

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



CHARTING THE COURSE TO SUCCESS

NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGE OF A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Many thanks to former board member Nan Soule for her dedicated service and inspired leadership.

both Covid-19 and loss of income due to business closures. Aside from the concern about the impact on learning for our students, we were also very alarmed by the impact on our families overall. Horizons GFA delivered meals, grocery store gift cards, and connected families to available resources to help them through the crisis.

Early on, the Horizons GFA Board of Directors stepped up and started our “Feed A Family” fund. The response and support were overwhelming and we were able to provide all our 200+ Horizons GFA families with a hot meal from one of two Bridgeport businesses, with additional support provided to families in critical need. At the same time, Feed A Family allowed us to support local businesses during a time of great need.

Staying On Course During Covid

The Covid-19 pandemic put at-risk communities like Bridgeport directly in its crosshairs, and the negative impacts have been serious and wide-ranging. Our families — many already in precarious circumstances — experienced illness and loss, unemployment, housing issues, extreme financial stress and food insecurity. In addition, not all students had access to technology, a physical space to work, or assistance from an English-speaking adult at home. For all these reasons, we felt it was critical to maintain strong links to our student community during the crisis.

As the pandemic shut down our normal in-person programming, we pivoted and adapted to create platforms and systems to deliver content via virtual pathways in order to support the academic and social-emotional growth of our students in all three of our core programs: PreK-8, High School and College. We also expanded the breadth of resources offered to more broadly support them.

Learn & Earn

When schools closed in March, we immediately launched a new virtual platform called “Learn and Earn” with live, online daily support to help our PreK-8 students with the work they received from their schools. Many of our students did not have access to the internet nor did they have devices at home, so we loaned laptops, iPads, and WiFi hotspots so all our students could engage with online work.

Our incredible teachers pulled double duty, working in their own classrooms full-time and supporting their Horizons students for several hours each day. Horizons students received supplemental virtual learning plans as well as daily schedules and routines to continue engaging their minds during the quarantine. We also created incentives to motivate and engage our students during the school closure.

Feed A Family

As is often the case in vulnerable communities, many of our families were doubly impacted by



PreK-8 Virtual Summer

As the quarantine extended through spring toward summer, it became evident it would be neither practical nor wise to hold our normal in-person summer session. As we had already developed our virtual platform over the spring months, we quickly transitioned to expanding it to a five-week summer program, again providing technology so all students could participate.

Our students engaged with their classmates and teachers from June 29th through July 31st utilizing a synchronous learning platform on Zoom. Students spent mornings focused on reading, math, and social-emotional learning (SEL). After lunch, they returned for an enrichment period — science, art, sports, drama, and cooking — followed by a special activities period during which students had individualized or small group activities. On Fridays, our normal field trip day, students were free to explore our “Virtual Friday Field Trip” experience, online visits to museums, historic sites, and natural wonders of the world. Supplies needed for all academic and enrichment activities were packaged by volunteers and delivered to families in Bridgeport every week, a complex but efficient organizational undertaking made necessary by the pandemic.

PreK-8 2020 Virtual Summer Highlights

- 96% daily average attendance rate
- Academics & SEL in the morning, enrichment & special activities in afternoon
- Learning occurred in small differentiated groups through use of break-out rooms
- Parents were fully engaged with virtual orientation, family town hall meetings, special events and teacher-parent contact
- Reading specialist continued to provide instruction to identified students
- Horizons GFA school psychologist available to students and families
- All supplies needed for academics and enrichment were packaged by volunteers and delivered to families weekly by teachers to allow brief but rewarding in-person socially distant contact with students and families



High School & College Success

Our High School and College Programs smoothly transitioned to virtual in March with coaches and students meeting over Zoom. High school summer programming for rising sophomores, juniors & seniors occurred virtually as did our College Readiness workshops. We held our annual graduation celebration via Zoom, this year celebrating our first group of college graduates! *(photo opposite page)*

2020 High School & College Milestones

- 100% Graduation, Class of 2020
- 100% College Admission & Expected Matriculation
- Average SAT for Horizons GFA class of 2020 was +238 points higher than Bridgeport average (1065 average vs 848; a score of 1010 is considered college-ready)
- Horizons GFA Class of 2020 requiring remedial coursework upon entering post-secondary program: 0% versus 79% for other Bridgeport high school graduates
- 2020-2021 programs are underway both virtually and with limited in-person engagement
- 2019-2020 College Persistence Rate of 94%

Career Exploration & Readiness

Working in partnership with The Opportunity Network, Horizons GFA is developing a comprehensive career exploration and readiness curriculum. Beginning in 10th grade, students receive training that will equip them with the skills and experience necessary to obtain employment after college graduation. Topics are varied but include resume and cover letter writing, professional conduct, networking essentials, financial literacy, and how to best utilize on-campus career services.

Career Launch Program

The culmination of the Career Exploration & Readiness initiative is the Career Launch Program. Partnering with local businesses, college juniors receive onsite training, exposure, and valuable professional experience through an internship.

We are very grateful to our Career Launch partners, whose commitment to access and community will have a powerful impact on the lives of Horizons GFA college graduates:

- Bigelow Tea Company
- Dress for Success Fairfield County
- J&M Batista Family Limited Partnership
- Greens Farms Academy
- Littlejohn and Co.
- Lone Pine Foundation
- Opportunity Network
- StriVectin
- Tauck Travel



If you know of an organization that might be interested in becoming a Career Launch Partner, please email Christina Whittaker, Director of High School & College Success, at cwhittaker@gfacademy.org.

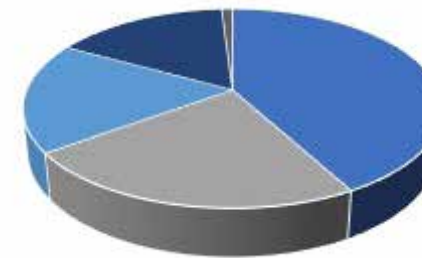
REVENUE & EXPENSES FY 2020

(July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020)

Horizons GFA is a self-funded program, with 100% of revenue coming from grants and charitable giving from foundations, individuals and community organizations. We neither solicit nor receive public funding.

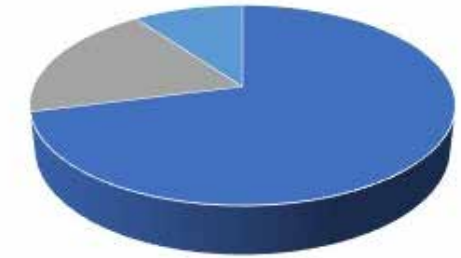
FY 2020 Revenue

Revenue Source	Percent of Total
Events	42%
Professional Foundations	23%
Individuals	18%
Family Foundations	16%
Miscellaneous	1%



FY 2020 Expenses

Expense Category	Percent of Total
Administrative	19%
Fundraising	10%
Program	71%



FY20 Fundraising Activities

Annual Appeal

Fall Gala held at The Patterson Club, November 2019 (2020 event virtual due to Covid)

2020 Golf Event at Country Club of Fairfield postponed from June to September 2020 due to Covid



WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS!

The families, individuals, and organizations listed here generously supported the work of Horizons GFA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

from July 1, 2019 to October 30, 2020. On behalf of Horizons GFA students and families, thank you!

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VSB Jewels

HORIZONS GFA STUDENT OUTCOMES



Attendance
Grades
Confidence
Motivation
Standardized Test Scores

High School Graduation Rates
SAT/ACT Scores
College Matriculation
College Degree Completion
Hope for the Future



Suspensions & Expulsions
Chronic Absenteeism
Grade Level Retentions
% of College Freshmen Requiring Remedial Coursework

20.8284073
25.6006212

20.7238529
25.9074253



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