



Horizons Colorado

An Oasis of Hope

t is amazing to think that in 1998,
Horizons at Colorado Academy
launched with just 13 students. Now,
24 years later, Horizons serves a record
number of students—more than
200—from Pre-K to high school! Our hope
is that we spread our wings and serve even
more students in the not-too-distant future.
Through the years, this program has touched
hundreds of students. We are so fortunate
to have many of our current high school
students and former alumni involved with
the program that has left an incredible
impact on their lives, their family's lives, and
our community.

It is indisputable that the pandemic years have been especially difficult and have had numerous deleterious effects on our students. We have noticed that many of our students are far behind in their academic skills. As a result, Horizons has established a tutoring program, offering both in-person and online tutoring options to students who need it the most. It's paying off, and our students' academics are improving.

In addition to the tutoring program, our high school one-on-one mentorship program has provided the needed support to our high school students so that they can have a successful high school experience and truly plan for their future. In the summer of 2020 (during the height of the pandemic) when we launched the mentorship program, we had 12 students participating. In two short years, we now have 24 students enrolled and are hopeful that our rising Ninth Grade students will

"Horizons was such a huge part of my life that I would be more than happy to give back."

Alexis Perez-Guillen, Alumni, Class of 2014

be actively engaged, increasing the total number to more than 30!

All of this would not be possible without the steadfast support of our incredibly generous donors. In the face of so many seemingly insurmountable societal problems, Horizons offers an oasis of hope and provides the skills needed for assisting tomorrow's leaders.



SUMMER 2022

7-13

On average, weeks of math and ELA growth after participating in Horizons for six weeks

23

Helpful

volunteers/

interns

55

Teachers, staff, and enrichment specialists

368

Enrichment hours offered across all grades

> 25 81%

Exciting Average summer field trips

15 8th grade

attendance rate

graduates

203

Students enrolled

12,180

Free, nutritious meals provided

23

Horizons alumni staff/volunteers

633

Hours of academic instruction

360

Hours of social/emotional learning

Seedlings of Change

olorado Academy parents
Catherine Rollhaus and Julie
Martin had been volunteering
with Horizons at CA for
years—helping with the annual
Wine & Dine event and assisting with the
nonprofit's growth and success—when,
in 2021, as co-chairs of the organization's
Executive Board, they planted the seed of
an idea with Head of School Mike Davis,
PhD.

"CA had experimented with the student-run garden concept in several different shapes and forms," Rollhaus explains, "but none had really taken root, in large part because of summer break, when few students or employees are here for the growing season."

Rollhaus and Martin knew, of course, that the Horizons program brought a host of eager young people to campus during those important summer months—why couldn't they be the "bridge" to keep a garden thriving between spring planting and fall harvest?

By summer 2022, that all-important bridge

was in place. On two "Super Saturdays" during the late spring, CA students and Horizons participants—along with numerous Horizons Board members and volunteers—had worked together to construct raised beds, plant seedlings, and create artistic stepping stones to decorate the garden plot. When the CA students left and the Horizons program got fully underway on campus in the summer, the garden was ready to thrive.

Says Rollhaus, "I just love the idea that we are able to use this beautiful campus to educate and engage children that might not otherwise have access to such an incredible place."

Sixth Grade Horizons students led the summer effort to care for the garden.

According to Horizons science teacher—and 2012 Horizons graduate—Xitlalic Rios, the garden project made a big impact on her students. "It not only showed them where food comes from," she says, "but it also taught them responsibility and self-advocacy. They began to think more about

the environment and how they could make a difference, or even start their own garden."

Rios, who is now a high school biology and chemistry teacher in New Mexico, says that building relationships with her Sixth Graders through the garden project and other activities was one of the most gratifying experiences she's had with Horizons. "I loved getting to know them more, as well as seeing their personalities shine through. The students were also able to build stronger bonds with each other."

Horizons Executive Director Daniela Meltzer believes the Board's involvement in the garden project was critical to its success.

"A lot of our Horizons participants come from the urban core, where fresh food from a garden is not necessarily readily available. This initiative allowed them to learn in a hands-on way about the importance of gardens, and to take ownership of something that mattered to them."

"All of this was thanks to the Board," Meltzer continues, "which was passionate about creating a deeper connection between Horizons and CA."

Julie Martin explains that Board members are already looking ahead to strengthening that connection by summer 2023. "We hope to have a group of Middle School students who will participate in seed germination for the spring planting, and then be involved when they come back to school with the fall harvest."

Plans call for greater involvement of the Upper School Horizons club, as well.

"We're excited for what this garden can be," acknowledges Catherine Rollhaus. "This summer was our maiden voyage, and we've learned a lot."

One big discovery: even a garden cared for by a small group of students can produce a bumper crop of possibilities—and tomatoes.



Horizons Sixth Grade science teacher Xitlalic Rios with Horizons students from different grades in the garden, summer 2022. Opposite: Horizons Fourth Grade students and teachers just getting the planting started at the beginning of the Horizons 2022 summer program.



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Horizons Colorado Operating Budget Year Ending August 31, 2022

Revenue	Amount	Percentage
Special Events	\$229,181.67	29%
Individual Contributions	\$348,873.32	43.8%
Henning Health & Wellness Program	\$20,000.00	2.5%
Community Foundation Grants	\$133,100.00	16.5%
Endowment Earnings	\$60,000.00	7.5%
Horizons National Program Contributions	\$0.00	0%
Corporate Matching Gifts	\$0.00	0%
Program Fees	\$5,841.50	0.7%
	\$796,996.49	100%
Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Summer Staff and Administrative Salaries	\$248,139.92	43%
Summer Program Costs (include Henning Health & Wellness Program)	\$150,564.86	25.7%
Year Round Program Costs	\$78,262.71	13%
Alumni College Scholarships	\$4,000.00	0.7%
Community Outreach	\$677.78	0.1%
Advancement and Administrative Costs	\$102,382.14	17.5%
	\$584,027.41	100%

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Our new name

orizons has a new name—
Horizons Colorado. Though
the name has changed, the
program's long-standing partnership
with CA remains. Horizons is an
integral part of the CA community
and is expanding its presence on
campus with offices in the Campus
Center and a garden along the North
Road. Changing the name to Horizons
Colorado opens the door to new
collaborations, outside sources of
funding, and perhaps, in the future,
new locations to serve more students.





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