



2023 Annual Report





Dear Horton's Kids Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission. 2023 marked a pivotal year for Horton's Kids as we celebrated our first year at Horton's Hub and Headquarters, a milestone that symbolizes our commitment to expanding our impact and serving the Anacostia community in new and innovative ways.

Settling into our new space at Horton's Hub has been transformative. In addition to our academic and youth development programs, The Hub has expanded our ability to offer diverse programming, including life skills, music, STEAM, and community celebrations. This versatility caters to the varied needs and interests of our community, fostering belonging for anyone who steps foot inside The Hub.

One of our proudest achievements this past year has been the creation of our strategic plan and the considerable progress made toward our year one goals. Particularly noteworthy is our focus on community safety and belonging, hosting town halls at The Hub and providing safe spaces for community members to express their concerns and ideas. Operating The Hub also provides us with the space and resources to welcome additional Southeast-based service partners, expanding access to local services and programs for our community members.

Our commitment to providing enriching summer programming was once again demonstrated through our five-week "Summer Fest" program. 135 students joined us for a summer packed full of academic instruction, social-emotional skill-building, enrichment activities, and amazing field trips – ensuring that each child had the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive during the summer months.

None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the generous support of donors like you. Thanks to your contributions, we've made significant strides toward our Securing Futures for Southeast Capital Campaign goal – with plans to reach our \$5M goal by April 2024. Reaching this goal brings us closer to our vision of extended enrollment and essential facility upgrades. Your belief in our mission fuels our determination to secure futures for the children and families of Anacostia.

As we look ahead to the future, I am filled with optimism and excitement for what is to come. With your continued partnership, we will build upon our successes, deepen our impact, and continue to be a beacon of hope and opportunity for all those we serve.

Thank you for standing with us on this journey.

Sincerely,

Erica Ahdoot
Executive Director

2023 Impact



6,265
total meals served

8

students placed in summer internships



33
families received mental health referrals

135

kids enrolled in 2023 Summer Fest



210
winter clothing items distributed

5

weeks of summer education and enrichment



14,845
diapers distributed

16

community enrichment partners



3,722
pounds of fresh produce distributed

191

hours of college and career readiness programming



8
community members on board and staff

192

sessions of life skills, field trips, and enrichment



97%
of students maintained or improved their reading levels

370

active volunteers



196
hours of high-intensity tutoring provided





Top 10 Moments of 2023

With our 2023 Annual Report, we're excited to share a retrospective journey of the top 10 moments that have shaped our year. These moments represent not only our achievements but also the collective efforts and support from individuals like you who believe in our mission. From significant milestones to impactful initiatives, **each moment reflects our ongoing commitment to serving and uplifting the Anacostia community.**

- 1 Horton's Hub Opens its Doors
- 2 The Inaugural Family Fair
- 3 Launching STEAM Programs
- 4 Don'Zeal Climbs the Grand Teton
- 5 "HK Couch" Podcast Premieres
- 6 Partnering for Impact with GIANT
- 7 "Building It Forward" with HGTV
- 8 Summer Fest 2023
- 9 Expanded Opportunities for Parents
- 10 Path to Progress: Our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan



1 Opening Doors to Limitless Futures

In its inaugural year, Horton's Hub has quickly become the heartbeat of our community—a **dynamic space where learning thrives, connections deepen, and laughter fills the air.** As an anchor to our two other Community Resource Centers, the new central programming site and headquarters has allowed us to do what we do even better.

Since its Grand Opening in February of 2023, the Hub has been host to a wide range of programs and services tailored to meet the diverse needs of our families. From weekly literacy and math tutoring to interactive STEAM sessions, community workshops and social gatherings, Horton's Hub is a space where children and families can explore their interests and take pride in their community.

One of the most significant aspects of the Hub is its neutral location—a place where families can find solace, belonging, and safety. Horton's Hub has been a haven for members of all the communities that we serve. With room to spare, the Hub allows us to bring together partner organizations and community stakeholders for important dialogues and initiatives focused on enhancing family and community safety.

As we reflect on a year of growth, new beginnings, and shared moments of triumph, we are reminded of the extraordinary power of community. **Together, we have built something truly special—a place where every child is seen, heard, and valued, and where every family finds a home away from home.** Here's to the next chapter of our journey at Horton's Hub—a journey filled with promise, possibility, and endless opportunities for growth.



Demystifying Mental Health



One sunny Saturday in May 2023, hundreds of community members gathered at Horton's Hub for the **Inaugural Family Fair** - a celebration of community wellness honoring Mental Health Awareness Month. The event marked the first official gathering at the Hub that was open to all members of the community, alongside our families in Wellington Park and Stanton Oaks, allowing us to meet our neighbors and welcome them to the newly opened Hub.

Meghan McCamis, Senior Director of Community and Family Programs, envisioned an event that would bring wellness resources directly to the community, explaining that, ***"Barriers to mental health care continue to persist for the families we serve. We want to change the narrative around seeking resources for mental health and create a joyful atmosphere to raise awareness while reducing stigma."***

Representatives from Martha's Table, Preventive Measures, and Cityblock Health were onsite to showcase existing mental health services and resources available to residents in Ward 8. Families also enjoyed a farmer's market with produce and herbs, a dunk tank, smoothie demonstrations, and outdoor sports.

Family Fair exemplifies our strategy of utilizing The Hub as a welcoming gathering space and underscores our commitment to community: drawing in new neighbors while reaffirming our dedication to the children and families we have served for 35 years. We hope it will be the first of many future events that foster community connection among all the neighborhoods reached by Horton's Kids.





3

STEAM Programs Spark Curiosity

On weekday afternoons, you'll find kids transforming pasta and marshmallows into bridges or using popsicle sticks and string to make catapults. They've explored pollutants in water sources, the physics of roller coasters, and constructed model levees.

The energy is vibrant, sparking students' curiosity: **What do you not know? What do you want to discover?**

Expanding STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programming was a priority in 2023 with the launch of our Young Engineers Program. It's part of our broader strategy to engage middle school students at a critical time and ensure they remain in school and on track to graduate high school on time.

STEAM is now integrated into day-to-day academic programs at Horton's Kids. The goal is to provide opportunities students may not have in the classroom and encourage them to think about how science and engineering impact our daily lives.

"When the kids learn about something new, they become truly invested and want to keep learning about the topic. I love seeing their brains work as they relate to the topic and try to make it their own. Our participants leave STEAM sessions full of pride and knowledge." said Ashley Ceron, Senior Manager of 6-12 Academics.

That sense of pride is important. Horton's Kids hosted its first Winter Showcase in December 2023, giving students a chance to research and develop their own science projects and present them to a panel of judges. The two winning presentations explored the circulatory system and phases of the moon.

Horton's Kids continues to grow STEAM programs among middle school students and expanded those programs to elementary and high school students in 2024.



HOW TO BUILD MUSCLES & A...



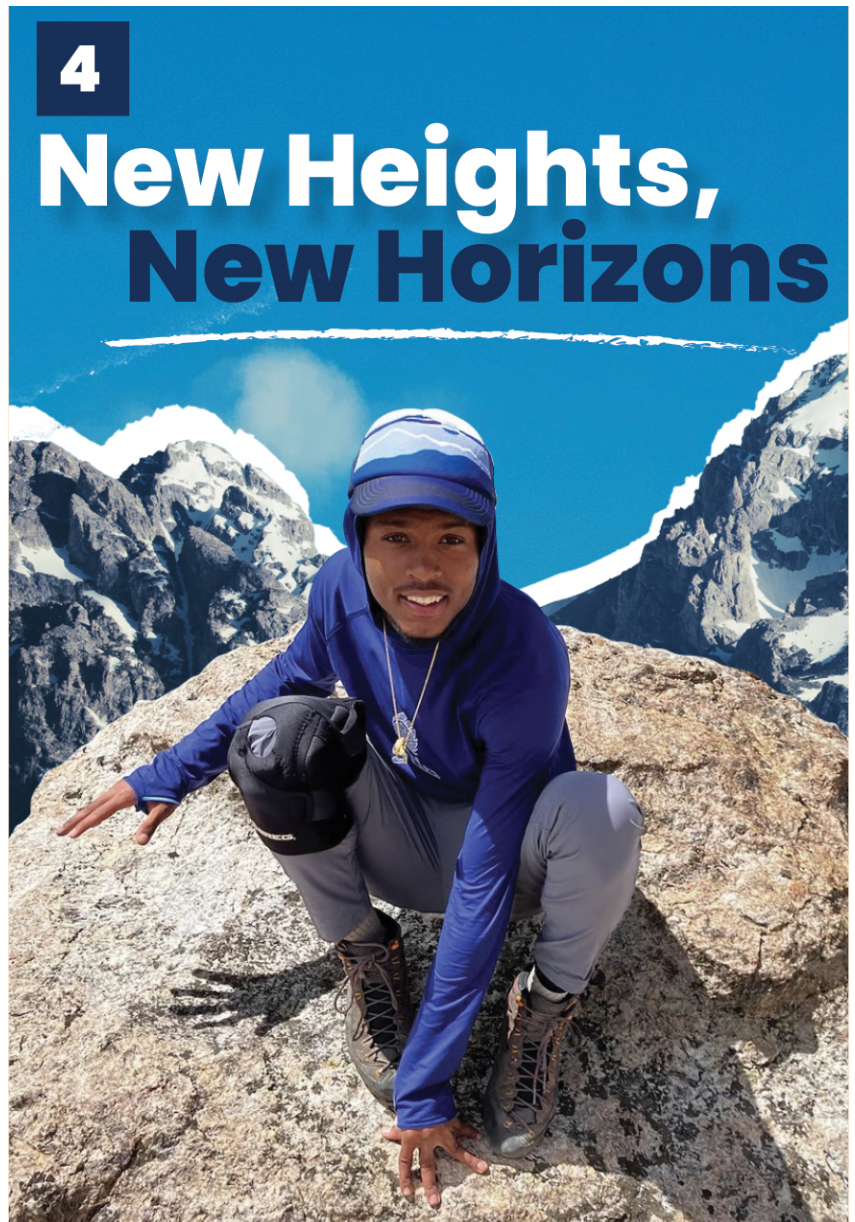
In summer 2023, Don'Zeal Davis, a long-time Horton's Kids participant, summited the Grand Teton Mountain in Wyoming alongside his cohort from City Kids Wilderness Project.

As a young child struggling to find his place, Don'Zeal connected with Horton's Kids through our Community and Family Advisor, Rahaman "Kil" Kilpatrick, marking the beginning of a supportive relationship that has helped Don'Zeal thrive. Now a high school senior, he is pursuing a career in the military with guidance from Horton's Kids.

Don'Zeal's annual summer trips to Wyoming are thanks in part to our continued partnership with City Kids Wilderness Project, an organization dedicated to connecting kids in DC with nature enrichment programs. Since 6th grade, Don'Zeal has spent his summers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, tackling new challenges like hiking, biking, kayaking, and rock climbing - and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Despite being one of the biggest challenges he's ever faced, Don'Zeal says the journey to the summit reaffirmed his grit and determination - qualities that he says Horton's Kids helped him to hone.

"To reach the top, we had to endure a challenging six-day, 40-mile hike that brought us to the big ascent. Because of severe weather, we had to make the summit in one day instead of two. We were constantly faced with discomfort, exhaustion, and a lack of patience- but I'm proud to say that 14,000 feet later, we reached the top together. It reminded me that I can do anything that I put my mind to."



Don'Zeal reaches the summit at Grand Teton National Park



Scan to hear Don'Zeal's story!

5

Community Dialogues on the HK Couch



HK COUCH

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



Scan to listen to episodes of the HK Couch!



Building healthier communities through nutritious food has been a cornerstone of the partnership between Horton's Kids and Giant Food. It was one of the first relationships Health and Wellness Manager Kaamilah Mitchell built two years ago when she started at Horton's Kids.

The partnership led to a pantry makeover in August 2022 allowing us to expand and reorganize the community food pantry at our Wellington Park Community Resource Center. In January 2023, Giant awarded Horton's Kids an additional \$20,000 grant to purchase groceries for families including Giant's pre-packaged meal kits and pantry staples.

This allowed us to introduce new items to the pantry including meat, eggs, and dairy, along with snacks like trail mix, granola bars and popcorn that quickly became favorites. Families have appreciated the ability to try new things and figure out what works for them.

"I want people to know that a food pantry doesn't have to look like one thing," Kaamilah said. **"It doesn't have to be a room full of canned vegetables. We want to take away the stigma of a food pantry and think more about 'What would you get if you were at the market?'"**

Giant remains the only full-service grocery store in Ward 8 where the families we serve live. At this location they offer classes, workshops, and work one-on-one with neighborhood residents to share recipes, tips and recommendations about healthy eating. They also joined Horton's Kids at our inaugural Family Fair in May 2023 demonstrating creative ways to blend fruits, vegetables, honey, and yogurt into tasty smoothies.

"People are asking for something that should be a basic right or necessity," Kaamilah said. **"We want our food pantries to be welcoming places people visit in their time of need to make a home a home."**



From Pantry To Plate

6



Scan to see our pantry makeover with Giant!

Horton's Kids programming doesn't stop when the school year ends; it expands. Summer Fest 2023 welcomed 135 students to the KIPP-Douglass campus, located a short walk from both Wellington Park and Stanton Oaks. Participants engaged in five weeks of programming – helping them make academic gains, explore their creativity, and build essential skills for future success.

In addition to daily reading and math programming, participants enjoyed taking dance classes, creating art, practicing martial arts skills, and experimenting with STEAM activities. Summer Fest culminated each week with Friday field trips to celebrate participants' hard work and reward their achievements. 2023 saw students on fun-filled adventures to Skyzone Trampoline Park, the National Aquarium in Baltimore, and the Air and Space Museum, to name a few.

2023 marked another summer of intensive programming and our most impactful summer yet. With your generous support, participants spent their summers achieving growth in literacy and math and making cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

Hear what 2023 Summer Fest participants had to say



Arkia, grade 6

"Summer Fest was so much fun, and without it, there's nowhere else to go during the day. In the morning, we ate breakfast and worked on our math and writing. After lunch, we chose how we wanted to spend the afternoon. I liked playing basketball and football."



Arcedes, grade 3

"I loved the cool stuff we got to make in art. One afternoon, we made ornaments with cookies. It was so hard not to eat them."



Blending Learning and fun at Summer Fest



Scan to see a recap of Summer Fest 2023!

SECURING FUTURES
FOR SOUTHEAST

Transforming Spaces Securing Futures

In July 2023, Horton's Kids proudly took center stage on HGTV's *Build it Forward* series, where hosts Taniya and Shane delved into the heart of Horton's Kids' mission alongside our Chief Program Officer Shandell Richards. Together with Lowe's, the HGTV team brought impressive improvements to our new headquarters, Horton's Hub, as well as Shandell's DC home.

The highlight of this collaboration was the breathtaking mural that now adorns the front of Horton's Hub, a symbol of resilience and community spirit, created for us by the talented Southeast-DC-based artist Luis Peralta. The episode not only showcased our work but also amplified our message of hope and community celebration to audiences far and wide.

Meanwhile the tireless efforts of our team and supporters propelled the *Securing Futures for Southeast DC* capital campaign to remarkable heights - closing out 2023 with \$4.4 million of our \$5 million goal raised.

This campaign not only ensures the sustainability of Horton's Hub but paves the way for expanded services and outreach efforts. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are set to transform our garage space into a bustling distribution center and storefront, offering vital resources to families, from pantry staples and school supplies, to clothing items and cleaning kits.

Thank you to all the donors and supporters who helped position the Securing Futures for Southeast Campaign as a cornerstone of enduring community support that will last for generations.



9 Parent Power



As we reflect on the successes of 2023, it's clear that expanded support for parents and their representation in Horton's Kids leadership has been pivotal in fostering a stronger, more vibrant community.

Wellington Park resident Shermika Settles underscores the importance of strengthening our connections with parents and caregivers in our communities. Her journey from seeking employment to securing a position at Veterans on the Rise is a testament to the program's support, helping with essential tasks like career search and completing background checks. Learn more about Shermika's story here:



2023 also saw the revitalization of the **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**, consisting of six passionate parents who have brought invaluable insights to the table. Together, they've spearheaded projects to enhance community safety during Horton's Kids' programs and provided direction on inclusive events like Family Picnic and Holiday Shop.

The PAC's influence extends beyond event planning. They've championed policies promoting accountability for parents of participants, and advocated for more engaging programs, resulting in more direct buy-in from community members.

Looking ahead, the PAC remains committed to driving positive change, with projects including Mother's Day planning, program evaluation, and exploring innovative strategies to strengthen communication among parents in the community.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of 2023, Horton's Kids continues to nurture a culture of collaboration, resilience, and opportunity for families in Southeast DC. Expanding support and parent representation in leadership enables parents to advocate for and strengthen their communities from within.

Charting a New Path for Impact



In 2023, Horton's Kids presented the roadmap for the next five years of the organization's future with a comprehensive strategic plan that's set to amplify our impact in the heart of Anacostia through community-led and place-based programs for children and families.

Our planning process kicked off in 2022 with the facilitation of surveys, interviews, and focus groups with youth, parents, community, board, and staff. Subsequently, we launched a community asset mapping exercise to understand the existing assets and resources in Southeast DC, as well as the facilitators and barriers to access.

Partnering with everyone who is part of the Horton's Kids community is critical to the plan's success. To maximize the remarkable partnerships Horton's Kids fosters, we hosted a **Corporate Ideation Summit** in November 2023. This gathering convened our corporate allies at Horton's Hub, sparking dynamic discussions aimed at optimizing resource-sharing and amplifying our collective impact in Southeast DC.

Microsoft is one long-time corporate partner who exemplifies how shared resources can benefit nonprofits. Horton's Kids is the first organization from Washington, DC, to join Microsoft's TechSpark Fellowship program – allowing us to leverage their connections to access professional development opportunities for staff and increase efficiency through technology. Our partnership has also initiated new tech forward programming like **Girls Who Code**.

Following insights from Microsoft, participants engaged with Horton's Kids leaders to explore partnership opportunities aligned with our strategic priorities. These discussions left everyone energized and inspired by the potential for corporations to become dedicated allies in achieving strategic impact over the next five years.



[View our 2023–2027 Strategic Plan](#)

2023 Individual Donor List

Thank you to the Horton's Kids 2023 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+

Anonymous
Chad Goldberg and Jamie Ekern
Catherine and Brian Jain

\$10,000 – \$19,999

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Daisy and Steven Berexa
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Porter Family Charitable Foundation
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Ian Taylor
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\$1,000 – \$2,499

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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 2023 Julie Lonardo Community Champion Award

Recipient: Yolanda Pinkney

Ms. Pinkney, a dedicated member of Horton's Kids' Parent Advisory Council and passionate advocate, has shown exceptional commitment to her community over the years. She believes in the power of community healing and investment, inspires others through her resilience, and recently acquired new skills through our entrepreneurship printing class, exemplified by her motivational "I Did It by Myself" merchandise. Her unwavering dedication to and positive impact on those around her make her a true community champion.



The 2023 Karin Walser Commitment to Service Award

Recipient: Cobec Consulting

Cobec Consulting has been a steadfast supporter of Horton's Kids for over five years. Their work has included monthly volunteering at programs like Homework Help, gift wrapping, donation drives, and community clean-up days, as well as sponsoring Home Runs for Horton's Kids and Give Thanks & Give Back. They are very proud of their partnership with Horton's Kids and are continually delighted to see the real-life benefits delivered by the organization.

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\$250,000+

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21st Century Community Learning Centers

\$100,000-\$249,999

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Learn 24
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP Greater DC Community Foundation

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Nearly 300 members of Horton's Kids community of supporters spent their Friday night out at the Fairmont Hotel for the **16th Annual Give Thanks & Give Back** on November 17. Attendees enjoyed inspirational remarks from HK Participant Don'Zeal Davis, who recounted stories from his time at Horton's Kids and shared exciting plans for his future. The event raised \$232,000 through sponsorships, a silent and live auction, and donations.

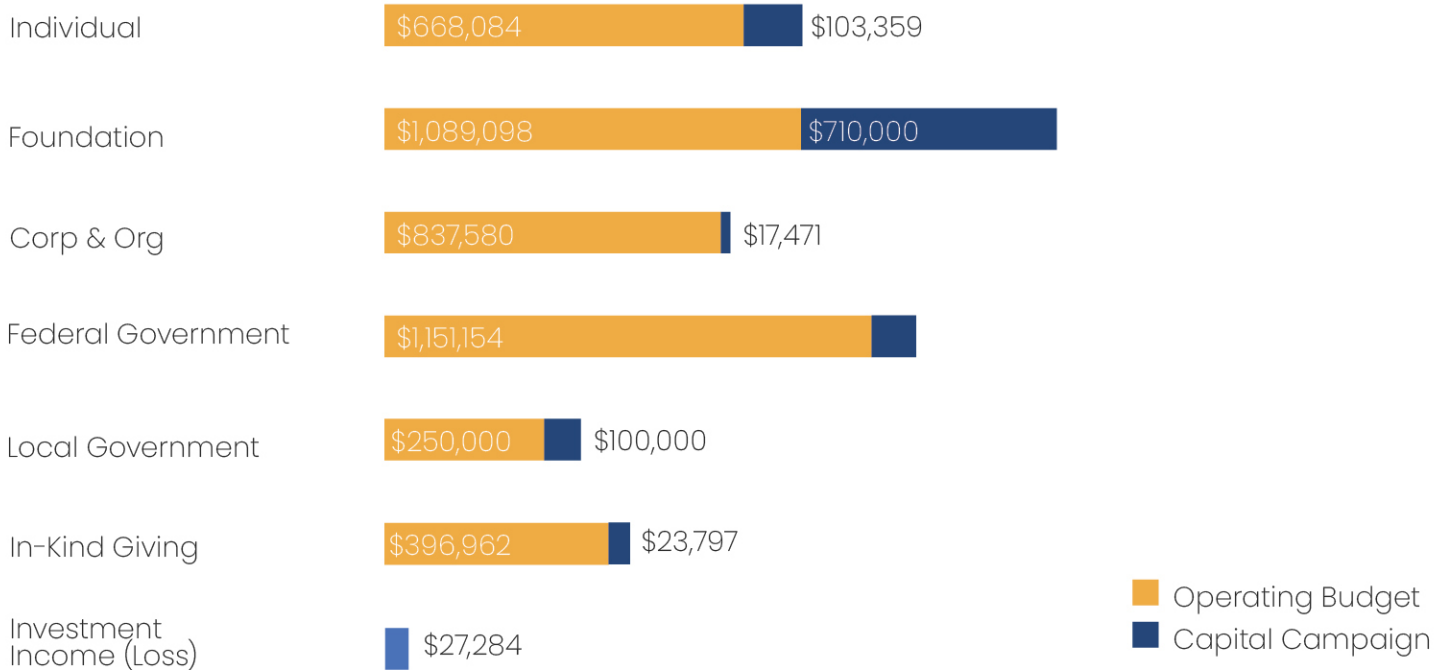


Horton's Kids and 1,000 attendees celebrated the **15th anniversary of Home Runs for Horton's Kids** at Nationals Park on July 12. More than 100 Horton's Kids participants and families enjoyed a night of VIP access to batting from home plate and playing catch in the outfield. They were joined by other VIPs, including Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ) and Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ). The event earned Horton's Kids significant media coverage with K Street Magazine and WJLA reporting live from inside Nationals Park. We raised \$575,000 thanks to the generosity of over 85 sponsors and donors.

Financials

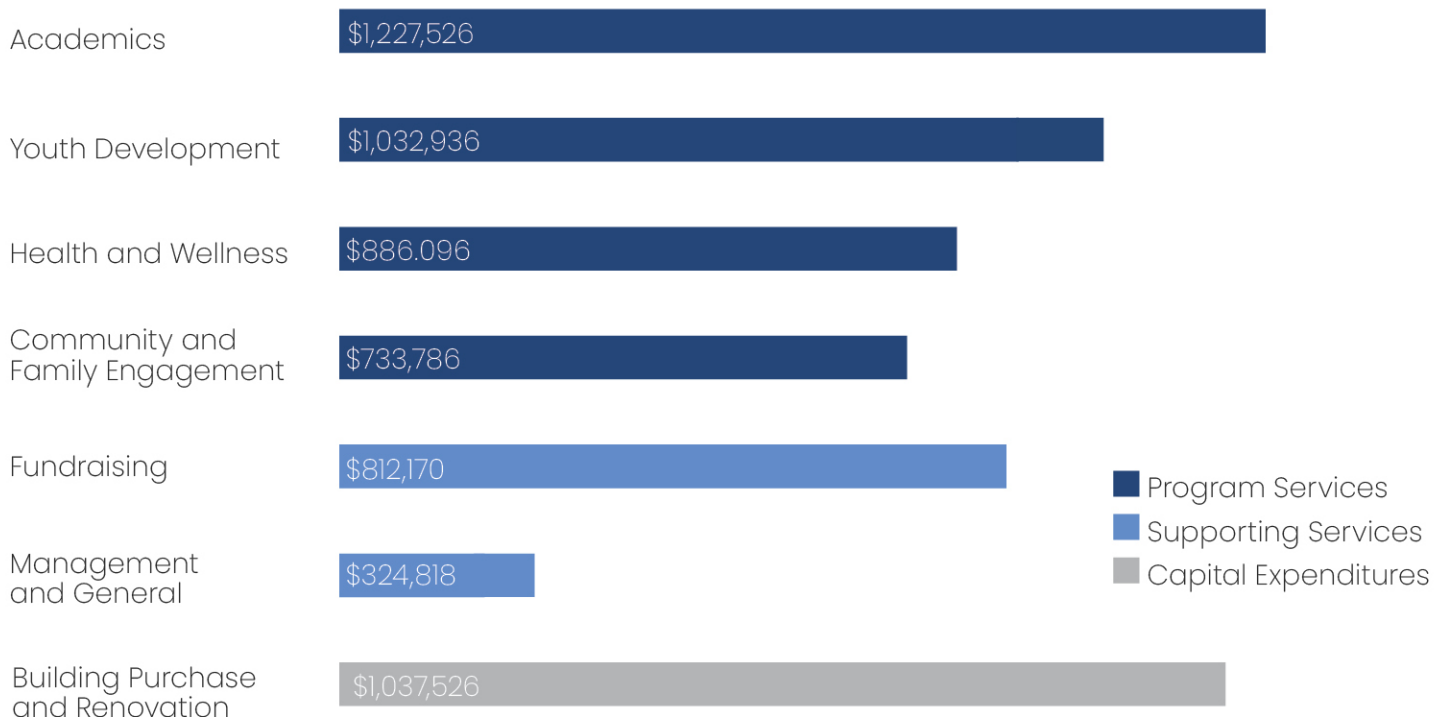
Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue

Total: \$3,975,302 | Campaign: \$1,037,526



Fiscal Year 2023 Expenses

Total: \$6,054,858 | Operating (Program Services + Supporting Services): \$5,017,332 | Capital: \$1,037,526



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Wellington Park CRC

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Stanton Oaks CRC

2424 Elvans Rd SE, Washington, DC 20020

