Horton's Kids
Securing Futures for Southeast









2025 Annual Report

www.hortonskids.org

Responding to a Year with Many Unknowns

A Message from CEO Erica Ahdoot
& Board Chair Monique Frazier




Dear Horton's Kids Community,

2025 was a difficult year. Not just for Horton's Kids, but across Southeast DC and the nonprofit sector. Federal funding uncertain. The safety nets families count on felt less secure. And the ground kept shifting under all of us.

But here's what happened: we didn't pull back. We leaned in.

Every day, in Wellington Park, Stanton Oaks, and at The Hub, the work continued — tutoring, meals, family support, summer camp, community. Families walked through our doors during one of the most challenging stretches in recent memory and found something solid. Children found people who believed in them. Caregivers found a community that recognized their strength and stood with them.

This year we deepened our commitment across all three strategic pillars — Educational Attainment, Family Stability, and Safety & Belonging. Not in spite of the uncertainty, but because of it. When the need is this clear, you don't slow down.

To our donors, funders, and volunteers who showed up, gave generously, and stayed the course through an uncertain year — thank you. Your commitment is what kept us steady. We're proud of what this community built together in FY2025, and the pages that follow tell that story.

With deep gratitude,

Erica Ahdoot
Chief Executive Officer

Monique Frazier
Board Chair, Capitol Counsel





Mission & Vision

Horton's Kids partners with children and family members in Washington, DC's Ward 8 to ensure that every child graduates from high school prepared to succeed in college, career, and life. Our vision is that children growing up east of the Anacostia River have consistent access to the long-term relationships, resources, and opportunities necessary to achieve academic success, strong well-being, and economic mobility.

History

Founded in 1989, Horton's Kids has over 36 years of experience serving children and families in Ward 8, Washington, DC. What began as a small after-school tutoring and mentoring effort has grown into a comprehensive, place-based organization serving more than 700 children and family members annually through integrated academic, family, and community programming.

Horton's Kids makes a long-term commitment to each family, providing year-round support across three pillars: Educational Attainment, Family Stability, and Safety & Belonging. We operate from Horton's Hub in and two Community Resource Centers embedded directly within the housing communities of Wellington Park and Stanton Oaks in Anacostia. Any child or family member living within half a mile of our Hub can access services.

As a result of this sustained investment, students enrolled in Horton's Kids are twice as likely to graduate from high school compared to similarly situated peers in Ward 8.



Our Three Pillars



Educational Attainment

Students reach higher levels of educational achievement and graduate with clear post-secondary plans

At Horton's Kids, we believe that every child — regardless of zip code — deserves access to a high-quality education and the support to thrive in it. In FY 2025, **254 students participated in our after-school program and 158 attended summer camp**, where year-round, high-impact tutoring in literacy and math helped them stay on track and move forward. We also worked with parents to advocate for their children in schools, helped with school applications and placement, and engaged deeply with school administrators.

The results speak for themselves: **86% of students maintained or increased their reading levels, 90% maintained or increased their math levels, and 100% of seniors graduated on time**. Our STEAM enrichment programs, internship and career exploration opportunities, and college tours continued to connect young people to futures full of possibility — while social-emotional learning and mentorship helped them build the resilience and confidence to get there.



Family Stability

Resources and support networks promote family and community cohesion, well-being, and self-sustainability

A child thrives when their family thrives. That's why Horton's Kids wraps its arms around the whole family — providing the essential resources, support, and community connections that help caregivers and parents build stable households.

In FY 2025, **we distributed over 15,000 meals, 7,000 diapers, 720 fresh produce bags, 300 winter coats, and 300 backpacks filled with school supplies.** We delivered nearly $500,000 in direct cash and in-kind assistance to families, and 155 individual households accessed family essentials through our three distribution centers. Through our new Community CAREgiver Collective, 38 parents graduated from evidence-based parenting programs — rating their experience a remarkable 4.9 out of 5 stars and reporting an average 2.2-point increase in overall life satisfaction. Finally, our Family Resilience Fund supported 60 additional households.



Safety & Belonging

A sustained reduction in violence leads to safer, more supportive environments where every child and family belongs

Safety is not just the absence of violence — it is the presence of trust, connection, and community. In FY 2025, Horton's Kids deepened its commitment to creating spaces where children and families feel genuinely seen, supported, and valued.

We held **8 healing circles, bringing community members together to process difficult experiences** and build bonds of collective care. Through restorative justice partnerships, our Parent and Youth Advisory Councils, and our Safety Task Force, we continued to elevate the voices of those we serve — because lasting change is only possible when community members lead it. **Among the 10 families served in crisis this year, 70% were stabilized within three months** — a testament to the power of compassionate, coordinated support.

Our Impact by the Numbers

FY 2025 | September 2024 - August 2025

Educational Attainment

254
kids served in After-School Program

158
kids Served in Summer Camp

487
Hours of High-Impact Tutoring & Enrichment

86%
of students maintained or increased reading levels

90%
maintained or increased math levels

90%
of seniors graduated



100%
of summer participants maintained or improved skills

Family Stability

15,000+
After-School Meals Distributed

60
Caregivers served through Family Resilience Fund

80
Families Received Weekly Groceries

423
Families Accessed Family Essentials

38
Parents Graduated from the Community CAREgiver

300
Winter Coats Distributed

300
Backpacks Distributed

1,500
Holiday Shop Gifts Given to Families



$500,000
in Direct Cash & In-Kind Assistance

Safety & Belonging

70%
of Families in Crisis Stabilized Within 3 Months

80%
of youth average or above in social-emotional learning

8
Healing Circles Held

100%
Families assessed as in need are referred internally and externally for services

100%
Households received individual touchpoint/assessment quarterly household stability (economic, safety, advocacy, health and wellness)



4.9/5
Caregiver Satisfaction Rating with an average 2.2-point increase in overall life satisfaction

Program Highlights

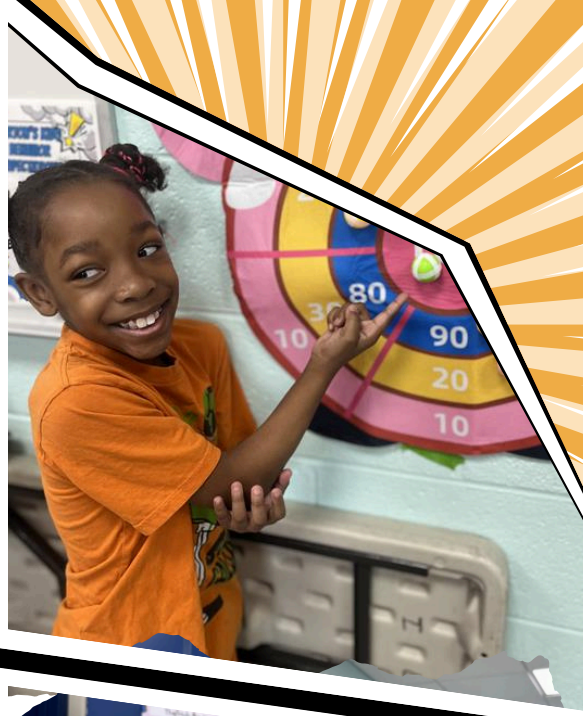
SUMMER CAMP: BIG HEROES & LITTLE HEROES

This summer, Horton's Kids became a place where everyday kids discovered the superhero within. Our Summer Camp was built around a heroes theme — filling every classroom with capes, courage, and possibility. Each classroom was named after a beloved superhero, and each day kids were reminded that heroism isn't reserved for comic books. It lives in every child who keeps showing up, keeps trying, and keeps dreaming.

And every superhero needs a mascot! Meet **Joy & Chance — Horton's Kids' very own superhero duo.** Joy is a spirited, powerful elephant who radiates light and resilience, lifting children's hearts and spirits even in the toughest of circumstances. Chance is an equally powerful elephant who fights for equity and opportunity, embodying the belief that every child deserves a fair shot. Together, Joy & Chance capture what Horton's Kids does every single day.

(And yes — as any Horton's Kids fan knows, elephants have always had a special place in our heart.)

As captured in our summer video "**Big Heroes Helping Little Heroes",** this season was a powerful reminder: the big heroes — our staff, volunteers, older youth, and community supporters — show up every day to inspire and equip the little heroes in our programs.















Program Highlights

COMMUNITY CAREGIVER COLLECTIVE (CCC)

In 2025, Horton's Kids launched one of the most exciting new additions to our Family Stability pillar: the Community CAREgiver Collective.

Designed to strengthen families from the inside out, CCC equips caregivers with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to thrive and lead. Through the Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP), an evidence-based curriculum, caregivers engaged in interactive learning that promoted healthy parenting practices, built protective factors, and deepened family bonds.

In its very first year, CCC set a goal of graduating 30 caregivers — and surpassed it, **graduating 38.**

What makes CCC distinctive is its community-centered design. Caregivers don't just learn — they connect, support one another, and grow into advocates and leaders. Program growth has been driven almost entirely by word of mouth. Caregivers shared with neighbors and friends that CCC offered not just practical tools, but a space where they truly belong.

Program participants consistently rate CCC a 4.9 out of 5 stars, and survey respondents report climbing an average of 2.2 steps on the well-being ladder as a result of their participation in the collective.

After completing the program, caregivers join the CCC Alumni Community, gathering quarterly for continued learning, leadership development, and connection — building a lasting network of caregivers who keep showing up for one another and for their families.

> **CCC was the first space where I felt seen, not judged, and finally had the tools to support my babies and myself.**
>
> ***— CCC Participant, Cohort 1***

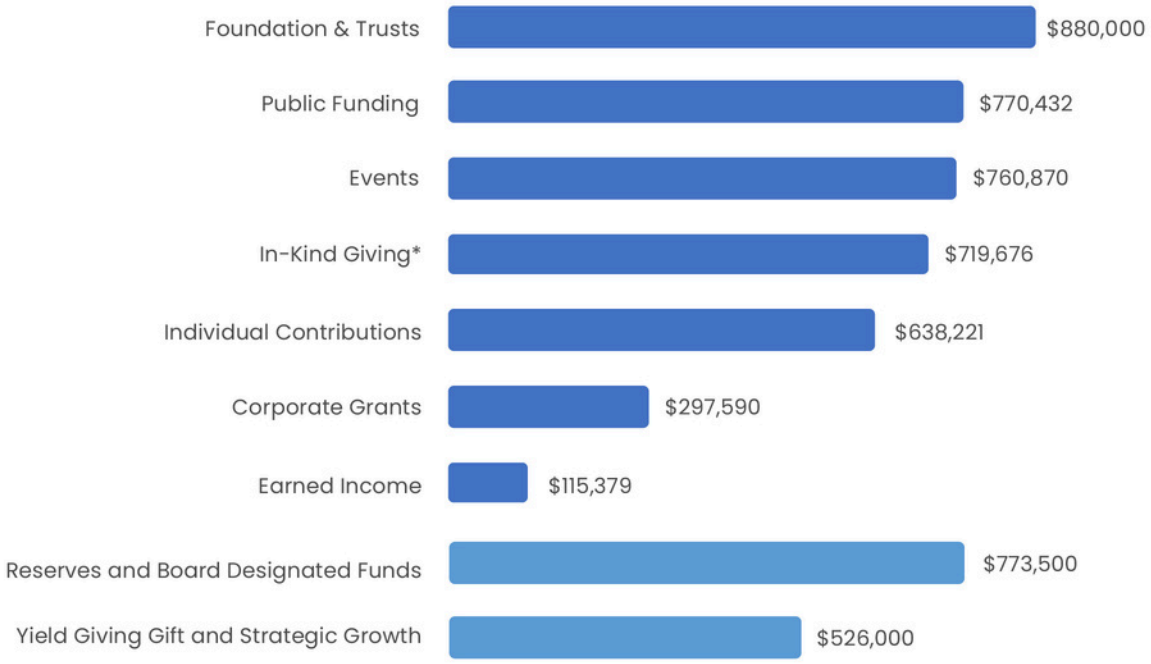
Financials

Fiscal Year **2025 Revenue**

Total: $5,481,668

Contributed & Earned $4,182,168

Reserves & Board Designated Funds $1,299,500

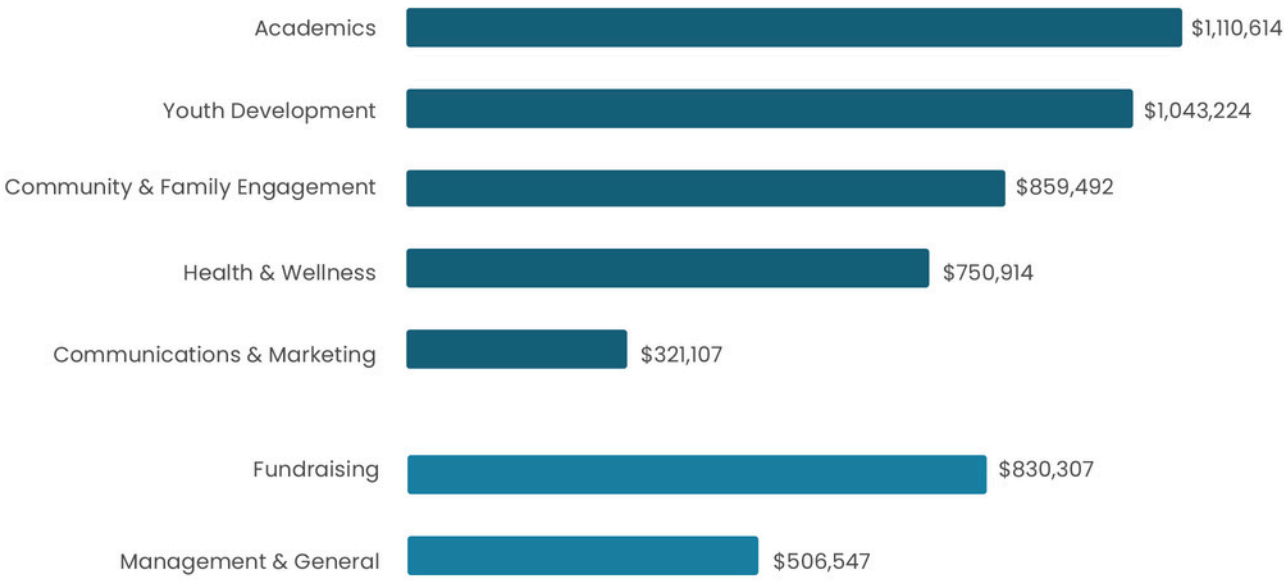


Fiscal Year **2025 Expenses**

Total: $5,422,205

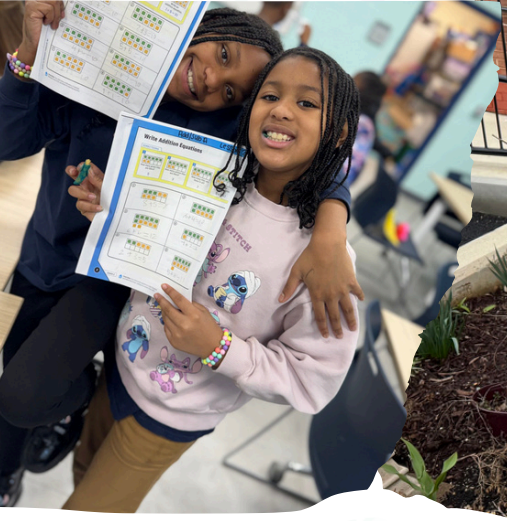
Program Services $4,085,351

Supporting Services $1,336,854



The full value of Horton's Kids' 30-year in-kind lease at Wellington Park was recorded in FY25 per the auditors.

The audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 are available at **www.hortonskids.org**







Thank YOU!

For 37 years, Horton's Kids has been rooted in Southeast DC — shaped by the strength, vision, and determination of the families and neighbors who make this community what it is.

None of this work happens in isolation. It's built on partnership: the residents who drive it forward, the volunteers who walk alongside them, the donors who invest in their vision, and the young people who carry it into the future. Every dollar, every hour, every conversation, every act of solidarity has been part of something larger — 37 years of a community writing its own story.

Together, children have gained access to books, backpacks, meals, and mentors. Families have found support in their hardest moments — food assistance, diapers, and a door that's always open. Parents have built community with one another, sharpened their skills, and stepped into leadership. Young people have graduated, gone to college, come home, and poured back into the neighborhood that raised them.

Horton's Kids has grown from basketball courts and picnic tables into a thriving, multi-site organization — because a community believed in its young people, and a wide circle of partners believed in that community.

To everyone who has invested their time, energy, expertise, and resources — in FY 2025 and across nearly four decades — thank you. You are part of what makes this work possible. And we show up, every single day, for the children and families of Southeast DC.







JOIN US
There are many ways to be part of the Horton's Kids family:

DONATE DOLLARS
Your financial support — at any level — makes a direct difference in the lives of children and families in Southeast DC.

DONATE TIME
From tutoring and mentoring to special events and skills-based support, we have opportunities for individuals, groups, and corporations.

DONATE IN KIND ITEMS
We regularly need household essentials, hygiene products, diapers, backpacks, coats, and more. Seasonal and ongoing drives welcome individual and corporate donors. **donors@hortonskids.org**

DONATE THROUGH YOUR WORKPLACE
Ask your employer about matching gifts, payroll deductions, or hosting a giving campaign. Every workplace dollar goes further when matched.

DONATE STOCK, SECURITIES, OR THROUGH A DONOR-ADVISED FUND
We welcome gifts of stock and DAF grants.

DONATE YOUR VOICE
Follow us, share our stories, and tell a friend.

CONNECT
donors@hortonskids.org

Find Us

- **Horton's Hub (Headquarters)** | 2233 Hunter Pl. SE, Washington, DC 20020 | (202) 544-5033
- **Wellington Park CRC** | 2500 Pomeroy Rd SE
- **Stanton Oaks CRC** | 2424 Elvans Rd SE

