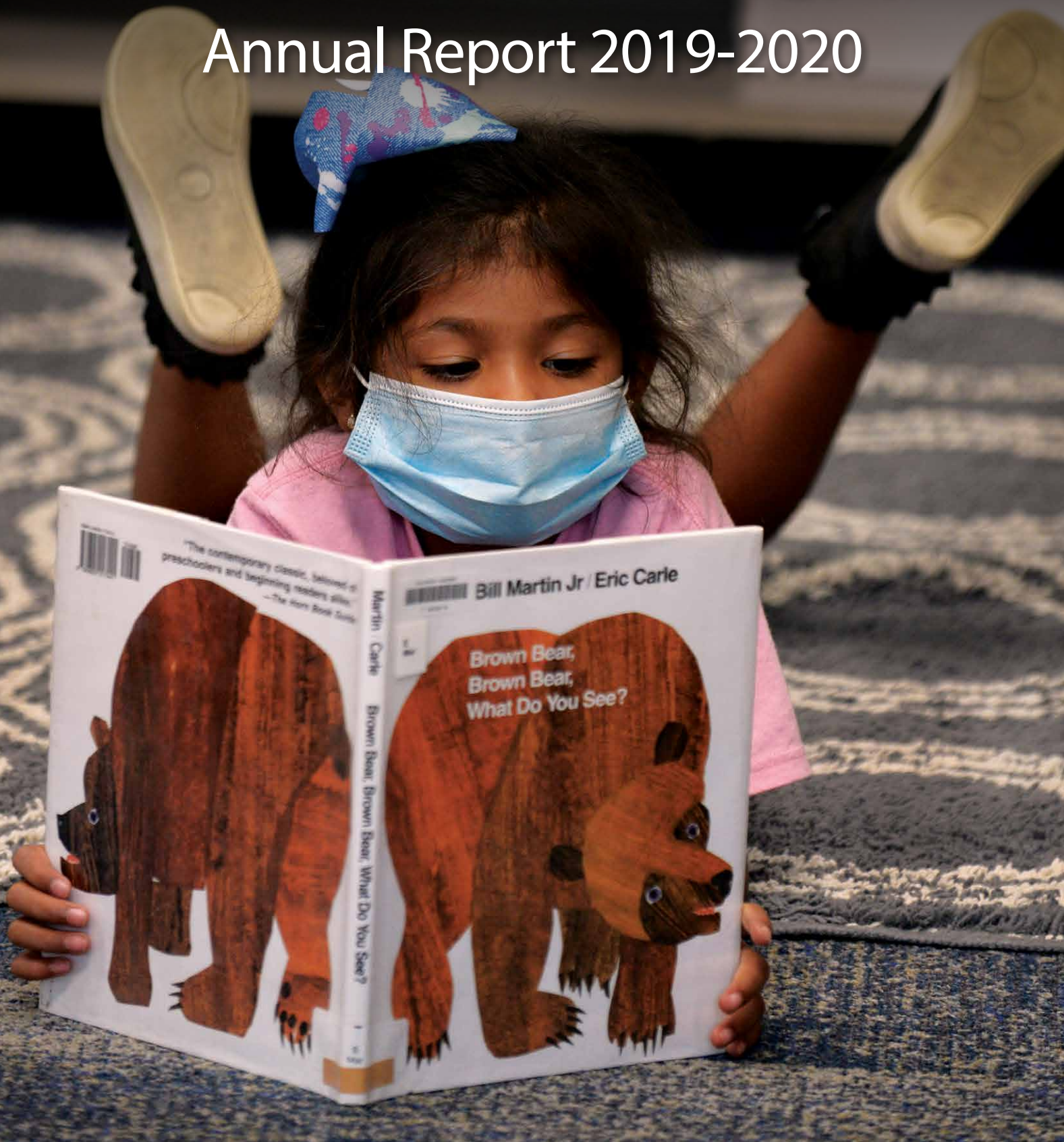


# Horizons at CA

Annual Report 2019-2020





# Horizons at Colorado Academy

## *Offering Hope and Building Community During a Time of Crisis*

**B**y providing a life-changing summer and year-round enrichment program for underserved Denver metro youth, Horizons at Colorado Academy has been a major force of positive change for our students and families since its inception more than 20 years ago. This past year, as the COVID-19 pandemic upended our lives and our communities, Horizons at CA mobilized resources and worked tirelessly to ensure that our students and families got the extra support they needed during a time of crisis.

One of the positive outcomes was the creation of a tutoring program between CA Upper School students and Horizons students. Thanks to CA's support, Horizons

was able to successfully overcome technology barriers and connect students with one another. By all accounts, the tutoring program was a big success, and our hope is to grow it in the new school year.

In keeping with its mission to serve the whole child, the Horizons summer 2020 program went well, despite the ongoing pandemic. Keeping the safety of our students, staff, and families at the forefront of our planning, Horizons provided three weeks of online instruction and interaction and three weeks of in-person programming. While it was not the usual combination of activities that students have in a typical summer, the overall goal of making the students feel cared for, heard, and part of a community, along with academic instruction, was achieved. And,

for those students who were able to join us in person, it was a welcome reprieve to being at home for months due to social-distancing requirements.

As we plan and navigate for an uncertain year ahead, we are committed to ensuring that Horizons at CA continues to be a beacon of hope, support, and resilience during these turbulent times. In order to continue our work serving some of the most vulnerable in our community, we rely on the generosity of individual, foundation, and corporate donors, as well as the substantial in-kind support we receive from Colorado Academy. Now, more than ever, Horizons is a lifeline to our students and families, and the unfaltering support of our donors makes it all possible. □



# CA Parent Brings 'Genius Boxes' to Horizons

It's a warm July morning, but the Horizons at CA Fourth Grade students don't seem to notice. Following the directions of Lead Teacher Veronica Cruz and Assistant Teacher Piper Bittman '16, they are busy creating "hoop airplanes" and engaging in a friendly competition to see how far their planes will fly. To the students, it feels like they are playing with a new toy, but they are actually having a lesson in aerodynamics, with a little physics thrown in for good measure.

Students move out of the classroom on to CA's campus, and new discoveries follow. "The best way to make your airplane fly is to move outside!" exclaims Jesus Balderrama.

"They are learning the beginning steps of becoming a scientist—create a hypothesis and do an experiment," Bittman says. "This is great, because all the studies show that the earlier children are introduced to STEM, the more apt they are to incorporate it into their career paths."

For more than 20 years, Horizons has brought underserved children from the community—Pre-Kindergarten through high school—to the CA campus for a robust enrichment program that focuses on the development of the whole child during the summer, as well as year-round programming. In summer 2020, the Horizons curriculum was augmented by a "Genius Box," which was the source of the hoop airplanes. The Genius Box is the brainchild of CA alumni parent Toi Massey, and she was delighted to have the opportunity to enhance the Horizons curriculum with STEM-related activities.

"These students have been doing engineering and science all their lives, whether they know it or not," Massey says. "If they build with LEGOs, sand castles, or blocks, they are engineers. In the kitchen, they are doing math and chemistry. If they turn up the heat on the stove, they are thermal dynamic heat transfer experts!"



Horizons student tries out her hoop airplane.

## 'I have to go get them'

Massey is the mother of recent CA graduate Kennedy Massey '20. She remembers taking Kennedy to her alma mater, Howard University, when she was a three-year-old, and photographing her in front of the Engineering building. Now, Kennedy will follow in her mother's footsteps and begin at Howard this fall. Toi Massey earned a bachelor's degree in Physics and a master's in Nuclear and Mechanical Engineering, which led to a long and distinguished corporate career.

Massey's job with Raytheon Technologies brought her to Denver for what she thought would be a one-year assignment in 2008. One year turned into 12 years. In 2011, she accepted a new position as Executive Director of Business Process Innovation and Customer Experience at Level 3 Communications, managing teams on three continents. She describes her job as "creating measurable, repeatable, and sustainable processes." Alternatively, she explains what she did with a favorite family saying: "If you don't have time to do it right, you will find time to do it again."

At Level 3, Massey looked around and saw a familiar scene. "I was the only Senior Executive of color on the campus," she says. "I realized that, if I want to have girls in these positions, I have to go get them."

## Changing the face of technology

Massey began her STEM initiative around the kitchen table in 2010. She named the nonprofit JEKL, using the names of her daughter, niece, and nephews (John, Eric, Kennedy, Lauren). The name honored the family's multi-generational commitment >>>





*Horizons Assistant Teacher Piper Bittman '16 helps her student create a hoop airplane.*



<<< to service and education—Kennedy is a fifth-generation college student.

“Kennedy’s grandmother has always said, ‘In the end, it will only matter what you have done for others,’” Massey says. “The mission of JEKL was to embrace the uninitiated child and change the face of technology forever.”

In 2012, Massey left corporate America, and within two years, launched her first STEM program with Girl Scouts of Colorado and

watched it “take off.” Since the program’s inception, JEKL has served more than 5,000 students, including children in West Africa.

When students run up to embrace Massey, she greets them by calling them “doctor.” She is sending a message to them about equity in STEM. “I’m planting the seed with them,” she says. “They say ‘Oh, I could be a doctor!’ I hope they will remember me calling them doctor and believe they can be anything they want.”

### Science, technology, engineering, and math

With remote learning in place due to COVID-19 restrictions, the “Genius Boxes” turned into “Genius Backpacks” and traveled home with Horizons students. In addition to the hoop airplanes, students discovered they had the ingredients to make slime, a spectroscope, a Morse code harmonica, and Oobleck, made famous by Dr. Seuss and loved by Horizons Fourth Grade student Paola Hernandez.

“Oobleck shows you the difference between solid and liquid,” Paola says. “And it’s fun to do with your hands!”

“From Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, our students and teachers loved the lesson plans and activities that came with the Genius Boxes,” says Horizons at CA Executive Director Daniela Meltzer. “They were age-appropriate experiences that got students super excited about STEM.”

After Meltzer mentioned the Genius Boxes to Horizons National, Massey and her team found themselves working around the clock to fulfill an order for 1,000 more Genius Boxes to be shipped to Horizons affiliates throughout the country. Thanks to Massey, a CA parent who is passionate about the future of the next generation, and Meltzer, a local Horizons leader who spread the word, Horizons students across the country could fly their hoop airplanes and themselves into the future, better equipped to conquer science, technology, engineering, and math. □

# Horizons at CA Operating Budget

## Year Ending August 31, 2020

Revenue	Amount	Percentage
Special Events and Other Fundraising	\$188,353.33	37%
Individual Contributions	166,352.45	32%
Community Foundation Grants	91,000	18%
Endowment Earnings	54,340	10%
Horizons National Program Contributions	3,568.00	1%
Corporate Matching Gifts	580	1%
Program Fees	4,255.00	1%
	<b>\$508,448.78</b>	
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	\$106,186.09	40%
Summer Program Costs	28,637.83	10%
Year Round Program Costs	9,782.35	4%
Graduate Support Costs	4,000	2%
General and Administrative Costs	114,989.57	44%
	<b>\$263,595.84</b>	

### Horizons at Colorado Academy Executive Board Members 2020-2021

Eleanora Archie	Thanh Luong
Jocelyn Ege	Julie Martin
Kathy Fenley	Amy McPheeters, <i>Board Co-Chair</i>
Laura Lee Gastis	Nina Henderson Moore, <i>Board Secretary</i>
Lisa Harris	Liz Buckingham Oertel '93
Mary Henning	Catherine Rollhaus
Meg Hill	Maggie Shapiro
Rennie Howard	Chris Tetzeli
Jeanine Hughes	Jenny Wolkon
Amy Livingston '93, <i>Board Co-Chair</i>	Maribeth Younger

#### **ex officio:**

Mike Davis, <i>Head of School, Colorado Academy</i>	Jacque Montgomery, <i>Director of Advancement and External Affairs, Colorado Academy</i>
Shane Knight, <i>Principal, Knapp Elementary School</i>	Jessica Nuñez-Hernandez, <i>Horizons Staff and Knapp Elementary Teacher</i>
Daniela Meltzer, <i>Executive Director</i>	Kellie Prall, <i>President-Elect, CA Parent Association</i>

### Horizons at Colorado Academy Advisory Board Members 2019-2020

Eleanora Archie	Thanh Luong
Karen Cannon	Amy McPheeters
Jocelyn Ege	Nina Henderson Moore
Kathy Fenley	Liz Buckingham Oertel '93
Laura Lee Gastis	Maggie Shapiro
Mary Henning	Chris Tetzeli
Meg Hill	Maribeth Younger, <i>Chair</i>
Rennie Howard	
Jeanine Hughes	

#### **ex officio:**

Mike Davis, <i>Head of School, Colorado Academy</i>	Jessica Nuñez-Hernandez, <i>Horizons Staff and Knapp Elementary Teacher</i>
Shane Knight, <i>Principal, Knapp Elementary School</i>	Renée Rockford, <i>Assistant Head of School, Colorado Academy</i>
Daniela Meltzer, <i>Executive Director</i>	Alice Rydberg, <i>President-Elect, CA Parent Association</i>





Horizons at Colorado Academy

Executive Director, Daniela Meltzer  
3800 S. Pierce Street, Denver, CO 80235 | 303-914-2537  
[horizons@coloradoacademy.org](mailto:horizons@coloradoacademy.org) | [coloradoacademy.org/horizons](https://coloradoacademy.org/horizons)

