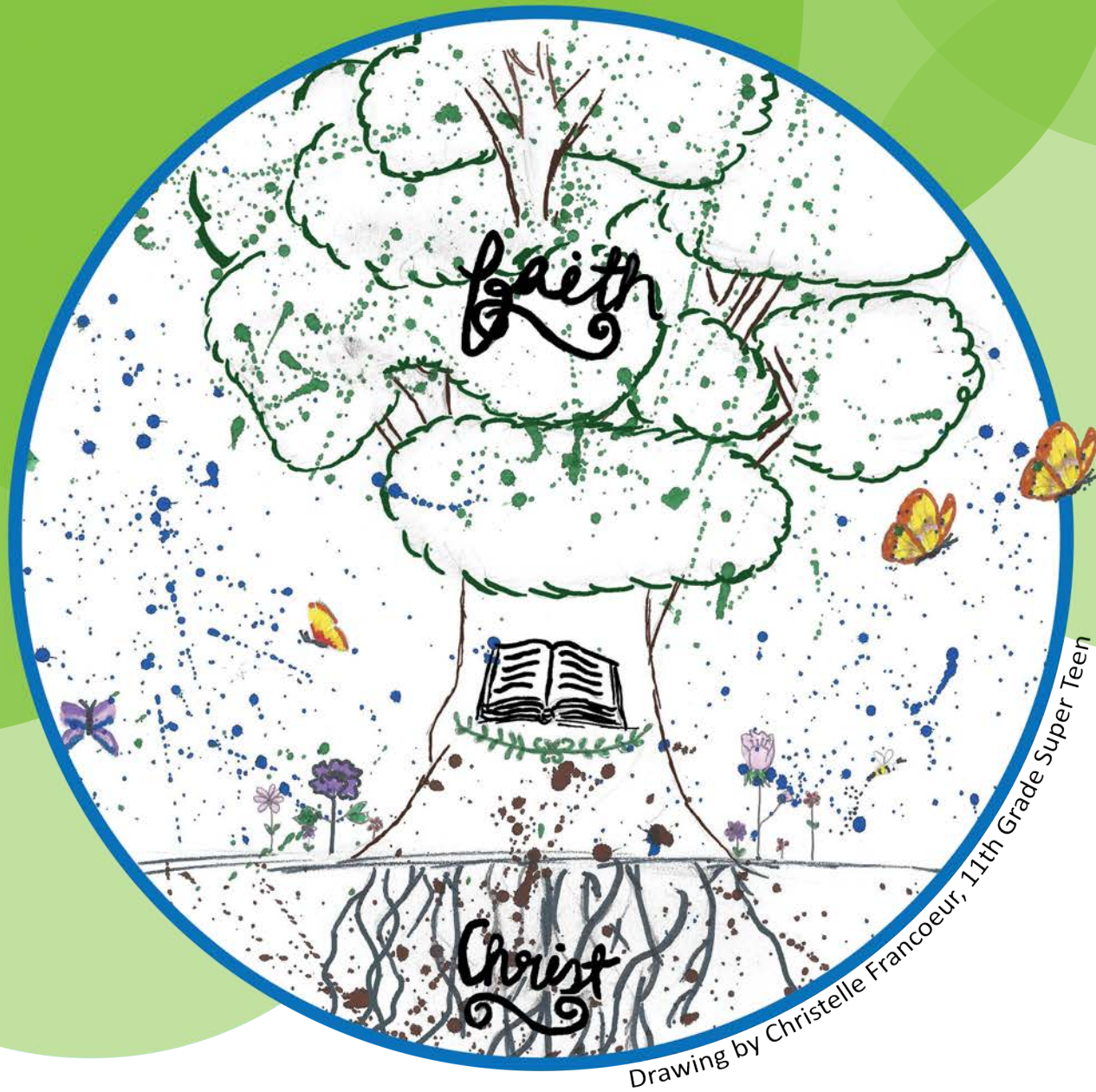


# 15 Years: Nurturing Foundations in Faith



**New Horizons of Southwest Florida  
Annual Report | 2017**

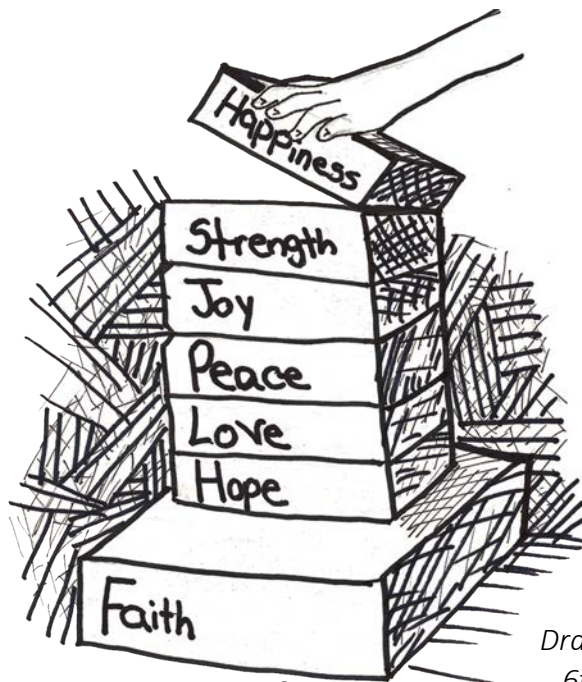


**MISSION: To empower at-risk youth to reach their full potential through tutoring, mentoring and faith-building.**

**Dedicated to the 50,000 youth living in poverty in Lee and Collier Counties**

# Table of Contents

<b>By the Numbers Infographic .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Board of Directors Letter .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Programs .....</b>	<b>6-16</b>
Super Kids Club .....	6-7
Super Teens Club .....	8-9
Class of 2017 .....	11
Super Kids Reading Camp .....	12
Super Teens Leadership Camp .....	13
College Bound .....	14
Super Girls Club .....	15
Super Moms Club .....	16
<b>Volunteers, Churches &amp; Community Organizations.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Financial Information .....</b>	<b>18</b>



*Drawing by Alfa Vergara,  
6th Grade Super Teen*

# New Horizons By the Numbers



**444**

Participating  
Students

**7**

Sites

*Estero, Bonita Springs,  
Naples, Fort Myers*

**560**

Volunteers

**80+**

Community  
Partners

**7**

Programs

*Super Kids Club, Super Teens Club,  
Super Teens Leadership Camp, Super  
Girls Club, Super Moms Club,  
College Bound*

**92%**

of teens earned a  
GPA of 2.0  
or greater

**82%**

of elementary  
students earned  
a "C" or better in  
language arts





# Dear New Horizons Friends,

For the past fifteen years, New Horizons has been the conduit for pouring hope and opportunity into the lives of our students, who have so little. We would like to use this opportunity to celebrate that milestone with you! We celebrate God's provision, through you, which has enabled us to grow and serve so many at-risk youth: 444 students at seven locations offering a range of programs. We celebrate the 74 graduates of New Horizons programs and high school over the years who are giving back for all they have been given. These last fifteen years have also enabled us to lay a foundation of faith in our students and across our organization. It is from that foundation that we look forward, continuing to grow and serving even greater numbers of at-risk youth.

The cover of this year's annual report was drawn by Christelle Francoeur, East Naples Super Teen. She recognizes the foundation of faith that is being nurtured in her life through the New Horizons programs she has attended for the past two years. She and her fellow New Horizons students have anchored the roots of their lives in Christ, enabling them to grow in faith as mature young adults represented by the leaves of the tree.

This annual report will detail the many successes of our students and organization in 2016/17. We would like to highlight a few, so that you can fully appreciate their meaning and impact:

- ***Five Super Teens earned Take Stock in Children Scholarships.*** This means that upon graduation from high school, a four-year tuition paid college scholarship awaits them.
- ***New Horizons is now offering full-time staff health benefits.*** This is a benefit that enables our employees to remain with us over the long term and feel secure in meeting their health care needs.
- ***We welcomed a new church partner, Cornerstone UMC,*** which enables us to launch a new Super Teens Club in North Collier. Our Super Kids graduating from 5th grade at our North Collier site will attend there in the fall.
- ***The Board of Directors added a Super Kids/Teen graduate to its membership,*** Moises Juarez, who will be the voice of our students in board deliberations/decisions.
- ***560 community volunteers*** gave of their time and talents this year to tutor and mentor students.
- ***80+ community organizations and companies*** partnered with us to enrich the lives of our students through special activities/events and donations.
- ***Long-term sustainability*** of New Horizons is being assured as our endowment fund and planned giving continue to be a priority.

Our students, given a hand up, never cease to amaze and inspire us with what they accomplish. And you, our volunteers, supporters and donors, make it all possible. We are overwhelmed by the impact the last fifteen years have had on our students and look forward to what the next fifteen hold in store.

**Committed to tomorrow's generation,  
New Horizons Board of Directors**

Denise Carlin  
Moises Juarez  
Bob Nichols

Debbie Finch  
Steve LaBelle  
Ellen Nichols

Debra Haley  
West McCann  
Dave Shellenbarger

Lauri Garbo  
Ron Miller



# Super Kids Club

**82% of K-5th grade students earned a “C” or higher in Language Arts after attending Super Kids Club.**

At six locations from south Fort Myers to east Naples, 276 at-risk students in grades K-5 received individualized tutoring and mentoring after school as part of Super Kids Club. Volunteers and staff worked together to help the children be the best students possible, laying the foundation for success in school and beyond.

Those foundations became clear in their schoolwork: 100% of the Super Kids’ 109 public school teachers believe that attendance

at Super Kids Club had a **positive impact** on their students’ homework completion.

The majority of students’ parents feel that they cannot help their child complete his or her homework, so the work of our volunteer tutors is of great importance. Ninety-six percent of Super Kids believe it is beneficial to have someone help them with their homework. When volunteers provide this necessary help, a child’s entire attitude changes (2).

In fact, 94% of teachers believe that attendance at the Super Kids Club had a positive impact on their students’ attitudes about school, and 98% of parents agree that their child’s attitude and desire to go to school has improved.

As the school year drew to a close, 35 5th grade students celebrated their graduation from Super Kids Club in anticipation of middle school and Super Teens Leadership Camp (4).



### Individualized Learning in Math and Reading

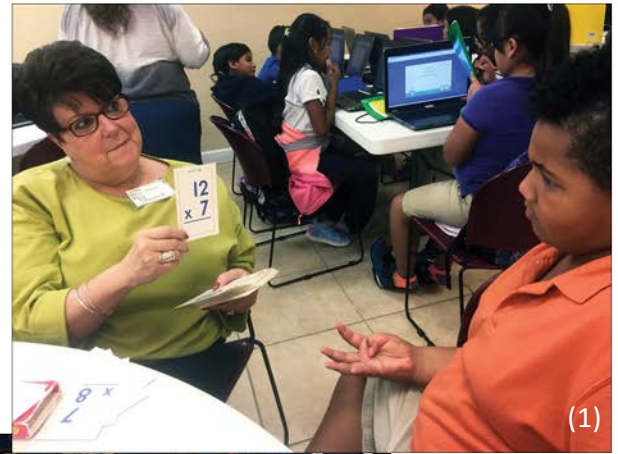
Students received homework help from volunteers across the community (1). They also received instruction in the computer lab, which assesses their reading and math skills, then develops individualized lessons in their areas of weakness. Students benefit from this **individualized learning** when they return to school. As Jody's 3rd grade teacher remarked, "It has been a joy to see the growth and maturity of Jody this quarter. He has shown significant improvement in his reading and math skills, as well as his focus and attention to class discussions." In fact, by the end of the school year 95% of students agreed that they were **doing better in school**.

### Character Development

A portion of club time was spent on a character education lesson based on values such as honesty and integrity, and guest speakers visited to discuss these topics. Lisa Myhand from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center spoke about the importance of education and **overcoming challenges**. Our students take these lessons to heart. Six-year-old Super Kid Kevin Simon, for instance, won an essay contest held by the Lee County Sheriff's Office on the topic "What is your favorite way to help others?" (3).

### Nurturing Faith

We know the importance of **nurturing faith** in our students because it will help shape them into successful adults. This year, we loved seeing the progression of each student's faith. Children who were shy at the start of the year now eagerly volunteer to read the Bible in front of their clubs. When 2nd grader Denise hurt her finger, fellow 2nd grader Jessica suggested that everyone **say a prayer** for Denise and her finger. The program helped to nurture faith and care for others.

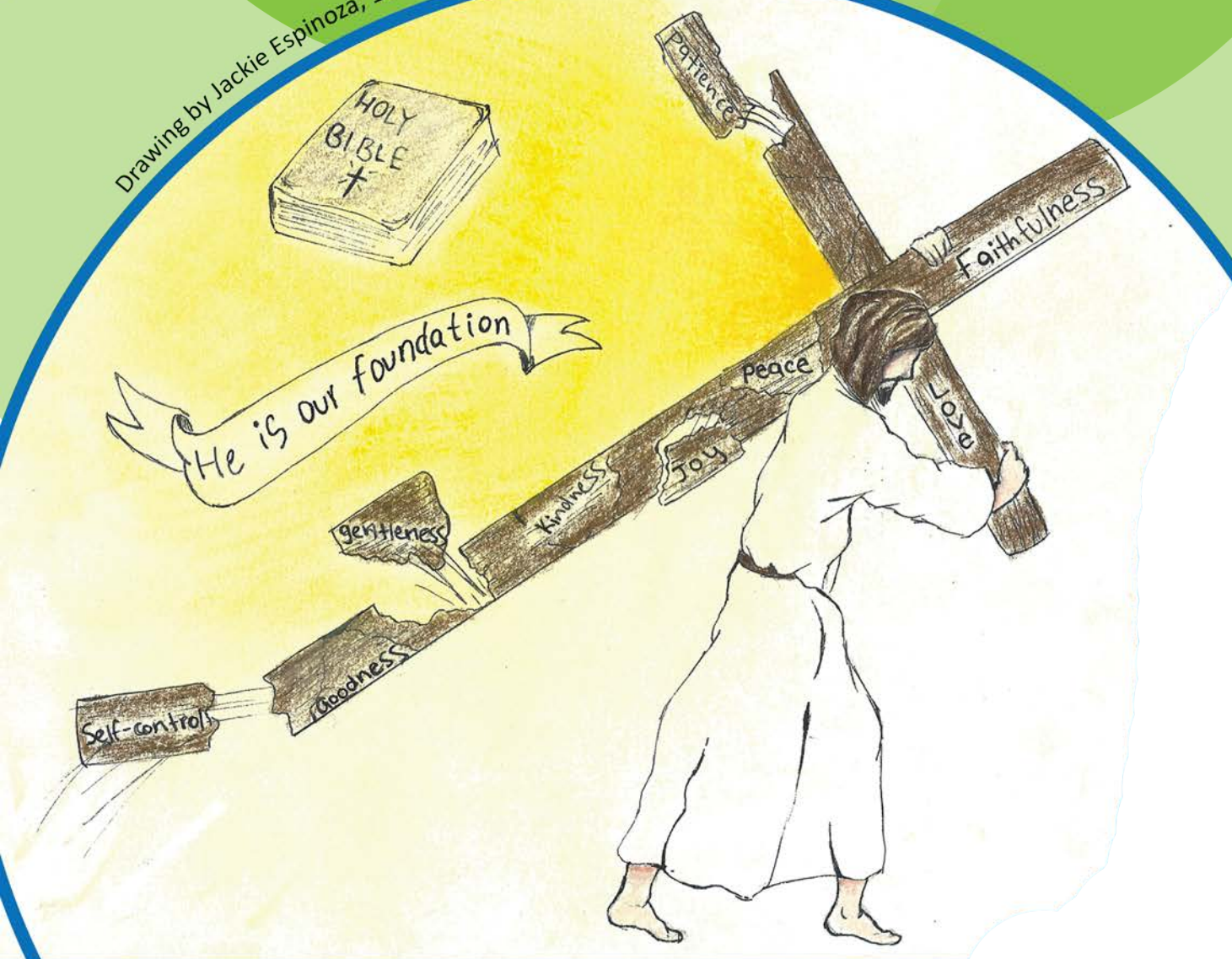


## Super Kids Choir

Sixty-two Super Kids performed at 17 community events and churches this year. These special performances are opportunities for the kids to practice their social skills, share their faith and feel part of the community. Our highlights from the year included singing at the Fort Myers Miracle baseball game, where the choir helped introduce hundreds of people to New Horizons, and a specially requested performance at the Ritz Carlton in Naples.

**95% of teens say the Super Teens Club helped them learn more about their relationship with God**

Drawing by Jackie Espinoza, 11th Grade Super Teen





# Super Teens Club

The Super Teens Club environment gave middle and high school students a place to **feel encouraged**, to participate in community activities and receive specialized help to improve their school grades. This year, 168 Super Teens attended at our two sites in Estero and east Naples.

Dedicated volunteer tutors arrive at the club each day, offering help with homework along with mentoring and guidance as students navigate the path to adulthood. **One-on-one help** and interaction with like-minded peers has served our teens well. Ninety-two percent of all Super Teens earned a GPA of 2.0 ("C" average) or greater and 55% of middle school students have been on the A/B honor roll this year, a 16% increase from last school year. By the end of the year, 86% of teens felt that they were doing better in school.

Homework help was accompanied by **character-strengthening** activities: empowering girls at Freedom Waters Foundation's Heels and Reels fishing tournament (1), packaging meals for the less fortunate through Meals of Hope (2), building confidence through kayaking with College of Life Foundation (3), holding two car wash fundraisers and practicing team-building in an exercise to build the tallest structure possible.

These activities, coupled with tutoring, help our teens develop into confident young adults. That **confidence** translates into better grades at school. Eighty-two percent of the Super Teens' public school teachers believe that attendance at the Club had a positive impact on their students' homework completion and their attitude about school. Though the road may seem difficult, their persistence pays off!

Ninth grade Super Teen Elio displays that persistence. Born in Guatemala, Elio grew up using a language called Quiche. When he started school in the United States, he faced a double language barrier. In order to understand his schoolwork, Elio translated it from English to Spanish (which he learned last year) and then into Quiche. His **perseverance**, with help from the Teens Club, has made Elio a stronger student. Our students are constantly teaching us that, given the resources, they can make great strides in both their academics and character.

It is our goal to see every Super Teen graduate from high school. Overall, the Super Teens Club has a 90% high school graduation rate from 2009-2017. Not only do their successes build confidence in themselves, they also make us proud and serve as positive role models for the Super Kids.



“What I like about the Super Teens Club is that while I'm at Super Teens I am surrounded by people who care about their education & share the same beliefs.”



# 2017 Graduates – The Facts

- 90% will enroll in college with scholarships and/or financial aid
- This group attended New Horizons' programs for a total of 58 years



96% of Super Teens say they want to be more successful now & in the future

*Congratulations to Luis Francisco, Francisco Pedro, Joselinne Retana-Jimenez, Jorge Gonzalez, Daisy Reyes Leon, Daniel Santos, Luis Mendoza, Luis Jose Cruz, Alicia Zepeda and Norma Simon*



# Last Words from Our Graduates



**Luis Mendoza**

New Horizons has pushed me to think about a better future for myself. I want to be a police officer. I thank New Horizons for helping me learn the language and giving me hope for the future.



**Alicia Zepeda**

Every single one of those tutors that I had, I will always remember them. My overall plan is to be a lifetime learner.



**Norma Simon**

New Horizons cared and always cheered me on. I graduated not only with a high school diploma, but as a certified nursing assistant. I am thankful for that because, at one point, I thought that I could not afford college and would not be able to go.



**Luis Francisco Tello**

Now with the Take Stock in Children scholarship I have the opportunity to accomplish my dream and go to college. I plan to obtain my degree in mechanical and electrical engineering.



**Jorge Gonzalez**

New Horizons has inspired me to do good in school. Because of them, I am who I am today. In the future, I plan to give back to the community, just like New Horizons has done for me.



**Francisco Pedro**

With their love and never-ending support, New Horizons has become a second family.



**Daniel Santos**

New Horizons has pushed me to set new standards for myself. I don't know where I would be without the help of New Horizons, and for that I am grateful.



**Daisy Reyes Leon**

Throughout the years, New Horizons has helped me focus in school. Volunteering with the Kids Club inspired me and I knew what I wanted to be in life: a preschool teacher.



**Joselinne Retana-Jimenez**

New Horizons has served as a motivator to believe in myself and excel educationally. Thanks to the support of New Horizons I obtained straight A's since fifth grade and throughout high school.



**Luis Jose Cruz**

In my short time coming to New Horizons, I've learned to get closer to God & pray more. I will work hard to achieve my career goal, and I know New Horizons will be there with me every step of the way.

**Blast from the Past:** 2013 grad Moises Juarez is now serving on the Board of Directors. Moises previously attended both the Super Kids & Teens Clubs over 13 years. He will be the voice of our students in board deliberations.



# Super Kids Reading Camp

During the summer, when information learned during the school year is often forgotten, 213 Super Kids attended our four-week intensive camp aimed at significantly improving reading skills for students in grades K-5.

Students worked **one-on-one** and in **small groups** with public school teachers hired by New Horizons. These teachers focused on oral reading fluency (the ability to read text quickly, accurately and with proper expression) and sight word recognition.

One of our favorite stories from summer camp comes from a group of students who will start kindergarten in the fall of 2017 (1). Each of them arrived knowing zero sight words and left knowing up to 11 new ones. Elisaul (pictured 2nd from left) could recognize only six letters when camp began while Alex (pictured center) knew two. By the end of camp, Elisaul had **mastered 24 letters** and Alex mastered 18. Since it is uncommon for at-risk students to attend pre-k programs,

this is critical knowledge allowing our students to enter kindergarten on track with their peer group.

By the end of camp, all students had **improved their reading fluency** by an average of 21 words per minute. Overall, 89% of students increased their oral reading fluency by eight words per minute. "I learned compound words, geography, main ideas and details," one camper said. Students and teachers alike are seeing the difference. One teacher said, "The small group setting allows individualized instruction. The Bible study increases their knowledge and confidence in God and themselves."

Student learning was supplemented by other **blessings**: Laces of Love and Chico's associates provided shoes for each student; Estero UMC and Bay Presbyterian provided backpacks. The students also enjoyed crafts and games.

After camp, 96% of students believe that they will do better in school. This combination of skills and confidence are essential to the start of a successful year.

"Super Kids Reading Camp helps students build confidence, socially and academically."

- SKRC Teacher



(1)



# Super Teens Leadership Camp



Often one of the biggest obstacles to helping our oldest students succeed is allowing them to realize their potential, not only as young adults, but as leaders in their community. This year, 109 Super Teens attended the five-week summer camp hosted at Estero UMC and directed at teaching leadership skills to young adults. Students were taught four leadership components: self-confidence, influence, self-discipline and respect.

The skills were taught through lessons that were **educational and fun**. Their trips to the Naples Zoo (1) and Koreshan State Historic Site offered experiences they may not have had outside of camp. They also tackled topics that are relevant to teens: suicide prevention, sex education and overcoming obstacles. Fun activities were coupled with community service projects to illustrate the importance of giving back, such as when the teens cleaned up trash in the Rosemary neighborhood (2).

These lessons helped teens recognize their potential. "Super Teens Leadership Camp has helped me find my self confidence," one teen said. In fact, 98% of teens said that they **want to have more integrity**, be a better listener & show good judgment after attending camp.

For one week, 48 students attended Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Leadership Camp, which taught leadership through sports activities and faith-building breakout sessions (3). After camp, 100% of teens stated that the Super Teens Leadership Camp helped them grow in their **relationship with God**.

Camp came to a close after 48 students attended a two-day marine biology excursion in Key West (4). There, they had the opportunity to snorkel, experience marine life up close and personal, and better understand the delicacy of the marine ecosystem.

Overall, the camp **gave students the skills** necessary for their overall development as leaders and young adults. In fact, 98% said attending helped them understand what it means to be a leader.

For the teens, **growing as leaders** also meant growing together as friends (5). Their training in confidence, discipline and respect helped them to value themselves and people around them. At the end of camp, one teen said, "Super Teens Leadership Camp has helped me become a better person than I was before."

# College Bound

This year, 18 Super Teens attended College Bound on Friday afternoons to apply for scholarships and prepare for life after high school.

Ten high school students had year-round college preparation. Each week, they had **intensive preparation** for the SAT and ACT, and worked on applications for college, scholarships and financial aid (1). While they prepared for life ahead, eight middle school students **followed in their footsteps**, attending College Bound during the fall for help in applying for the Take Stock in Children scholarship. Three 6th grade students and two 9th grade students received the Take Stock in Children scholarship, which earns them a 4-year tuition paid scholarship

upon high school graduation (2).

The close-knit group of College Bound students has led to many **inspirational stories**. Norma, a Guatemala native, arrived in the United States just a few years ago (3). She soon realized the language barrier came with special circumstances and she would need extra help. Once, when she had to write a book report for her class, she took the extra step of purchasing the assigned book in Spanish in order to better understand it. Throughout College Bound, she applied for every single scholarship we could find. She graduated this year with a high school diploma and as both a certified medical administrative assistant and certified nursing assistant. She will attend Florida SouthWestern beginning in fall 2017.

According to the public school teachers of Super Teens, 94% believe that the services that New Horizons provides are important to the success of at-risk students in their schools.

The college bounders supplemented everything they learned about applications and test preparation with **real-life activities** to get them excited about higher education, including touring prospective colleges. In fact, 2017 graduate Francisco loved the University of Central Florida when he toured it, and now he is attending the university with his scholarship (4)! Our students leave College Bound feeling **confident** and **energized** for the road ahead.

All 10 seniors graduated from high school in May and received a combined total of 22 scholarships!

With the graduation of the Class of 2017, the Super Teens high school graduation rate stands at 90%. Their at-risk peer group's graduation rate is just 48%. Our students'

**dedication** to finishing high school with New Horizons is the true mark that we are making a difference.





# Super Girls Club

Forty-six 4th and 5th grade girls spent their Friday afternoons at five Super Girls Clubs to complete eight learning modules that were measured with written tests, club participation and skills demonstrated during various activities. They earned 327 badges in units such as team building, relationships, faith, service, self esteem, etiquette, health & nutrition and economics. Each of these skills are necessary for at-risk girls to prepare for puberty, peer pressure and becoming a successful young adult.

These girls learned how to **work with partners**, small groups and teams to accomplish tasks. They participated in community service projects and learned how to use their gifts and talents to help other people. This hands-on experience gives the girls a sense of accomplishment and a better understanding of their self-worth and abilities. The Estero Super Girls, for instance, did a service project every month for the entire school year. Each month, the project helped teach them **gratitude** as well as **giving back to others** and the community. The projects included: creating centerpieces for United Way, cleaning the room and the restroom at the Super Kids Club, wiping tables and washing the Super Girls Club van inside and out.

This year the girls learned the importance of **honesty**, making good choices and taking **responsibility** for their actions. They defined concepts such as team-building, respect and cooperation through games, posters and crafts. The girls once again participated in a community garden, working together to demonstrate the various stages of plant growth (1). A trip to the Edison & Ford Winter Estates brought all the clubs together. Visits to the Estero Life Care Center and Solaris Senior Living taught the girls how to give back and show **compassion** to others (2). They spread cheer through Christmas songs, cookies, crafts and ornaments.

The Girls Club is special because it allows them to bond over various first-time experiences. For instance, the Pebblebrooke Super Girls Club launched this year and they developed a **special bond** with each other. In addition, many of the girls across all clubs experienced their first boat ride on an outing sponsored by Captiva Cruises' No Child Left On Shore program (3). They spent some time shelling at the beach, learning about nature and the Southwest Florida environment - a truly fun yet educational experience!

Moments like these are just a few of the reasons the Super Girls Club is important. The girls receive **valuable training**, experiences and lessons that will serve them well as they become young adults and then contributing members of our community and the world.



(2)



(1)



(3)

# Super Moms Club

This was a great year for our 20 Super Moms, mothers of our students who attended the Estero and Bonita Springs programs. The Super Moms Club met for three hours each week to learn about self-esteem, nurturing relationships, children and family, women's health, nutrition, social skills, marriage and digital literacy.

One hundred percent of the moms successfully completed the eight learning modules based on attendance and participation in activities, lessons and outings. The 36-week program included outings, guest speakers and BMI health screenings (1). One of the club's favorite activities of the year was a trip to Echo Farms, where the mothers learned about nutrition and growing their own food (2). They were able to **apply what they learned** when they cooked nutritious food with volunteer Carolyn Quickel (3).

In addition, moms from the Rosemary and Estero Clubs were **grateful** to receive new crock pots from the Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals and the Naples League Club. They also received recipe books and some ingredients to get them started. It did not take long for them to put their gifts to use, spending the following weeks trying the recipes and sharing them at their weekly meetings.

The Family Central program became an integral part of the Super Moms Club this year. Family Central provided families with transportation 86 times, food supplies for 81 families, clothing and furnishing for 13 families, and numerous other items to help mothers with basic family needs. All of these opportunities gave moms **confidence** and **resources**. In all, 88% agreed assistance received helped to better care for their children.

The help Super Moms received through Family Central led to significant **academic improvements** in their children. In the 2015-16 school year, 45% of students at clubs with a Super Moms Club scored a "C" or higher in school. This year, 62% of those students earned a "C" or higher!

With assistance and information provided by New Horizons, moms felt that their families were **more stable**. We have found that when mothers have access to better training and resources they can better care for their families. This, in turn, helps our students to succeed and accomplish our program's ultimate goal of high school graduation.

“

**“Thank you, Yady, for everything you do. For instructing women. It is a real pleasure to share with everyone and thank you to all the volunteers... Blessings and happy day.”**

*- Super Mom's Letter to Yady, New Horizons Club Director*





# Volunteers, Churches & Community Organizations

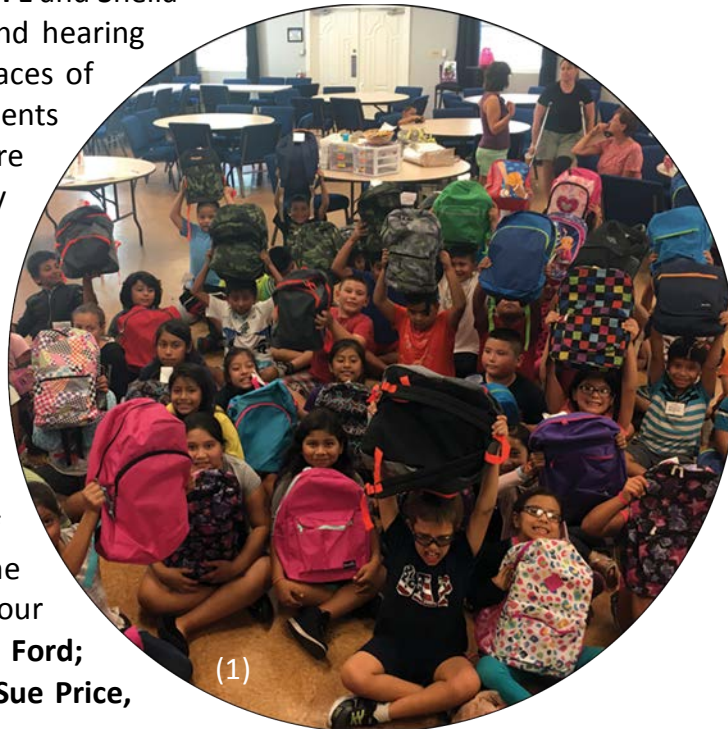
We are blessed to work with hundreds of people and organizations who help make all of our work possible.

**Volunteers** This year, 560 community volunteers gave of their time and talents to tutor and mentor our students. These volunteer tutors also act as mentors and role models for the at-risk students we serve. Their dedication and commitment helped our students in school, in life and in their faith.

**Churches** Six churches in the community acted as “host” sites, housing our various after-school and summer programs. We have seen our church partners get involved in other ways, too. At Bonita Super Kids Club (located at **First UMC of Bonita**), Pastor CJ set aside each Thursday to tutor and challenge 5th graders with tough mind games. At Shadowlawn Super Kids Club (**East Naples Baptist Church**), the pastor and his wife participated in or taught Bible lessons. **Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church** and **Estero UMC** ensured that our students and their families had Thanksgiving dinner. But not all of our church partners are host sites. This summer, **Bay Presbyterian Church** and Estero UMC donated backpacks filled with school supplies (1). Students in grades K-5th received the gifts at the end of Super Kids Reading Camp - what a blessing!

**Community Organizations** Over 80 community organizations and companies partnered with us to enrich the lives of our students through special activities, events and donations. **Captiva Cruises’** No Child Left On Shore program took the Super Girls for an eye-opening boat trip. **College of Life Foundation** invited a group of Super Teens to become certified in kayaking and participate in community events. Students received dental screenings courtesy of **Family Health Centers of SWFL** and Sheila Morales of **Hope Lutheran**. They also received vision and hearing screenings courtesy of the **Bonita Springs Lions Club**. Laces of Love partnered with us again this year to give our students new sneakers for the school year, replacing shoes that were sometimes two sizes smaller than required. Every Tuesday, **Midwest Food Bank** delivered food for each of our clubs to have a healthy snack. **Waste Connections** donated bikes to several students in Lee and Collier Counties.

**Sponsors** Our corporate sponsors helped with fundraisers, raised visibility of our mission to their customers, hosted events and more. With the support of our sponsors, we have a greater opportunity to change the lives of at-risk students. We offer special thanks to our Diamond Level sponsors: **Amoré Jewelers; Coconut Point Ford; First Florida Integrity Bank; Northern Trust; Roderick & Sue Price, Realtors, John R. Wood Properties.**

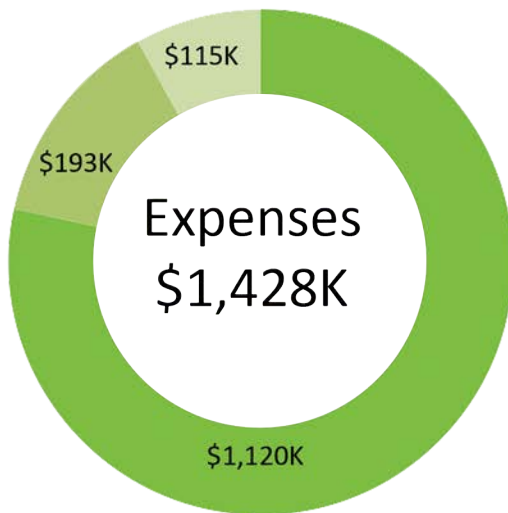


“We have witnessed firsthand how transformational New Horizons’ programs can be for both the hundreds of children, who we tutor, and for their families.”

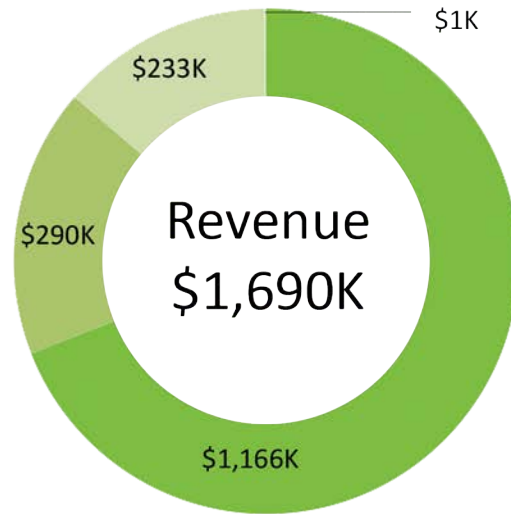
- Lesley & John Hill, Volunteers/Supporters



# Financial Highlights



■ Programs ■ Administration ■ Fundraisers



■ Donations ■ Fundraisers ■ Grants ■ Investment Income

## Over the course of the year, New Horizons:

- Offered full-time staff health benefits starting in 2017 to enhance employee retention and overall wellness
- Grew the endowment fund to \$30K. This is a stepping stone to the long-term sustainability of New Horizons.
- Ruffled off a car as a fundraiser to raise \$60K for our programs and grow our supporter base by 261 people
- Recognized as a Top-Rated Nonprofit by Great Nonprofits
- Awarded grants from foundations including the Community Foundation of Collier County, Shadow Wood, Southwest Florida Women's Foundation, Spring Run Charitable, Publix Charities, League Club of Naples, West Bay, Women's Giving Circle of SWFL, and others
- A partner agency with the United Way of both Lee & Collier Counties

## In the coming year, New Horizons plans to:

- Launch the third Super Teens Club that will begin in Naples, August 2017
- Launch the first-ever Super Boys Club at Rosemary Park, August 2017
- Expand Super Kids Club at Estero UMC & Cypress Lake Presbyterian, removing 40 students from waiting lists
- Improve volunteer experience across Lee and Collier Counties
- Strengthen partnerships with organizations in the community



## Thank You

New Horizons is built on the generosity of individual donors, corporate sponsors, community foundations and grants. Each year, we take the opportunity to recognize our donors at various levels of giving through our giving circles. It is through members of these circles that we have the capability to serve a growing number of at-risk students living in our community. Thank you.

>> Dig Deeper: [NewHorizonsofSSWFL.org/giving-circles](http://NewHorizonsofSSWFL.org/giving-circles)



## It doesn't end here.

In order to continue serving our **mission** and making an impact on our students, we need you. **Volunteer** your time, **donate** your resources or **participate** in a fundraiser to help us change the lives of at-risk youth now and forever.

*Are you ready to empower tomorrow's generation today?*

Visit [NewHorizonsofSWFL.org](http://NewHorizonsofSWFL.org)



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**239-948-4146**

### **Join the Conversation:**



### **About Us**

New Horizons is dedicated to helping at-risk children and teens who are growing up in an environment of poverty, academic failure and hopelessness. From its humble beginnings with 20 children in 2002, New Horizons currently reaches almost 500 children and teens at seven locations in Naples, Bonita Springs, Estero and South Fort Myers; providing over 100,000 hours of after-school tutoring and mentoring annually at no cost to their families.