







HORIZONS ATLANTA 2019 Annual Report













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Steven Turner	Associate Head of School, Holy Innocents' Episcopal School

Ex-Officio

Mary Brock	Horizons National Board Member
Duncan O'Brien	Horizons National Board Member
Alex Wan	Executive Director

Our Mission

An affiliate of Horizons National, Horizons Atlanta is a transformational, community-centered summer learning program proven to close the opportunity gap. We believe that every child in metro Atlanta, regardless of background, should have the same chance at making a positive impact on their community. We accomplish this by eliminating critical barriers to success that many of our children face, thus putting them on a path to:



Read proficiently by the end of third grade



Achieve eighth grade math competency



Build swimming skills and selfconfidence



Graduate from high school, college and career ready

Our Model

The Horizons summer learning program model has a 50+ year track record for producing positive and consistent results. We invite students from Atlanta's underserved communities to attend a six-week summer program on the campus of an independent school, college, or university, and receive additional support throughout the year. Our project-based educational model is designed to fuel a life-long passion for learning, using a blend of high-quality academics with cultural enrichment and confidence-building activities like swimming, arts, and sports. In small classes led by professional teachers, our scholars dive into a rich curriculum with a focus on literacy and STEAM. Horizons Atlanta serves youth from underserved communities with a broad range of academic skills, providing them with the opportunity to experience success in a setting that, over time, becomes an inspirational and stable learning environment for scholars, families, and the greater community. Outcomes include measurable gains in reading, math, swim skills and water confidence, social skills, self-esteem, school-year attendance, and high-school graduation rates.



Dear Friends, Families, and Supporters,

Horizons Atlanta is so much more than a summer learning program - we are a community of dedicated educators, families, supporters, partner organizations, and lifelong learners who come together to further our mission of closing the opportunity gap for nearly 1,000 scholars across metro Atlanta. We thank you for joining us in this effort and are excited to share with you some of our accomplishments from 2019.

This past year, we celebrated our 20th year of ensuring that all students have access to the high-quality educational and enrichment opportunities they need to succeed and thrive, an effort that began in 1999 at Horizons Atlanta at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Sandy Springs. We are proud to report that the 15 scholars we served that first year grew to 931 in summer 2019, and that we consistently see gains of two to three months in Early Literacy, Reading, and Math skills each summer.

As we continue to expand our programs, the Horizons Atlanta regional team grows as well. In January, the Regional Office added the position of Data and Enrollment Manager, filled by Rhodope Fears, to support the increased volume and the new reporting requirements of a contract from the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. In March, Amy Johns joined the team, filling the Director of Development position and bringing with her nearly 12 years of experience in the field.

Of particular note in 2019, we were thrilled to welcome The Galloway School to our Horizons Atlanta family; in December, we announced that The Galloway School will officially come on board as our tenth program site. Horizons Atlanta at The Galloway School, led by Site Director Bayless Fleming, will partner with neighboring Scott Elementary School and is set to launch in June 2020. With ten program sites, our regional student seat capacity will grow to an impressive 1,150 scholars this year.

As always, we look forward to continuing to share our progress, growth and impact with you. We do so knowing that our greatest impact is ahead of us as our scholars today move closer to achieving their dreams and making their own mark on the world.

We know that our successes would not be possible without the generosity of many supporters. Thank you for your continued belief in us, and for making our mission yours.

With gratitude,

John F. Brock, 111

John F. Brock, III













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By the Numbers

across Metro Atlanta in 2019



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Horizons has a long history of program evaluation, including three studies out of Yale University, and we rely heavily on data to drive our continuous quality improvement efforts. Scholars are tested in Early Literacy, Reading, and Math at the beginning and end of the six-week program and their results are measured in months of growth, reported using a three-year average. We consistently see higher gains for scholars who begin the summer performing below grade-level, affirming our commitment to recruiting scholars who would most benefit from

In 2019, Horizons Atlanta recorded that 76% of scholars returned to the program after spending the previous summer with us. On average, 93% of our scholars were in attendance on any given day during the six weeks of Horizons.

In addition, evaluations consistently find that after participating in our programs, Horizons scholars:

Improve social skills

intensive academic support.

- Show increased self-confidence and motivation
- Demonstrate greater willingness to try new things
- Record higher school-year attendance
- Develop greater interest in nutrition
- Learn to swim
- Express high satisfaction with the program



The most important thing I learned at Horizons is how we can change the world."

> - Horizons Atlanta Scholar, Grade 4



Early Literacy Reading Math 1.5 months 0 1 2 3 4 5 Scholars who began the summer below grade-level Overall scholars' average

2017-2019 Average Monthly Growth Over Our Six-Week Program

New Partnerships

The Junior League of Atlanta

2019 marked the beginning of a new partnership between The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. (JLA) and our Horizons Atlanta at Georgia State University program. Established in 1916, JLA is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Horizons Atlanta at Georgia State University (GSU) launched in 2015 with 15 rising first graders and served 47 scholars in 2019. The program theme of "The Three E's - Environment, Education, Economics" is supported by rigorous academics, experiential learning activities, gardening, and exposure to the arts. Horizons Atlanta at GSU supports the out-of-school needs of the Edgewood and Mechanicsville communities, recruiting scholars from Dunbar and Toomer Elementary Schools. Greer Powell has been the Site Director of the GSU program since its beginning. She recently retired as Engagement Specialist for the Office of Student Services with Atlanta Public Schools after serving as an educator for over 25 years.

With support from JLA, Horizons Atlanta at GSU launched its first ever school-year programming in October. Each "Super Saturday" session, planned and facilitated by a team of JLA volunteers, includes an art project, literacy activities, and lunch for the scholars who attend. Centered around a seasonal theme, scholars engage in hands-on activities, learning new skills and getting creative while deepening their connection to the Horizons Atlanta community. We are inspired by the enthusiasm of JLA volunteers and are so excited to watch this partnership develop in the coming years.

"The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. has a long history of supporting early childhood education and championing the importance of literacy in our community. Partnering with Horizons Atlanta at Georgia State University on their first ever school-year program has been an opportunity for our members to work directly with young scholars and get them excited about learning. Our partnership has made an impact in the lives of the students and our member volunteers, and it is our hope that it continues for years to come."

Andrea N. Smith, 2019-2020 President, The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. "Something I've been very excited to see at Super Saturday is how The Junior League of Atlanta volunteers have carried out the Horizons commitment to scholar voice and choice. Whether it is through the foods they prepare or the activities themselves, JLA members have continuously asked our scholars for suggestions and delivered on these requests. We are glad to see attendance grow as our scholars encourage their peers to join them at Super Saturday, and we look forward to continuing the partnership with JLA."

> **Greer Powell**, Site Director, Horizons Atlanta at Georgia State University



≝JUNIOR_LEAGUE

Atlanta





State of Georgia Department of Human Services

While Horizons Atlanta programs have received grant funding from such government agencies as Fulton and DeKalb Counties, 2019 marked our first significant partnership with the State of Georgia Department of Human Services. This new multi-year contract with the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Afterschool Care program establishes Horizons Atlanta as a true private-public partnership and further demonstrates how effectively we are leveraging the investment that so many supporters have made in our programs to date.

This new partnership supports (1) instructional staff at each of our nine program sites both during the summer as well as for schoolyear programming; (2) daily transportation costs for scholars to get to and from our programs, as well as for field trips and other off-site enrichment activities; (3) Renaissance Learning's STAR assessment tools to track our scholars' academic progress through our programs; and (4) Horizons Atlanta scholars' participation in the annual DFCS statewide Youth Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) Exhibition.

The partnership has also enabled Horizons Atlanta to add a new Data and Enrollment Manager to our regional team. This position supports the Regional Program Director and our program Site Directors in recruiting scholars and providing even more robust analysis of the various quantitative data points we gather to track our impact.



"The impact of the DFCS grant on the academic learning, well-being, and success of over 1,000 Atlanta public school children in our 2019 summer programs cannot be understated. This incredible public-private partnership is allowing young people from the most vulnerable sectors of our community to unlock their talents, potential, and confidence and maximize their success in education for life."

Kevin Glass,

Horizons Atlanta Board Member and Head of School, Atlanta International School

Swimming



Through our summer programs, each scholar spends 2-3 hours per week in a local pool learning from qualified swim instructors. As our scholars develop and hone this life-saving skill, they also build confidence, stay active, and create invaluable communities of trust and support where everyone is cheered on to success. A big part of what makes Horizons programs so special is that in addition to the academic and enrichment opportunities that we offer, every scholar also learns how to swim. Around 80% of children enter the program with little or no water skills, and many have a fear of water that stems from their families' lack of experience and access to swimming pools.









We celebrate this success each summer at our Horizons Atlanta Regional Swim Meet. This annual event is one of our favorites for how it builds community both within and across our nine program sites.



In 2019, Horizons' rising fourth graders from all across the region came together at the Georgia Tech McAuley Aquatic Center to compete in relay races and cheer each other on before finishing the morning off with free swim and a pizza party.



Parents and family members were encouraged to attend to see their scholars in action, and each scholar returned home that afternoon with a medal marking their achievement.













100% Club Breakfast

The Horizons Atlanta 100% Club is our scholar sponsorship giving circle for donors who commit to funding 100% of one child's summer learning experience at one of our nine signature sixweek programs. In late May, we hosted a friend-and-fundraiser breakfast to give current members the chance to share their passion for our organization and inspire others to get involved. Emceed by HLN Anchor Susan Hendricks, attendees heard stories of Horizons Atlanta's mission and impact from Horizons Atlanta Board members John Brock and Kevin Glass as well as from special quests Georgia Tech President G.P "Bud" Peterson and Horizons Atlanta at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School scholar Laura Avalos.

Impact Awards

Held in mid June, the Horizons Atlanta Impact Awards dinner was our opportunity to formally recognize and thank the foundation, corporation, and individuals who contributed greatly to our success in 2019. With Horizons National staff in attendance, we were proud to present awards to Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, The Coca-Cola Company, former board member Louise Wells, Holy Innocents' Episcopal School, and to Vera Woods, Academic Director for our HIES program who has been with Horizons Atlanta since its inception 20 years ago.

Horizons Atlanta at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School 20th Anniversary Celebration

Summer 2019 marked the 20th anniversary of the oldest Horizons Atlanta program at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Sandy Springs. We celebrated on Sunday, September 15th, with Horizons scholars, families, alumni, donors, and supporters at a carnival-themed party held on the school's campus. Attendees enjoyed games, balloon and face paint artists, a photo booth, and carnival food.



Scholar Honorees:

Atlanta International School - Kevin, Grade 5 Atlanta Technical College - Amadeus, Grade 6 Clark Atlanta University - Alison, Grade 7 Georgia State University - Demarco, Grade 5 Georgia Tech - London, Grade 6 Holy Innocents' Episcopal School - Jesmary, Grade 9 Kennesaw State University - Samantha, Grade 5 Purpose Built Schools - Howard, Grade 4 Woodward Academy - Isla, Grade 8

Horizons Honors

Chaired by philanthropists Stacy and Jim Scott, Horizons Honors 2019 was our inaugural fall fundraising event recognizing one exceptional scholar from each of our nine sites who embodies our core tenets, "Inspire, Build, Transform." With the contributions and commitment of our event Chairs, our sponsors, and our donors, this event was a huge success, and we could not have been more grateful for the support of all who attended and helped make the evening possible.

We were so proud to have the community join us in celebrating the brilliance of our scholars and sharing the unique spirit of Horizons Atlanta through the recitation of the Horizons Atlanta Daily Affirmation (HADA), a powerful anti-cyberbullying video by Horizons Atlanta at Clark Atlanta University scholars, and a live performance by members of our Atlanta Technical College program. The night was emceed by our very own Kim Jones, Program Director of Horizons Atlanta with Purpose Built Schools, and board member and Atlanta International School Headmaster Kevin Glass led the crowd in a lively text-to-give session to conclude the evening.

Horizons Honors



Through the generosity of many, we raised over \$90,000 to directly support our mission to ensure that 100% of children in metro Atlanta have the opportunity to make an impact in their community. Special congratulations to each of our exceptional Horizons Honors 2019 scholars, and we cannot wait for 2020!

2019 Events





Leadership Awards

Horizons Atlanta Awards and Accolades

As the first multi-site region to be adopted in the country, Horizons Atlanta has long been a leader in the affiliate network. We pride ourselves on the efficiencies of our model, our dedication to quality improvement and continuous growth, and the quality of our staff. In 2019, three of our team members were honored at the regional, statewide, or national level for their work with Horizons Atlanta.



Horizons Leadership Award Sirocus Barnes

Sirocus Barnes, Site Director of our Horizons Atlanta at Georgia Tech program, was recognized with the Horizons Leadership Award at the Horizons National annual conference in March. This award is given annually to a Site Director who contributes both on a local and national level, embodying the spirit of Horizons.



Horizons Atlanta Impact Award Vera Woods

We honored Vera Woods, Academic Director of Horizons Atlanta at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School, at the Horizons Atlanta Impact Awards in June. A retired kindergarten teacher, Vera has been with the program since it began 20 years ago as the first in the region. Her energy, joy, and passion for the work have touched so many scholars, and we are grateful for all that she brings to the Horizons Atlanta team.



Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development Leadership Award Christine Brodnan

Regional Program Director Chris Brodnan was presented with the Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development Leadership Award in October. This award, given to one Georgia afterschool leader, honors a youth development professional who demonstrates an understanding of the critical value of high quality youth development programs and exemplifies excellence in meeting the highest standards of quality and the needs of children, youth and families in their community.

Financials









Regional Staff

Alex Wan **Executive Director** awan@horizonsatlanta.org

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Amy Johns Director of Development ajohns@horizonsatlanta.org

Rhodope Fears Data and Enrollment Manager rfears@horizonsatlanta.org

Addy Campbell AmeriCorps VISTA acampbell@horizonsatlanta.org



Host Partners + Staff

Host Partners

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ΑΤΙΑΝΤΑ TECHNICAL COLLEGE



GeorgiaState University

Georgia

HOLY INNOCENTS

Atlanta Technical College Sharron McIntyre, Site Director smcintyre@horizonsatlanta.org

Clark Atlanta University Dr. Rebecca Dashiell-Mitchell, Site Director rdashiellmitchell@horizonsatlanta.org

Kelsey Bunker and Chris Rhue, Site Directors

Georgia State University Greer Powell, Site Director gpowell@horizonsatlanta.org

Georgia Tech Sirocus Barnes, Site Director sbarnes@horizonsatlanta.org

Holy Innocents' Episcopal School Kate Kratovil, Site Director kkratovil@horizonsatlanta.org

Annette Watts, Interim Site Director

Kennesaw State University

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LaVasia Bullard, Site Director

lbullard@horizonsatlanta.org

Purpose Built Schools



WOODWARD ACADEMY



Woodward Academy Kristin Jackson, Site Director kjackson@horizonsatlanta.org



Funding provided in part by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Department of Community Development.







The Horizons Atlanta 100% Club celebrates our mission and commitment to ensuring that 100% of children have the opportunity to make an impact in their community. Donors commit to funding 100% of one scholar's summer experience with a donation of \$2,500 or more, helping us reach our goal of 100% of scholars reading proficiently by the end of third grade, achieving eighth grade math competency, building swimming skills and self-confidence, and graduating from high school, college and career ready, because we believe 100% of scholars matter.

Thank you to our 100% Club Members!

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Natalie and Tom Epperson

Lisa and Peter Aman Angel & David Anbari Mike and Andreane Anderson Sarah and Lamar Anderson Anonymous (2) Paul and Leanne Barton Brenda Bell Tom and Jennifer Bell Scott Bernstein and Melissa Knowles Betsy and Roger Birkholz Tori and Erik Bjerke Jim and Sarah Borders Rafael and Patricia Bras John and Mary Brock Kevin and Elizabeth Brown Paul and Lisa Brown Andrew and Linda Bruner Mark and Heather Buffington Tiffany and Joe Burns Karen and David Calhoun Pat and Lindsey Carroll Jeff and Wendy Clark Jennifer Collins Pete and Ada Lee Correll Stacy and Jim Cullinan David Dase and Jacqueline Flake Chris and Rosalyn Devine Rachel Dinerman **Bill and Lisa Douglas** Brandon and Lindsey Downs Walt Ehmer

Yolanda and Lee Adrean

ONA

Frank and Karen Fallon Dave Fedewa and Christy Leschaloupe Jeff and Twyla Fendler Christian and Anke Fischer Johnny and Laura Foster Beth Garrett Tom and Sandy Gay Tricia and Matt Gephardt Kevin and Stefani Glass Christina Graham and Jeremy Deitzer Sam Gude and Lynn Jarrett-Gude David and Mary Haddow Alexis and Michael Hambrick Jim and Susan Hannan Kenneth and Kathryn Henderson Doug and Lila Hertz Parker and Cheryl Hix Irene and Ronald Johnson Nancy and Les Juneau Jim Kieffer Pam and Dwaine Kimmet Marianne and Richard Kipper Robert and Laura LaChapelle Aron and Kimberly Levine Sherwin Loudermilk David and Diana Mack Lisa McFarland Christopher and Elizabeth Morris Duncan and Jennifer O'Brien Gunnar and Tonya Olson

Jason and Kerry Owen Todd Pawlowski Bud and Val Peterson Dave Peterson Arnie and Catherine Pittman Jim and Christina Price Kim Reddy Ashley and George Reinhardt Bill and Ashley Rogers Jim and Stacy Scott Victoria Seals Mark and Meredith Shaughnessy Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith Lucy Soto and Stephen Macauley Jan and Lever Stewart Michael Stewart and Melisa Rathburn-Stewart **Michael Stimpert** Dave Stockert and Cammie Ives Autumn Terry in honor of Joan Terry Al and Melba Trujillo Steven and Cheryl Vicinanza Terri & Kevin Wade Laura and Russell Wagner Alex Wan and Joe Bechely James Wells Louise and Tom Wells Craig West **Richard and Jodi Williams** John and Ellen Yates

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HORIZONS ATLANTA

Institutional Partners

Alice + Olivia Atlanta Dream Atlanta Foundation Atlanta International School Atlanta Public Schools Atlanta Capital Management Bank of America BB&T Bentley Atlanta Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation Camp-Younts Foundation Carroll Organization CEISMC Clark Atlanta University Cleo Meyer, State Farm Agent Community Consulting Teams Atlanta The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta Creating Connected Communities



Melissa Knowles, CNN correspondent for HLN's "Morning Express with Robin Meade," Horizons volunteer, and wife of a Horizons Atlanta board member, films part of a highlight on our organization that aired in November.



Horizons Atlanta scholars, together with Horizons National board member Mary Brock, take to the court before an Atlanta Dream game at State Farm Arena in June. CSG Interactive Messaging DeKalb County Human Services Department Deloitte Consulting Draper James . Duke Realty First American Frances Hollis Brain Foundation Fulton County Community Services Program Fulton County Schools Garden Hills Pool Georgia Aquarium Georgia Department of Human Services Georgia Pacific Foundation Georgia Power Foundation Georgia State University Georgia Tech Georgia Tech Foundation Goizueta Foundation The Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement GreyStone Power Foundation, Inc. Harriet McDaniel Marshall Trust/SunTrust Trusteed Foundations Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church Holy Innocents' Episcopal School Horizons National IBM Ida Alice Ryan Charitable Trust Imlay Foundation Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation



Representatives from Bank of America, our presenting sponsor, attend our inaugural fall fundraiser, Horizons Honors, in October.

JALS Foundation John and Mary Franklin Foundation Junior League of Atlanta Kennesaw State University Kiwanis Club of Lost Mountain Leo Rose Jr. and Charlotte Rose Family Supporting Foundation Mary Allen Lindsay Branan Foundation McKinsey & Company Mercedes-Benz, USA Morris, Manning & Martin NCR Foundation Neeley Bain/Dorsey Alston Neiman Marcus New York Life Foundation Oxford Properties, LLC Passion City Church Patterson Family Foundation Paulding County Schools Pittman Construction Company **PNC** Foundation Primerica Primerica Foundation Purpose Built Schools Atlanta PWC PWC Charitable Foundation Realan Foundation Richard and Marianne Kipper Foundation



Georgia native and current Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Josh Dobbs visits the Horizons Atlanta at Georgia Tech program as a Mystery Reader.

Rotary Club of Buckhead Sandy Springs Society Sara Giles Moore Foundation Sartain Lanier Foundation Schiavi Family Foundation The David, Helen and Marian Woodward Fund The Galloway School The Home Depot Foundation The John and Wilhelmina D. Harland Foundation The Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation The Stockel Family Foundation The Waterfall Foundation TW Price Gilbert Jr. Charitable Foundation United Way of Greater Atlanta WINGS for Kids WellsFargo Foundation Woodward Academy Young Men's Business Club of Moss Point Zeist Foundation



On July 10th, Creating Connected Communities hosted a Summer Learning Carnival for the entire Horizons Atlanta region in celebration of National Summer Learning Week. On behalf of the Atlanta City Council, Matt Westmoreland proclaimed July 10th Horizons Atlanta Day in the city of Atlanta.



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horizonsatlanta.org

Photos by Katie Brown and Dan Lax













