. **“I attended career fairs and visited colleges. I developed better social skills and became more outgoing. I even learned how to better manage my money so I was more prepared for life after high school,”** he said.

After receiving a full-ride scholarship to Lycoming College in Pennsylvania, Jerrod graduated with a degree in business and entrepreneurship, becoming the first man in his family to earn a college degree. He’s since secured a job with a local residential leasing office in Gallery Place where he’s honed his business management skills and made connections he hopes will help him pursue his musical ambitions.

Jerrod says he was eager to find ways to give back to his community when he returned to DC. He began volunteering with Horton’s Kids and attending community events, becoming a role model for other participants.



Jerrod Thompson, Age 24

“It’s been a blessing to return to the community and help. I want to show kids that even if you’re not good at math – there are other ways you can shine. The sky is the limit. Hopefully they see what’s possible in me.”

When plans materialized for a state-of-the-art music and media lab at the new Horton’s Kids Community Resource Hub - through a partnership with *In A Perfect World* - Jerrod said he had to be involved. **“I’ve always wanted to pursue rap and make my own tracks but never had the tools. I want to help kids be creative and share messages of positivity.”** Jerrod had a blast helping build the lab – a space he hopes will provide kids like him with a healthy creative outlet, and the tools to explore their innate talent.

“Having access to the Community Resource Centers is critical for high schoolers. Once you figure out what you like, HK will help you figure out the rest.”

10

High school students and alumni placed in summer internships at local DC businesses



Thank you to the Horton’s Kids 2022 Valedictorians Circle, a community of our most generous individual donors. Members sustain Horton’s Kids’ programming with cumulative giving of \$1,000 or more in a calendar year.

\$20,000+

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

The 2022 Karin Walser Commitment to Service Awardees



Recipient: Amanda Choutka

Senior Professorial Lecturer,
American University

Amanda Choutka has partnered with Horton’s Kids since 2005 in different capacities: as an intern, development and summer camp staff, and as a volunteer. Amanda has worked with Horton's Kids in her capacity as Professor since 2011. She teaches three community-based

learning courses each year where her students volunteer one semester with Horton’s Kids. She challenges her students – and volunteers – to move beyond good intentions and instead think and act based on community-defined needs that contribute to racial justice and equity.



Recipient: Fairmont Washington, D.C., Georgetown

Since selecting Horton's Kids as their charity partner in 2018, The Fairmont Washington D.C. Georgetown has gone above and beyond in supporting the organization. Whether hosting hands-on culinary classes for older youth participants, providing fresh produce distributions for families, or curating tens of thousands of dollars worth of travel packages for our Give Thanks & Give Back auctions , The Fairmont team have remained steadfast partners in helping to improve the lives of the children and families we serve.

The 2022 Julie Lonardo Community Champion Award

Recipient: Monique Bradley

HK Community Member

Monique Bradley has consistently shared her voice and vision with Horton’s Kids throughout our strategic planning process and motivated other parents in the community to speak up and join the conversation. Her infectious energy and larger-than-life personality make her a favorite in the community. Monique is a leader both in and out of Horton’s Kids spaces, serving meals to her fellow community members, encouraging families to seek out assistance, and brightening people’s days with just a smile. Her love for her family and her community is apparent in everything she does.



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The **14th Annual Home Runs for Horton's Kids** was held at Nationals Park on July 27th. Over 1,000 guests joined us at the Park, with several notable VIP's in attendance including Symone Sanders (political strategist), Shawn Townsend (DC's former "night mayor"), Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-N.J.), and Gwen Graham (Assistant Secretary of Education). Many Horton's Kids participants and families attended as well, receiving VIP passes to bat from home plate and play catch in the outfield. The event raised a total of \$551,000 including nearly \$10,000 in night-of donations.



On November 16th, we welcomed 250 guests to the Fairmont Hotel for the **15th Annual Give Thanks & Give Back**. The evening featured remarks from HK leaders and a keynote address from Horton's Kids alumni E'Nyjah Fields. We also awarded the Karin Walser Commitment to Service Awards to Amanda Choutka and The Fairmont Washington DC, and presented the first-ever Julie Lonardo Community Champion Award to HK parent Monique Bradley. The event raised \$219,147.

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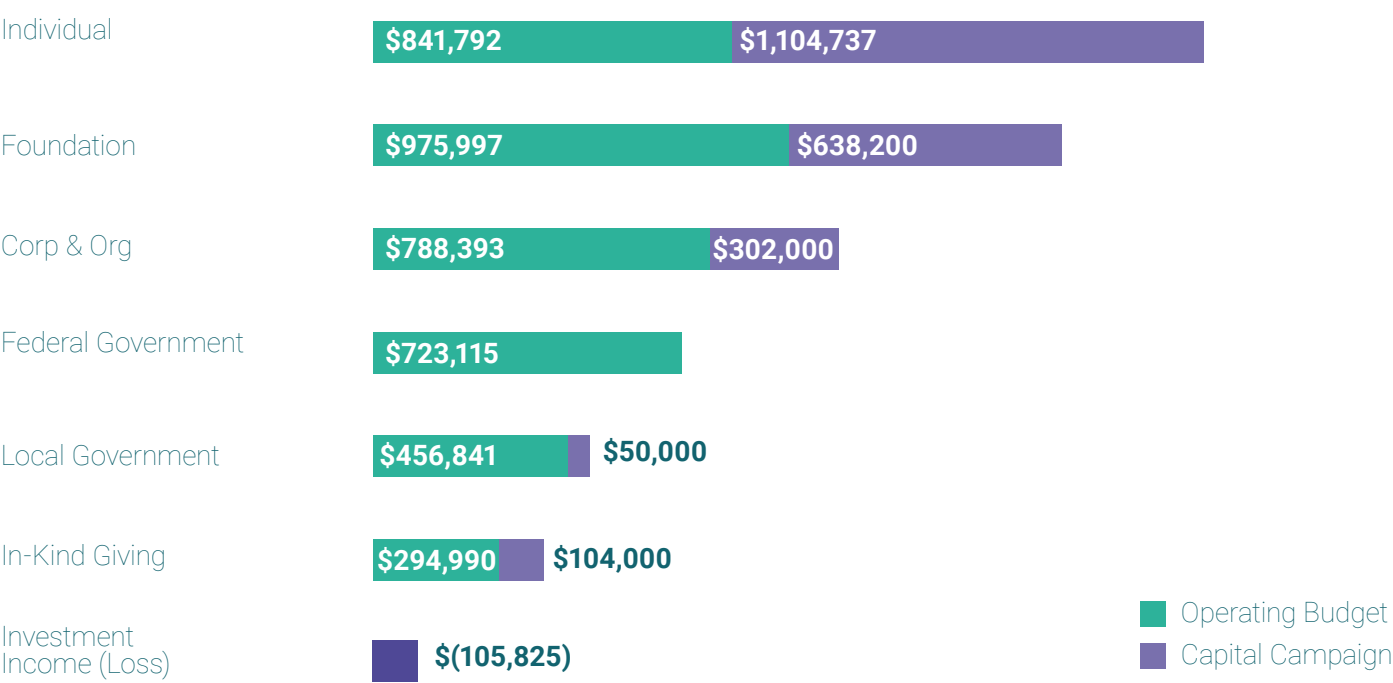


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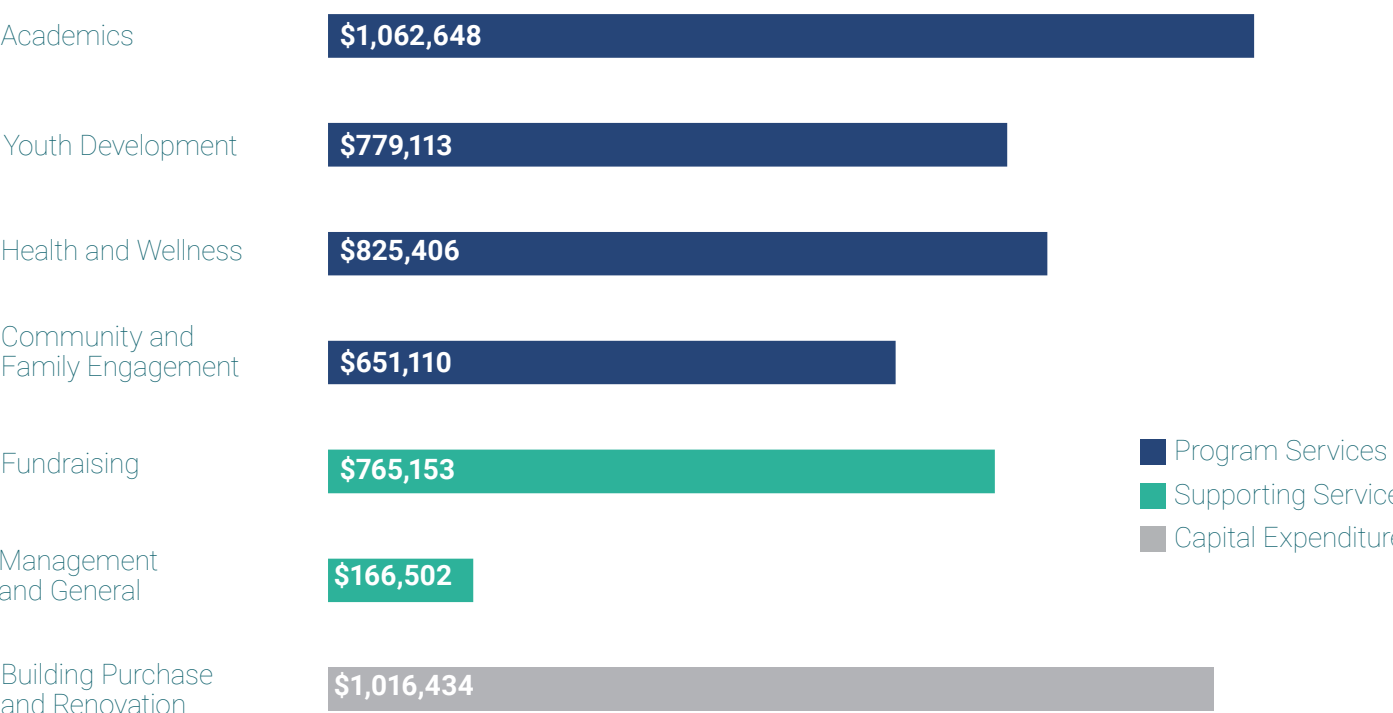
FISCAL YEAR 2022 REVENUE

Total: **\$6,174,239** | Operations: **\$3,975,302** | Campaign: **\$2,198,937**



FISCAL YEAR 2022 EXPENSES

Total: **\$5,266,367** | Operating (Program Services + Supporting Services): **\$4,249,933** | Capital: **\$1,016,434**



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COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS

Wellington Park CRC

2500 Pomeroy Rd SE, Washington, DC 20020

Stanton Oaks CRC

2424 Elvans Rd SE, Washington, DC 20020

HEADQUARTERS & MAILING ADDRESS

Horton's Kids Hub

2233 Hunter Pl. SE Washington, DC 20020

Phone: (202) 544-5033

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