



**NEW  
HORIZONS**  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA®  
EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S GENERATION TODAY

## 2019 Annual Report



# A Lifeline



# Table of Contents

Letter from the Board of Directors.....	3
Academic Improvement: A Lifeline.....	4
Social Skills: A Lifeline.....	6
Character Development: A Lifeline.....	8
Our Programs.....	10
Our Volunteers.....	14
Church & Community Partners.....	16
Financial Highlights.....	18

## Our Mission

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

## Our Vision

All at-risk youth complete high school with a plan for the future to become contributing members of society.

# Dear New Horizons Friends,

With grateful hearts, we share the highlights of our 2019 fiscal year. It was a record setter:

- 16 Super Teens graduated from high school (our largest class ever)
- 3 new sites were launched (one in Collier/two in Lee County)
- 111 additional students were enrolled in our programs for a total enrollment of 643
- 350 new volunteers joined us to tutor and mentor our students for a total of 850 volunteers

In January, board members participated in offsite strategic planning to develop our long-term goals and set our sights on 2023. Three strategic initiatives resulted from that offsite:

- long term sustainability of the mission
- external accreditation of the organization and our programs
- value added community partnerships

We are compelled to take New Horizons to the next level of performance and impact given the need is so great for our programs (50K students in Lee and Collier live in poverty). We feel strongly these initiatives will position the organization to do exactly that. The impact of our programs on the lives of our students is well-illustrated by the theme for this annual report; New Horizons is a “lifeline” for those who live in poverty, don’t speak English at home and have fallen behind in school.

One lifeline we threw rescued a young girl, Jackie, who graduated high school in May. She shares:

“I joined New Horizons in sixth grade, three years after my family immigrated to this country. The transition from one country, culture and language to another is extremely difficult for anyone and I was extremely shy. It was a culture shock when everyone here expressed their love for God so boldly and openly, making Him part of every aspect of their lives, which is beautiful and courageous to me. New Horizons shared so much love and care and before I knew it, they had become my second family. They provided me unending support when I was in intensive classes, when I needed spiritual guidance. I am so grateful for New Horizons and I pray they continue to guide children through their journey with God and in the world. I will attend college this fall to study nursing.”

Other rescues from a life of poverty and hopelessness are summed up by our students’ successes this year:

- 87% of Super Kids earned a “C” or better in language arts on their report cards
- 96% of Super Teens earned a 2.0 or greater GPA
- 8 students were competitively awarded Take Stock in Children four-year college scholarships

The lifelines we extended over year’s past and this year were enabled by you through the sharing of your time, treasures and talents. Please know that together we are changing lives for good now and forever. We look forward to the year ahead and all that it holds. We hope you will join us!

*Terri Alsept*

*Debra Haley*

*Debbie Mathews-Finch*

*Ellen Nichols*

*Denise Carlin*

*Lauri Gargo*

*West McCann*

*Evelyn Pacheco*

*Tim Carson*

*Edie Hunt*

*Ron Miller*

*Terri Pilla*

*Sandy Chisholm*

*Steve LaBelle*

*Bob Nichols*

*Dave Shellenbarger*

**Board of Directors**

# 90%

of regular education students in grades K-5 maintained a "C" or higher in reading while attending Super Kids Club

# 9 in 10

Super Kids improved their reading fluency by at least 8 words per minute at Super Kids Reading Camp



# 96%

of students in grades 6-12 maintained a GPA of 2.0 or higher while attending Super Teens Club

## Academic Improvement, A Lifeline

**Academic skills are a lifeline for at-risk students, and the effects reach far and wide.**

New Horizons strives to improve the lives of our students by helping those who have fallen behind in school. Monday—Thursday after school, students are greeted by a dedicated group of staff and volunteers who want to help them complete their homework when their parents are unable to do so. The clubs set students up for academic success in the future by teaching them the importance of earning good grades and trying their best in school and beyond. Here are just a few examples of student accomplishments from the year:

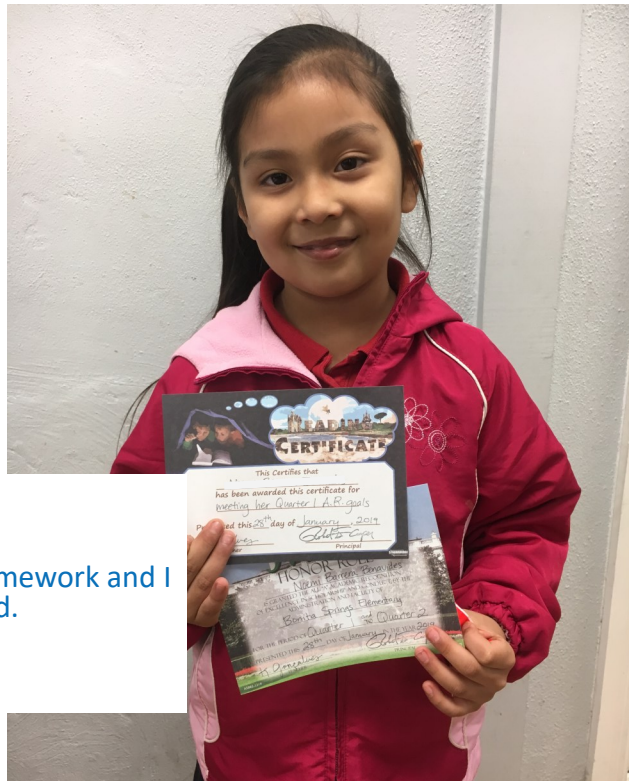
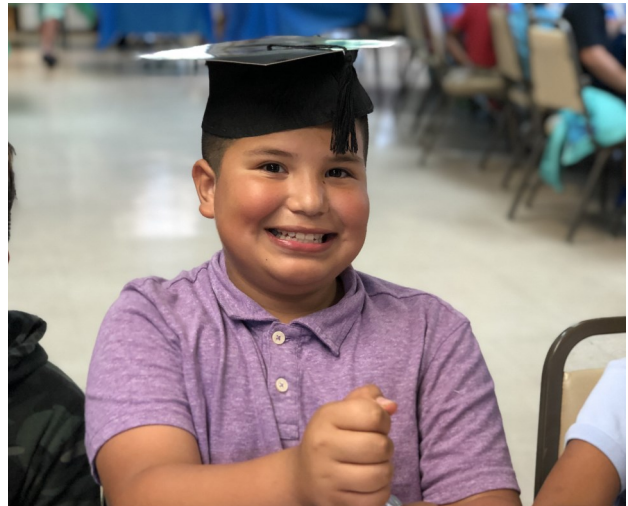
- Amber, a 3rd grader, was placed in the Cambridge Advanced Program of Studies. Her mom expressed her gratitude toward New Horizons, stating that Amber made it into the honors program because of the help she received at the Super Kids Club.
- Super Kid Jorge was chosen as student of the month for earning A's and B's in math and language arts. Prior to this, Jorge was struggling. His thoughts for his future regarding school were not



positive. After receiving practice and encouragement at the Super Kids Club, Jorge has done an outstanding job of turning his grades around.

- This year, we were blessed to learn that eight of our Super Teens across Lee and Collier counties had earned the Take Stock in Children Scholarship. Upon high school graduation, these students will be able to attend college in Florida without having to worry about how they will pay for their tuition. Congratulations to 6th-graders Arturo Santiago and Keyli Garcia; 7th-graders Alfa Vergara, Elle Theresias and Jose Silva; and 9th graders Steven Lopez, Christian Gonzalez and Yoselin Guerrero!
- Middle school Super Teen, Ted, set a goal of earning straight A's this year. In the first quarter, he received 5 A's and 2 B's. By the end of the year, Ted was proud to report that he had improved his grades and accomplished his goal of becoming a straight-A student.
- All 16 seniors at the Super Teens Clubs graduated from high school in May. *Congratulations to the Class of 2019: Christian Ayala, Yaire Cervantes, Viviana Cisneros, Rosie Cruz, Jackie Espinoza, David Estrada, Fernando Moreno Guzman, Litzy Lerma, Siria Lopez, Gilberto Moctezuma-Leal, Ciara Perez, Nayeli Sandoval, Fredy Sebastian, Orlando Silva, Samantha Yanez and Litzy Zuniga*

"I come to SKC because I can get help with homework and I can get a better education," one Super Kid said.





## Litzy's Story

My name is Litzy Lerma. I joined New Horizons in kindergarten and stayed until I graduated in May 2019. I believe the program is successful because of the mentors and tutors that give their time and care about all of us. I have been blessed with being surrounded with people I know I can go to when particular situations in my life are hard. This has allowed me to not only be optimistic and hopeful, but a huge social butterfly. New Horizons has given me the opportunity to meet many of the wonderful people who support us by donating their time or their money. They've made an enormous impact and investment in us. I'm glad that I was able to receive that opportunity for the last 13 years.

One of the biggest things New Horizons has done for me is open its doors to me. When I began searching for my first job, I went through an interview and I was able to begin my journey as a New Horizons staff member. In my two years on staff, I loved being able to work with kids who remind me of how I used to be in middle school. I am grateful for the work experience with the children because it allowed me to be there for them like I had people there for me at their age. I am glad I was a part of the program for so long because, without it, I know that my whole life would be so different.



# Social Skills, A Lifeline

“Super Teens Club is my family.” That’s what one teen said when asked how Super Teens Club has made an impact on his life. Every year, we strive to give our students more than just the resources needed to complete their homework; we want to instill in them skills they can use over a lifetime. This includes social skills, a lifeline that allows students to:

- Practice their English skills and better learn the language
- Interact with people across generational boundaries
- Express their thoughts more fully and effectively

And yes, the social interaction students experience with each other plays a factor in their happiness and success at the Su-

per Kids and Teens Clubs. The staff and volunteers become a second family to the students.

Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to participate in various events in the community. Whether it is in the choir, at volunteer receptions or at annual fundraisers like the car wash and luncheon, our students put the skills they have learned to the test—and continue to learn more along the way.

Though some students are naturally more social than others, ultimately, they learn to persevere in every experience. As Charna, a Super Kid in Lee County, says, “No matter what, always try your best, even if it is hard.”



K-2nd graders enjoy a special presentation to learn that hands are for helping, not hitting.



**By the end of the year, 87% of students stated they listen to others better, can ask others for help and feel more comfortable speaking to adults since attending New Horizons' programs.**



## Fernando's Story

New Horizons helped me through some things that I keep to myself. It is a place I feel welcome and enjoy. I am proud to say that I was in New Horizons. This club helped me through my schoolwork and the people there always made sure that I did the right things and that I was on task with what I had to do before I could goof off with my friends.

At first I didn't like coming to the club because of the fear of people thinking that I am dumb and that I need help, but as I went further on, I've come to see that it isn't bad and I met a lot of nice people there.

Now, I want to continue on with my goal of being an auto mechanic. I want to help people whenever their cars need a tune up or to be fixed, and I know if I continue on this path I'll get there soon enough. So I thank New Horizons for always trying to give its students a better future for their lives.

# Character Development, A Lifeline

At the clubs, students have 30 minutes daily for a character education lesson based on core values of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Using everything from songs and videos to object lessons and personal experiences, these Christian-based lessons are fun. The students are eager to get to this portion of the club time.

But it is more than just fun time; these lessons are important to character development for our students. Character development is a lifeline for students who come from various backgrounds and may not have ever had this type of training before.

For example, at Wesley SKC, twins Janiel and Joyce have become excellent role models. They show joy, love and compassion for each other, which demonstrates these character traits for the other kids in the club. Even though Janiel takes longer on his homework, he never gives up or complains as the staff and volunteers encourage him. He shows perseverance, and they even help others at the club. They are a great team! These changes are also seen outside of

the club. Maria Fernando of the Bonita SKC made all of us proud when she was presented with the “Do the Right Thing” award from the Lee County Sheriff’s Office. The award is presented to students whose positive actions are recognized by others in the community.

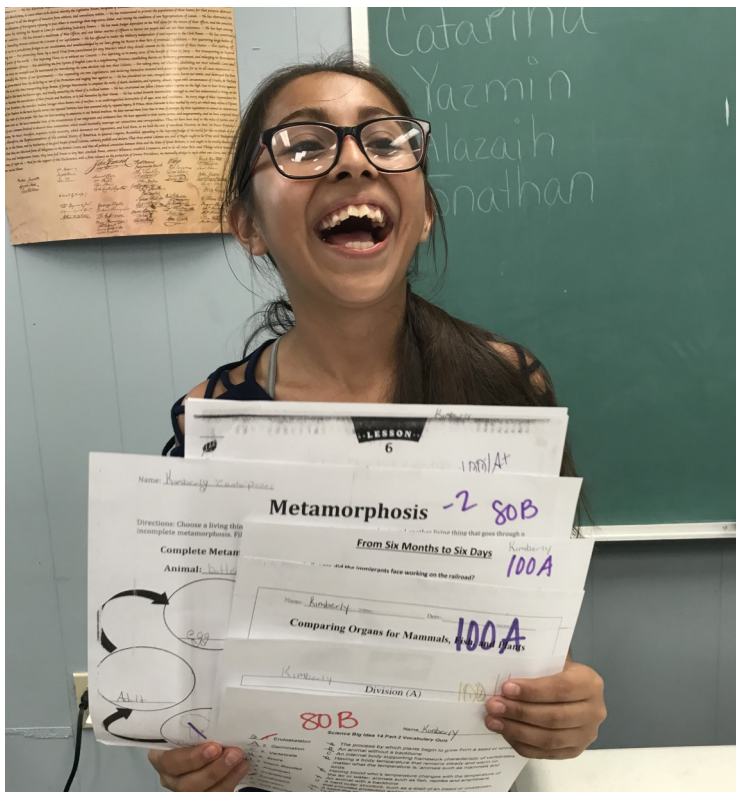
One of the most important ways we see students develop is in their faith. This is an everlasting lifeline that will help to guide and save them even after they’ve graduated from our program. At the end of the school year, 94% of our Super Teens said the club has helped them to learn more about their relationship with God.

Faith is a lifeline that helps students who are struggling in other areas. Jae’marion, a Super Kid in Lee County, struggles with his work in school. He often comes to the club frustrated and confused about his homework. However, during devotion time, he lights up, is eager to read the Bible, and always has a smile on his face. It is a pleasure to see his confidence in these moments, and we hope that confidence will reflect in his academics over time.



**97% of parents agree their child’s attitude and desire to be successful in school has improved since attending New Horizons programs.**





## Our Programs

### Super Kids Club

This year, 427 students in grades K-5 attended Super Kids Club to receive the individualized tutoring and mentoring provided by volunteers and staff. "I come to Super Kids because it helps me understand things and I get to learn about Jesus," one Super Kid said. Their efforts are reflected in school: 100% of teachers agree SKC is important to student success.

### Super Teens Club

216 students in grades 6-12 attended Super Teens Club this year because it was a place to feel encouraged, participate in community activities and receive specialized help to improve and maintain their school grades. With help from volunteers, 87% of Super Teens agree that attending the club has helped them to understand their home-

work better. "Super Teens Club has helped me in my dual enrollment classes and to figure out the path I want to take," said one teen. The club also empowers them to do their best. "[New Horizons] encourages me to strive for the best even if I have to challenge myself," one student said.

### Super Boys/Girls Clubs

88 boys and girls in 4th and 5th grades spent Friday afternoons at these clubs to prepare for the challenges of middle school. The clubs build their confidence and self-esteem while preparing them for the trials of peer pressure. With units of study including team building, relationships, etiquette and self-esteem, students are ready for what lies ahead. After attending the clubs, 93% of the students feel they are more prepared to be a leader and work in a team environment.



## College Bound

49 students attended College Bound this year in order to receive help with scholarship applications and prepare for life beyond high school. Every eligible student had intensive preparation before taking the SAT and ACT. They also applied for colleges and financial aid. In the end, students were competitively awarded almost \$300,000 in college scholarships and 88% of the graduating class enrolled in college, technical school or military service.

## Super Moms Club

28 members of the Super Moms Club met for three hours each week to learn about self-esteem, marriage, children and family, women's health, nutrition, social skills and financial and digital literacy. All of the moms reported their families are more stable after learning these skills at the club. And students whose moms attended SMC all maintained a "C" or better on their reading grades or a GPA of 2.0 or higher. This is truly a lifeline for them, and it extended beyond their families. As part of their unit on giving, for example, moms volunteered at the Estero United Meth-

odist thrift store. They also made Christmas decorations for local nursing home residents to enjoy.

## Super Kids Reading Camp

323 students completed this reading-intensive summer camp intended to increase reading comprehension and prevent "summer backslide." Students worked with public school teachers hired by New Horizons to improve their oral reading fluency and sight word recognitions. 79% of first graders improved their fluency and had at least a 20% gain in sight word recognition. 90% of students feel better prepared to start the new school year after attending Super Kids Reading Camp.

## Super Teens Leadership Camp

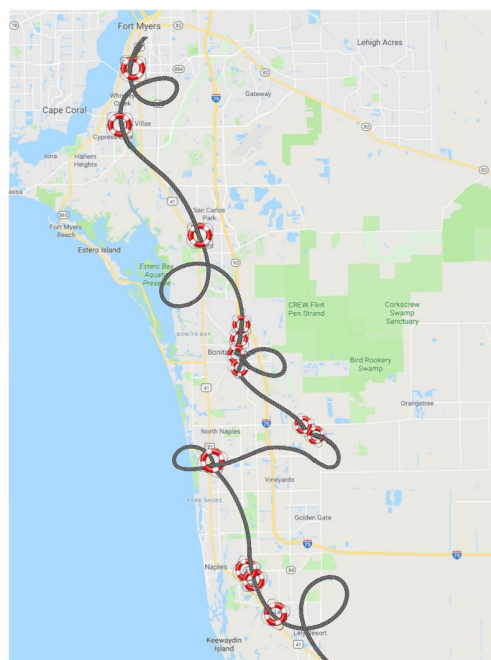
This year, 137 teens learned to recognize their potential as role models and leaders when they attended the club. In this five-week camp, they practiced and learned four leadership skills: courage, integrity, perseverance and responsibility. After attending camp, 87% of students feel more prepared to be a leader in their community.

# A Closer Look at the Cover

New Horizons has been blessed with tremendous growth over the past few years, and this year's cover demonstrates that growth. The cover displays each of our 13 club locations (2 of them opening in the 2019/20 school year). These locations are all connected by the lifeline that we throw to our students to set them on a path to a better future.

### New Horizons' 13 Sites:

- Wesley Memorial UMC
- Cypress Lake Presbyterian
- Estero UMC
- Rosemary Park
- First UMC of Bonita Springs
- St. Mary's Episcopal
- Christus Victor Lutheran
- St. Monica's Episcopal
- Emmanuel Community Church
- Covenant Church of Naples
- East Naples Baptist
- East Naples UMC
- Lely Presbyterian



# New Horizons: A Year in Review



## SEPTEMBER

Middle and high school students begin working on Take Stock in Children and other college applications.



## OCTOBER

Volunteers receive specialized training to better help students with their homework at the club.



## NOVEMBER

155 attendees gather in support of our students at the annual Nurture the Bud, Celebrate the Bloom gala.



## DECEMBER

The Super Kids and Teens Choir performs at churches and community events.



## JANUARY

Bring a Friend Volunteer Challenge brings in 100 new volunteer tutors offering homework help to our students.



## FEBRUARY

Give Where You Live Collier, a 24-hour online fundraiser, raises \$540K for the New Horizons mission.



## MARCH

Graduating Super Teens share their stories of impact at New Horizons' 11th Annual Luncheon.



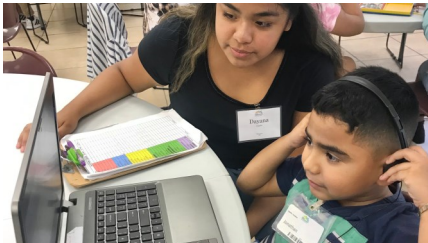
## APRIL

New Horizons is recognized by the Mayor of Bonita Springs for the good work we do in the community.



## MAY

Sixteen Super Teens graduate from high school, our largest class to date.



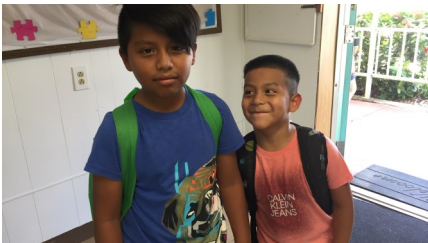
## JUNE

Super Kids Reading Camp and Super Teens Leadership Camp offer students a fun and educational summer.



## JULY

30 Teens attend a 2-day marine biology excursion in Key Largo.



## AUGUST

Super Kids and Teens Clubs open in anticipation of hosting a record-setting 720 students.



# Volunteers: A Lifeline

Our 850 volunteers help us to accomplish what we could never do on our own. The relationships students have with the volunteers open their eyes to possible career choices, helps them grow their relationship with God and, of course, provides them with the support and resources needed to complete their schoolwork. And since few parents feel they can help their child complete his/her homework, help from our volunteers is truly priceless. This year, these committed and caring volunteers served our students in a multitude of ways: praying for them, helping them with homework, teaching them a skill, donating snacks, hosting graduation and holiday parties, providing Christmas presents and participating in Cents of Pride. Our volunteers are a lifeline to our students — they interact with them every day, dedicating themselves to their successes inside and outside of the classroom. They are such an important thread in the rope of the lifeline that saves children every day.

We can't say enough about the hundreds of volunteers who walk through our doors and into the lives of our students and staff. Ron Woods at Rosemary surprised his club director with a new office chair. In Collier County, a volunteer

provided a much-needed bicycle to senior David who rode it to school, to the club, to work and home. Several volunteers donated Bibles to students who didn't have one at home. Hundreds of other volunteers work daily with our students, helping and encouraging them.

## 200K

**Number of hours of tutoring and mentoring received by students in the 2018/19 school year**

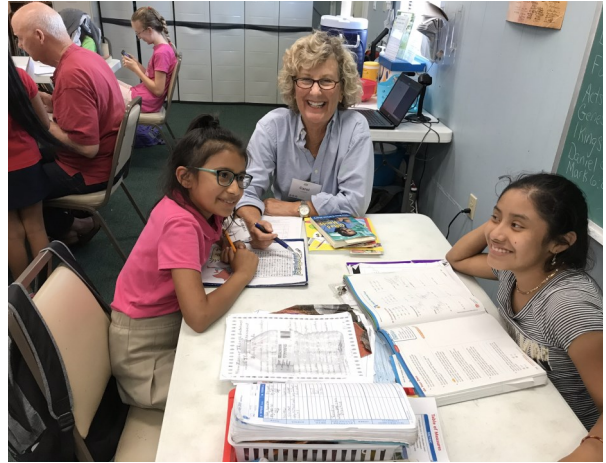
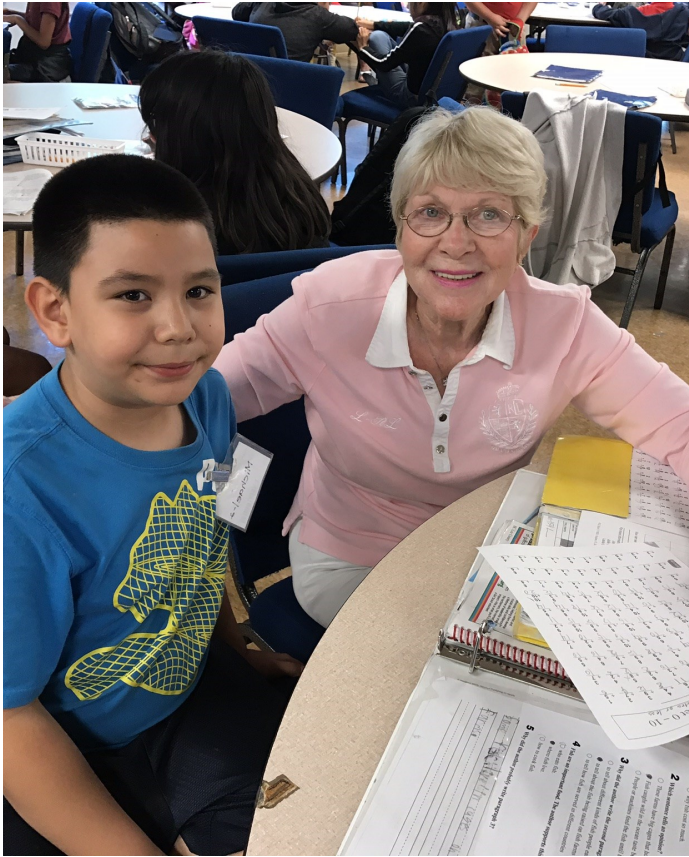
## 76%

**Of volunteers say they are extremely likely to continue their tutoring and mentoring efforts with our students**



**“As a volunteer for the past 8 years I can say that it doesn't get any better than tutoring students who are a joy to be with. Seeing their smiling faces and the progress they make from the beginning of the school year to the end is well worth it! On my way home after tutoring I am always in better spirits after having been with the students.”**





# Partnering to Save Lives

We are so grateful for the contributions that bring our mission to life. Below are just a few examples of what our community partners, church partners and corporate sponsors provide for our students. These are things we could not do on our own, so their link in the lifeline cannot be overstated.



**Provided backpacks and school supplies for our Super Kids**



**Supplied our Super Kids with new sneakers for the school year**



**Provided Thanksgiving Meals and Christmas gifts to students**



**Offered dental check-ups to Super Kids**



**First-time boat experience for Super Kids**



**Provided breakfast and lunch for students in summer camp**



**Educated students on reptiles found in Florida**



**Helped students to overcome emotional issues**



**Taught Super Teens about the challenges of teen pregnancy**

**“WE HAVE THIS HOPE AS AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL,  
FIRM AND SECURE. IT ENTERS THE INNER SANCTUARY  
BEHIND THE CURTAIN,”  
HEBREWS 6:19**





For so many of our students, our partnerships provide opportunities they would otherwise not experience. They are either first-time experiences that open doors to a bigger world, or basic necessities that students did not have.

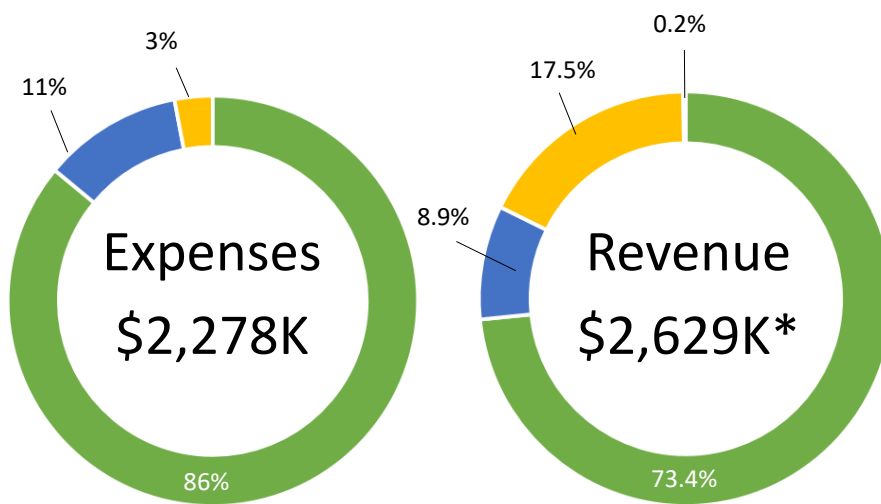
Whether it is opening their eyes to possible careers, seeing guest speakers who were previously in their shoes, or receiving basic necessities from a community organization, all of these things are threads in the lifeline that will ultimately save our students and lead them on the road to a better future.

These include partnerships such as Captiva Cruises' No Child Left On Shore program, Meals of Hope, Laces of Love and all of the

community organizations who helped us to provide Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts: Bay Presbyterian, Bonita-Estero Elks Lodge, Cypress Lake Presbyterian Food Pantry, Emmanuel Lutheran, Estero UMC, Feed the 5000, First Presbyterian and Oak Creek Church.

Our church partners are an integral part of the lifeline. Not only do they provide a home for our clubs, they also offer an everlasting lifeline. This year, we saw students at our host churches in Lee and Collier counties accept Jesus into their lives, develop a personal relationship with God and start attending church with their families.

# Financial Highlights



## Expenses

Programs	\$1,951K
Management	\$261K
Fundraisers	\$66K

## Sources of Income

Donations	\$1,929K
Fundraisers	\$235K
Grants	\$460K
Investment Income	\$5K

\*\$300K of revenue is restricted donations for the New Horizons Endowment

New Horizons is blessed to report a year of dedicated support from everyone in the New Horizons family. Because of you, we were able to grow our programs and reach more students than ever before. Thank you for your support!



This year we received \$1 Million in in-kind donations, allowing more resources to be directed to our students.



Your support nearly doubled the high school graduation rate of New Horizons' at-risk students in comparison to their peers.



As we enter another fiscal year, your support has never been more important in helping New Horizons to serve hundreds of at-risk students and achieve long-term sustainability.



## 2018/19 Community Events



### Promenade Fashion Show

\$3K Proceeds



### Shopping Events

*Amoré Jewelers, Evelyn & Arthur, J. McLaughlin, Leggiadro, Lilly Pulitzer, Sara Campbell, Sequin*  
\$5K Proceeds



### Car Wash Fundraiser

*Clean Machine Car Wash*  
\$500 Proceeds



### Restaurant Fundraiser

*Roy's Restaurant*  
\$1500 Proceeds



### Rotary Club of Bonita Beach Sunset Golf Tournament

\$47K Proceeds



### Swinging with Purpose Golf Tournament

\$25K Proceeds



### FineMark Women's Pro Tennis Championship

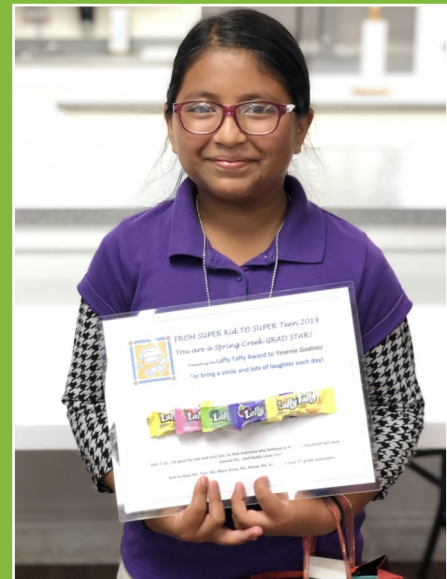
\$120K Proceeds

## It Doesn't End Here.

Your support helps us to continue serving our mission and changing the lives of our students. Learn how to get involved and throw out the lifeline to tomorrow's generation.

## Visit

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





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