



DONOR IMPACT REPORT



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Message from the Director



Wow! Each year, I am reminded of the achievements of all Horizons School students, families, and staff. The Year 2024 was one to celebrate!

We said farewell to Board member Mr. Ted Nail of Oxford, AL, and welcomed Mr. Jeff Wright of Jackson, MS. More than 100 university fieldwork students and mentors from Health Professions and Education and Human Services guided Horizons students to develop lifelong wellness habits and to prepare for future paid employment. We are grateful for their earnest contributions!

In 2024, we actively supported 28 young adults with learning and other disabilities from the AL, GA, MS, & TX states. Support includes training independent living and prevocational skills, and supported employment services. Thirteen of our advanced consumers now work for wages, primarily in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Hospitality and Tourism, & Human Services occupations. Five others work as training interns to learn important job skills before paid employment.

Prospective students and families are welcome to campus for monthly open house events to meet students and staff and preview classes. Recommend Horizons to youth who may be eligible for our licensed post-secondary program!

Horizons welcomed the establishment of a new 5 Points South Business Improvement District as approved by the City Council. City Action Partnership Ambassadors patrol the neighborhood daily to assist residents, businesses, and visitors. We expanded the Encourager mentoring program hosted by the congregation of St. Mary's on the Highlands Episcopal Church. Our students benefit from caring and supportive adults.

Most Horizons School students enroll in Adult Education courses through the Alabama Community College System and Jefferson State. Horizons is a host site for Alabama Career Essentials (ACE), and provides weekly support to our students as they complete learning modules and prepare for in-demand careers. We support these students through the Kramer Family Scholarship, Russell West Talent Development Fund, the Webb Family Fund, and Charlotte's Fund, all made possible by our donors.

Horizons School students and staff benefited from a workshop, Voting Rights 101, presented by the Alabama Disability Advocacy Program, and a vaccine clinic to protect all against seasonal illnesses.

With support from the Megan Montgomery Foundation, Horizons staff joined with Disability Rights and Resources to present “tech safety” presentations to 150 high school students with learning disabilities, their parents, and agency caregivers in four Alabama counties. The aim is to reduce theft and exploitation of youth and to report unsafe behavior and criminal activity when online. Our Hearts of Horizons Civitan Club enables students to learn leadership skills as they serve others in the community. We completed many service activities benefiting youth, families, and older adults!

We gratefully acknowledge our donors and supporters who made 2024 Bingo Night the most successful fundraiser for our public charity. Thanks for your trust and support as we look forward to a successful 2025. Your caring enables us to serve even more deserving students with disabilities and financial needs!

**Brian
Geiger** Ed.D., FAAHE
Executive Director

Meet the Team



Dr. Brian Geiger Executive Director



Michelle LaTulipe Business Manager



Cierra Dunbarr Marketing and Development Manager



Martha Loukotka Admissions and Transition Coordinator



JT Williamson, Jr. Career Coordinator



Olivia Gillespie Post-Secondary Education Teacher



Donna Larriett Post-Secondary Education Teacher



Chelsey Hicks Post-Secondary Education Teacher



Joshua Rocha Resident Assistant



Tyler Carlisle Resident Assistant

2024 Board of Directors

Thank you for serving Horizons families and staff.

Mr. Don Lutomski, President and Interim Treasurer
Captrust

Mr. Craig Landrum, JD, Vice-President
Jones Walker, LLP

Mr. Marc Eason, Chair of the Building and Facilities Committee
EGS Commercial Real Estate, Inc.

Mr. Nick Gaede, JD, Chair of Fundraising and Development Committee

Bainbridge, Mims, Rogers & Smith, LLP
Mr. Mitch G. Bruhn
Watson Bruhn

Mr. James W. Gibson, JD
Lightfoot Franklin & White, LLC

Brian Gordon, Ph.D., MCES
Jefferson State Community College

Lee Ascherman, M.D., MPH, Medical Consultant
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Nataliya Ivankova
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Dr. David Morris
UAB School of Health Professions

Mr. Tedd Winter
Houston, TX

Mrs. Jane Webb LaCagnina, Emeritus Member
North Carolina

Mr. Bill Kramer, Emeritus Member
Republic Title of Texas
Mr. Jeff Wright
Jackson, MS

School Overview



Vision

Empowering dreams, and illuminating possibilities. Our vision at Horizons School is to sculpt a future where every student, regardless of challenges, transcends boundaries to embrace a life of limitless potential and independent success.

Mission

The Horizons School provides a community-based educational program promoting a successful transition to independent living for young adults with learning disabilities, autism spectrum, and developmental disorders.

Donation Highlights

This year, the generous support of our donors made a lasting impact, allowing us to expand programs and provide scholarships to students in need. Our largest campaign, the End-of-Year Holiday Campaign, rallied incredible community support, while our Bingo Fundraiser brought fun and purpose together. Charlotte's Fund continued to offer vital scholarships to students facing serious financial hardships, and the Kathleen O'Neill Memorial Fund, established in honor of student Molly Turner's late grandmother, provided additional support for students. The Russ West Talent Development Fund also continued its mission of fostering student interests in music, arts, and personal interests. Every contribution has been a step toward creating opportunities and empowering our students to thrive.



→ Donations

\$263,477.94

→ New Donors

37

→ Total Donors

126

Student Success



Student of the Year- Ashton N. pictured with teacher Chelsey Hicks

Student Demographics

In 2024, we actively supported 28 young adults with learning and other disabilities from the AL, GA, MS, & TX states. Support includes training independent living and prevocational skills, and supported employment services. Thirteen of our students now work for wages, primarily in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Hospitality and Tourism, & Human Services occupations. Five others work as training interns to learn important job skills before paid employment.

College Pathways

William and Liam, both graduates of Horizons' READI College Track, are now enrolled in community college and thriving in their IT programs. Their success highlights the program's impact in preparing students for higher education and career success.

Leadership

Horizons alumni Jacelyn and Morgan were elected President and Treasurer of the Hearts of Horizons Civitan Club, showcasing their leadership and commitment to serving others.

Career Success

Horizons is committed to equipping students with the skills, experience, and connections needed to secure meaningful employment and thrive in their careers.

Horizons students have achieved outstanding success through programs like Alabama Career Essentials MAPS (ACE MAPS). This free training course, offered by the Alabama Community College System, equips students with in-demand, industry-driven skills through virtual, career-specific modules. ACE MAPS graduates earn valuable credentials, including the Alabama Certified Workers credential, ACT WorkKeys certification, and a MAPS certificate of completion. Graduates also receive a free credit class and general education credits at Jefferson State Community College, along with job placement assistance and access to scholarships for further education. Additionally, our dedicated Career Coordinator, J.T. Williamson Jr., has excelled in securing job placements and paid internships that align with students' unique skills and abilities. These opportunities allow students to gain meaningful work experience, build confidence, and achieve career success.



Student Paid Employers:

12



Student Internship Hosts:

7



Student Job Shadow Sites:

12

Community Access

Horizons students engage in field activities, enhancing their familiarity with the local area, honing transportation skills, and exploring job opportunities or collaboration spaces with friends.



This years sites included:

- Homewood Post Office
- Homewood Library
- Birmingham Library
- CVS
- The Summit
- Golden Temple
- Magnolia Soap and Bath Co.
- Paramount
- Alabama Goods
- Vulcan Park & Museum
- Target
- Railroad Park
- City Walk
- Pickleball Courts
- Civil Rights Institute
- Peanut Depot
- Cannella Gelato
- Savage's Bakery

UAB Occupational Therapy Partnership

This year, Horizons School had the privilege of hosting two Occupational Therapy Doctorate students from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) for a 16-week program, Katherine Ham and Cheyenne Fulks.

Dr. Ham focused on medicine management, equipping our students with essential skills to safely and effectively manage their medications, while Dr. Fulks taught sexual health, providing valuable education on healthy relationships and personal well-being.

Their expertise and dedication greatly benefited the school community, enhancing our curriculum and supporting our students' growth and independence.

**Dr. Katherine Hamm and
Dr. Cheyenne Folks**



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