



HORIZONS ATLANTA

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Celebrating
10 Years of
**Inspiring
Building
Nurturing**



www.horizonsatlanta.org

Overview



We believe that every child in metro Atlanta, regardless of background, should have the same chance at making a positive impact on their community.



We accomplish this through a transformational, tuition-free, summer learning program that helps eliminate critical barriers to success that many of our children face, thus putting them on a path to:

Read proficiently by the end of third grade

Achieve eighth grade math competency

Build swimming skills and self-confidence

Graduate from high school, college & career ready

96%

of scholars say Horizons staff make learning fun

95%

of scholars say Horizons activities help them learn new things

96%

of scholars like the program

MISSION

Our mission is to close the opportunity gap through high-quality academics in an engaging and enriching summer learning program.

MODEL

We invite students from Atlanta's underserved communities to attend a 6-week summer program on the campus of an independent school, college, or university, and receive additional support during the year.





A New Era of Leadership



● **MEREDITH JOHNSON** ●
Executive Director



Dear Supporters, Partners, Families, and Friends,

It is an honor to provide the 2023 Annual Report to you as Horizons Atlanta's newest Executive Director. It is with immense gratitude that I acknowledge the remarkable accomplishments of Alex Wan, our previous Executive Director, who led Horizons Atlanta from 2018 until I transitioned into the position, in October of 2023. With Alex's stewardship, Horizons Atlanta has reached new heights and made significant strides in advancing its mission. I extend my heartfelt appreciation for Alex's dedication, and hope to make him proud as I lead Horizons Atlanta into 2024 and beyond.

Summer 2023 marked a momentous occasion for Horizons Atlanta as we celebrated our 10th year in operation as a region. We added a brand new site at the historic The Temple in Atlanta, served a record number of 1500 scholars region-wide, and saw those scholars achieve their highest level of improvement since pre-pandemic levels - boasting an average of 8.9 weeks growth in just 6 weeks of summer programming. I am thrilled to share that during the summer of 2024 we will host an anticipated 1590 scholars making this our largest program to date.

Our programs are proof that when all children are given opportunities to thrive, their passion for knowledge and creativity ignites. Together, the leadership of Horizons Atlanta past and present would like to extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support. Your belief in our mission fuels our passion and inspires us to continue breaking barriers. I hope you will look through this annual report and join me in envisioning new heights for Horizons Atlanta and our scholars. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and am grateful for your continued support and partnership as we forge ahead in pursuit of our goal for thriving scholars in our community.

In partnership,

Meredith Johnson

Meredith Johnson



Our Impact

MATH

The average student loses 17–34% of knowledge during their summer break. But with Horizons Atlanta's, summer programming, students *gain* an average of 8.9 weeks improvement in math scores after just 6 weeks of instruction.



2/3 of our scholars come to us performing below grade level in Reading and/or Math.



100% of our scholars qualify as low-income based on school-year participation in the Free and Reduced Price Lunch program.

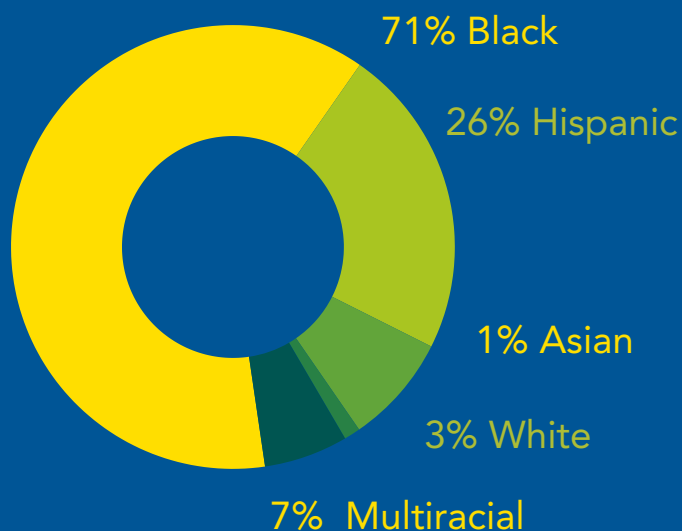
SWIM

Approximately 80% of Horizons scholars join our programs unable to swim and having a fear of water that stems from a lack of experience and access to pools. With our qualified instructors, scholars participate in at least 90 minutes of swim instruction each week of summer programs, with the intent that every student will learn to swim before they graduate. These lessons build life-saving skills and boost self-confidence that is applicable far beyond the pool and into their personal endeavors.



READING

All of our teachers are certified with a range of specialties. The Orton-Gillingham method in particular helps students who struggle to read, and this training in combination with designated Reading Specialist staff on site mean that Horizons Atlanta scholars gain an average of 8.3 weeks improvement in reading during the summer break.



Horizons Atlanta exists to close the opportunity gap faced by students and families who face educational and systemic inequalities.

We believe that every child in metro Atlanta, regardless of background, should have the same chance at making a positive impact on their community.



PROGRAM SITES

at public, independent, and charter schools, colleges, and universities

1,474 SCHOLARS

in pre-k through 8th grade



335 VOLUNTEERS



317 STAFF MEMBERS

including teachers, counselors and trained Reading and Math Specialists



505 HOURS

of swim instruction



103 FIELD TRIPS

111,312 meals and snacks provided



THE CHALLENGE

Math and literacy are critical skills, yet underserved students face significant gaps.

Underserved students are 42% less likely to be proficient in reading by third grade and 39% less likely to be proficient in math by 8th grade than their more affluent peers.

SUMMER SLIDE

Research suggests the majority of the achievement gap is attributable to "summer slide."

Students who don't experience enriching summer activities can lose up to 2 months of academic skills.



87%

Student Attendance



76%

Student Retention

Who We Serve

GALLOWAY

Grades Served: K-3
Scholars Served: 60
Meals and Snacks Served: 2,880 + 1,440
School System: Fulton County

HIES

Grades Served: K-8
Scholars Served: 171
Meals and Snacks Served: 8,892 + 4,446
School System: Fulton County

KSU

Grades Served: K-8
Scholars Served: 128
Meals and Snacks Served: 7,168 + 3,584
School System: Paulding County

AIS

Grades Served: K-8
Scholars Served: 115
Meals and Snacks Served: 5,750 + 2,875
School System: Fulton County

TEMPLE

Grades Served: K-1
Scholars Served: 28
Meals and Snacks Served: 1,512 + 756
School System: Atlanta Public Schools

GT

Grades Served: K-8
Scholars Served: 191
Meals and Snacks Served: 10,314 + 5,157
School System: Atlanta Public Schools

CAU

Grades Served: K-8
Scholars Served: 122
Meals and Snacks Served: 6,588 + 3,294
School System: Atlanta Public Schools

ATC

Grades Served: K-8
Scholars Served: 146
Meals and Snacks Served: 7,592 + 3,796
School System: Atlanta Public Schools

WA

Grades Served: K-11
Scholars Served: 168
Meals and Snacks Served: 9,744 + 4,872
School System: Fulton County

PBS

Grades Served: K-8
Scholars Served: 298
Meals and Snacks Served: 11,324 + 5,662
School System: Atlanta Public Schools

UGA

Grades Served: K-2
Scholars Served: 47
Meals and Snacks Served: 2,444 + 1,222
School System: Athens-Clarke County



HOLY INNOCENTS'
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL



THE TEMPLE
*new site



CLARK ATLANTA
UNIVERSITY

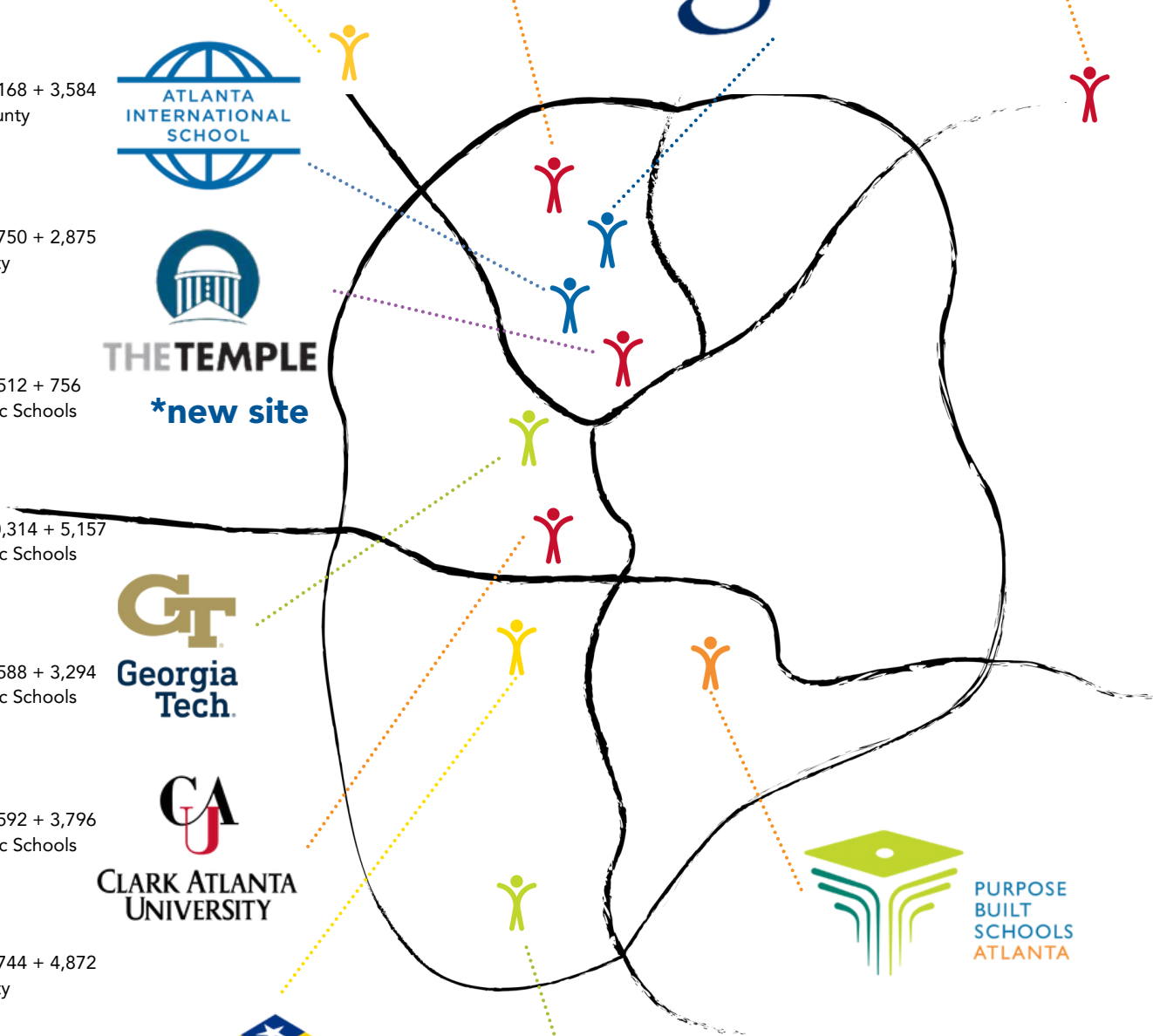


ATLANTA
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE



PURPOSE
BUILT
SCHOOLS
ATLANTA

WOODWARD
ACADEMY
ESTABLISHED 1900





10 YEARS

of successful sites
across the region

1 HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Established in 1999.

Fun Fact: This site was started by Horizons National before the regional model of Horizons Atlanta came into existence! In 2024, HIES at HA will celebrate their 25th anniversary.



10 THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Established in 2023.

Fun Fact: First Lady Jill Biden and Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona visited this site shortly after they opened!



2 WOODWARD ACADEMY

Established in 2012.

Fun Fact: This is the only Horizons Atlanta site that supports high school summer learning. These older students have the opportunity to complete lifeguard training, which allows them to facilitate swim lessons and the annual swim meet for younger Horizons scholars in the region!



3 ATLANTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Established in 2013.

Fun Fact: Scholars at this site have special access to test out their ability and interest levels with potential career options, thanks to the resources on campus.



9 THE GALLOWAY SCHOOL

Established in 2020.

Fun Fact: This site was started in the throes of the Covid pandemic, and with extreme dedication and creativity they have remained open and thriving for 3 years.



4 CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Established in 2013.

Fun Fact: This is the only Horizons Site in the country that is hosted at an HBCU.



8 PURPOSE BUILT SCHOOLS ATLANTA

Established in 2017.

Fun Fact: As a charter school, this partnership is especially unique to the Horizons model. Two of our staff members at the regional office have come from this site!



6 KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Established in 2015.

Fun Fact: The very first cohort to participate in Horizons Atlanta at KSU from Kindergarten through 8th grade graduated together in 2023!



5 GEORGIA TECH

Established in 2013.

Fun Fact: Our regional office is also located on this campus, and many of our region-wide events, for example: the annual swim meet and Horizons Honors events, are hosted here.



7 ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Established in 2016.

Fun Fact: This site has a unique partnership with Greg Garza from Atlanta United, and last year the scholars had the opportunity to get soccer lessons and play with him on the field.





HORIZONS HONORS



5th Annual Event!

Presented by Horizons Atlanta

● THE FERST CENTER FOR THE ARTS ●
at Georgia Tech



Horizons Honors celebrates the achievements of our Horizons Atlanta scholars. Scholar honorees, selected by their Site Directors, are students who exemplify the three core tenets of our mission to inspire minds, build community, and nurture joy. Congratulations to the 11 hard-working scholars who were awarded during the Horizons Honors program on August 20th! We are so grateful for their unique talents and contributions to the Horizons community.

In 2023, we debuted a new version of the Horizons Honors event. Instead of a banquet with an awards ceremony, this year the event included live performances from scholars at every site in our region, representing different grade levels. These creative performances were as diverse as our scholars themselves, and spanned a range of artistic interpretations including song, dance, poetry, drumming, and videos. Additionally, we presented the first annual John and Mary Brock Award for Outstanding Educator! This award goes to one teacher from the region, selected from nominations made by Site Directors, in honor of the Brocks and their dedication to supporting education.

While scholars and their families walked the red carpet, special guests including Buzz from Georgia Tech and Harry the Hawk joined in for photos with the on-site "paparazzi."



Curious about what you missed? Watch our highlight reel from the program, featuring clips of performances, scholar interviews from the red carpet, and behind-the-scenes footage! 🌟 www.horizonsatlanta.org/horizonshonors



ST REGIS

ATLANTA

PRESENTS

Out of The KITCHEN

A CHARITY GALA BENEFITING
HORIZONS ATLANTA

Honoring
John and Mary Brock





Over \$400,000 Raised!

● THE ST. REGIS ATLANTA ●

On November 9, over 240 members of our community came together for a one-of-a-kind celebration hosted by The St. Regis, with all proceeds benefitting Horizons Atlanta. This year's fifth-annual Out of the Kitchen charity event featured two five-star chefs, multiple-course meals to remember, and ultimately raised \$413K for Horizons Atlanta's scholarship program. The event showcased the culinary talents of 20 acclaimed chefs while guests dined in support of a noble cause.

Thank you to all who bought tables or tickets, donated to Support-A-Scholar, or purchased a live auction item! We are grateful for your dedication to our mission. Through your support, we raised enough funds to cover 100% of 165 scholars' summer programs with us! Thanks to our generous donors, the talented chefs, and The St. Regis, this event will allow many Georgia students to discover the joy of learning, and most importantly, become part of our Horizons Atlanta family.



Curious about what you missed? Watch the video that we debuted at Out of the Kitchen! Horizons Atlanta Graduates explained their love of the program and gave thanks to the Brocks for the impact they made on countless students, teachers, and families in our region. 🌟 www.horizonsatlanta.org/OutOfTheKitchen

2023 Financial Highlights

Horizons Atlanta is grateful for our many supporters in 2023.

Your donations make a real impact on the scholars we serve.



80%

of 2023 expenses went to directly supporting Horizons' scholars



45%

revenue
growth

\$3.9m

raised

587

individual
donors



SUPPORT A SCHOLAR

"I give to Horizons Atlanta because it's the best (highest return) charitable investment I know of - the improvement in scores show it's making a life changing difference for 1,500 kids in Atlanta who need it most!"

DAVE FEDEWA, MEMBER SINCE 2015

The Horizons Atlanta 100% Club Support-A-Scholar Program celebrates our mission and commitment to ensuring that 100% of children have the opportunity to make an impact on their community. Donors commit to funding 100% of one scholar's summer experience with a donation of \$2,500 or more, helping us reach our goal of 100% of scholars reading proficiently by the end of third grade, achieving eighth grade math competency, building swimming skills and self-confidence, and graduating from high school, college and career ready, because we believe 100% of scholars matter.

Mary Anne Ackourey
Lisa and Peter Aman
Kathleen Avery
Rodes and Frank Bazzel
Sally Belenky
Scott Bernstein and
Melissa Knowles
Susan and Frank Bishop
Sheryl Bomar
Patricia and Rafael Bras
Stephanie Briles
Major and Morgan Brock
John and Mary Brock
David and Kris Brown
Sheldon Brown
Andrew and Kelsey
Bunker
Angel and Beth Cabrera
Karen and David Calhoun

Greg Chandler
Jeff and Wendy Clark
Tyler Cook
Stacy and James Cullinan
David Dase and Jacqueline
Flake
Chris and Rosalyn Devine
Rachel Dinerman
Adam and Rebecca Dixon
Brandon and Lindsey Downs
Christophe Edmonds
Natalie and Tom Epperson
Dave Fedewa and Christy
Leschaloupe
Jeff and Twyla Fendler
Anke and Christian Fischer
John and Laura Foster
Arthur Gardiner
Tom and Sandy Gay

Kevin and Stefani Glass
Jim Hannan
Susan Hannan
Benjamin Jackson
Terrell and Meredith Johnson
Kristy Jordan
Jim Kieffer
Pam Kimmet
Hadley Bauer Laughlin
The Fisher Family Foundation,
Laura and Craig Clark
David and Diana Mack
Chandler and Nina
McCormack
Amy Merrill
Elizabeth and Chris Morris
Jason and Kerry Owen
John and Nancy Patterson
Heather Preston

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Angelique Reed
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Huber
Kelly Loeffler and Jeffrey
Sprecher
Dave Stockert and
Cammie Ives
Joanne Sullivan
Andrew Surdykowski
Brian and Susan Thomas
Marie Thomas
Alex Wan
Louise and Thomas Wells
Matt Westmoreland
Keith White
Stuart Williams
John Womack

Want to join the club in 2024? Visit www.horizonsatlanta.org/donate!

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To our Institutional Partners, Sponsors, Funders, and Schools - Thank you!

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The Cotton Gin at Mill Creek
The Galloway School
The Home Depot Foundation
The Joseph B. Whitehead
Foundation
The Junior League of Atlanta
The Stockel Family
Foundation
The Zeist Foundation, Inc.
TisBest Philanthropy
United Way of Greater Atlanta
WarnerMedia
Wells Fargo Foundation
Westside Future Fund
WINGS for Kids
Wire2Wire Running, LLC
Woodward Academy



OUR TEAM



We are a small team utilizing big partnerships to help our community thrive.

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Executive Director, Kate's Club

Rodes Bazzel

Merchandising Vice President, Home Depot

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Senior Associate Dean, College of Education, UGA



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Atlanta Technical College - Sharron McIntyre

Clarke Atlanta University - Dr. Rebecca Dashiell-Mitchell

The Galloway School - Bayless Fleming

Georgia Institute of Technology - Sirocus Barnes

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Louise Wells

Managing Partner, Morris Manning & Martin (Retired)



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Executive Director

Luz Baqueiro
Enrollment and Records Manager

Chloe Bowman
Assistant Director of Development

LaVasia Bullard
Director of Regional Programs

Amy Johns
Director of Development

Khalilah Moss
Associate Director of Regional Programs



HORIZONS[®]
ATLANTA

Save the Date

Horizons Giving Day:

May 15, 2024

Experience Horizons

July 16, 2024

Horizons Honors

August 11, 2024



"My daughter has much more confidence in herself, academically and creatively, than she did before she came to Horizons."

Parent of a 3rd Grade Scholar

Support our work to bring Horizons to more scholars in 2024 than ever before, by making your gift today.

