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Horton's Kids Selected as Part of Microsoft's National TechSpark Program to Grow Economic Opportunity for Families in Washington, DC

Horton's Kids and Microsoft to work together to maximize impact and efficiency of program delivery.

Horton's Kids announced today that it will be working with Microsoft TechSpark to deploy technology and software to help expand the organization's reach in Southeast Washington, DC. The organization, which has historically relied on analog systems to conduct registration for programs and distribution of essential items to families, will transition enrollment and ordering to an online portal, saving caregivers and staff valuable time.

Horton's Kids, an award-winning D.C. nonprofit, was founded in DC's Ward 8, 34 years ago. They work to ensure that where a child is born will not dictate their future, and that every child graduates from high school ready to succeed in college, career, and life. Through a generous grant from Microsoft, Horton's Kids has selected Nadine Wilson (Senior Manager of Human Resources) as their TechSpark Community Engagement Fellow. Through this fellowship, Nadine will receive the necessary training to help the organization make innovations using Teams, the Microsoft suite, and Asana.

Horton's Kids, who already supports caregivers with job searches and developing computer skills, will also extend their work and partnerships to include digital literacy as part of the TechSpark grant. These critical services for adults and caregivers are available at the organization's three Community Resource Centers – located just steps away from where families live.

Horton's Kids recently completed their five-year strategic plan, identifying deepened impact in the community-led and place-based provision of children and family programming in the under-invested community of Anacostia, Washington, DC, as our overarching goal. They are thrilled to build on their long-time relationship with Microsoft to leverage technology to maximize our impact and efficiency in meeting this strategic goal.

"Since we launched TechSpark in 2017, we've helped communities secure more than $125 million in funding and helped create thousands of jobs," said Kate Behncken, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft Philanthropies. "By expanding TechSpark to all 50 states, we hope to continue our hyperlocal, partner-driven work to help communities realize the potential of technology and foster greater economic opportunity."

Earlier this year, Microsoft announced the expansion of its TechSpark program to tackle digital inclusion in four focus areas: digital access, digital skills, computer science education, and digital transformation with local based organizations. Since its inception in 2017, TechSpark has helped its eight communities secure more than $125 million in community funding, skill 55,000 people, and create 3,300 jobs. Read more about Microsoft TechSpark here.

To learn more about Horton's Kids, get involved, or donate, visit www.hortonskids.org. For non-media inquiries, please contact brad@hortonskids.org

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