



# FY23 ANNUAL REPORT



**HORIZONS  
FOR HOMELESS  
CHILDREN®**

# MISSION

The mission of Horizons for Homeless Children is to improve the lives of young homeless children in Massachusetts and help their families succeed by providing high-quality early education, opportunities for play, and comprehensive family support services.

# VISION

Every homeless child will have the opportunity to learn, play, and thrive.

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To read more about Horizons' initiatives and the work we're doing with children and families, visit our blog at [horizonschildren.org/blog](http://horizonschildren.org/blog)

Dear Friends of Horizons,

2023 was a year of innovation, new partnerships, and expansion at Horizons for Homeless Children. We created a new Playspace model to address the growing numbers of homeless families in our state and added two clinicians to our early education team to address the increased social-emotional needs of the children at our center. The Family Partnership Team greatly expanded our skill-based workshops and parent groups to provide scaffolding for parents to achieve success. We hosted numerous events at our center and throughout the city to build a stronger community. These accomplishments were made possible thanks to our supporters!

#### **Early Education:**

- Meeting the rising needs of food insecurity, we served over 103,000 meals & healthy snacks to children to account for 80% of their daily nutrition.
- 272 children accessed our early education center and benefited from a trauma-informed curriculum including 81 newly enrolled children.
- Our strong commitment to investing in the training and development of our teachers led to Horizons establishing a Core Curriculum for all educators and leaders within our early education program this year.
- We piloted and rolled out the app-based communications tool ProCare which allows teachers to message parents directly as a way of sharing updates, pictures, and discuss observations, which has already been successfully adopted by nearly 60% of parents.

#### **Playspace Program:**

- Horizons led the effort to serve children from infancy through preschool living in emergency family shelters as a result of the migrant crisis.
- More than 60 Playspaces are up and running in shelters throughout the state, nine of which were newly established in motel spaces, with over 18,000 child visits to Playspaces throughout 2023.
- We increased the number of Playspace volunteers by 30%, with over 800 PALs providing 37,800 hours of play to children living in shelters.
- Through our collaborations with the Boston Children's Museum, we brought Powerful Playtimes playgroups to families living in shelter to build social connections between parent and child and help children learn through play
- Our Playspace team hosted 42 parent workshops and also helped coordinate necessary wraparound services like early intervention for children living in shelter.
- Horizons initiated coordination with community partners including the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Cradles to Crayons, and Neighborhood Villages to ensure approximately 10,000 children received coats, hats, backpacks, and toys.

#### **Family Partnerships Program:**

- We've broadened our two-generational model to support families, enhancing our parent offerings around key areas: Parenting, skills acquisition, English as a Second Language (ESOL) coursework, computer training, and financial literacy.
- Our Family Advocates Team developed a new parent coaching framework known as Pathways to New Horizons, in which parents create actionable goals and track their progress in 5 domains: Wellbeing, Education, Employment, Family Stability, and Finances.
- Family advocates also launched a new Parent Profile Program – with 135 family profiles completed – which will revolutionize our comprehensive understanding of obstacles our families face and what services are most helpful to them as they progress.
- We celebrated the second year of our Parents Council, further opening lines of communication, collaboration, and achievement.
- We held 155 community activities, such as personal finance workshops and parent breakfasts for enrolled families.

#### **Our Community:**

- We've broadened our two-generational model to support families, enhancing our parent offerings around key areas: Parenting, skills acquisition, English as a Second Language (ESOL) coursework, computer training, and financial literacy.
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- Family advocates also launched a new Parent Profile Program – with 135 family profiles completed – which will revolutionize our comprehensive understanding of obstacles our families face and what services are most helpful to them as they progress
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#### **Advocating for Children and Families**

Horizons worked with lawmakers and fellow advocates to unlock services and supports for young children where they are most needed:

- A landmark FY2024 budget utilized state funds to directly support much-needed childcare slots and educator wages statewide.
- \$350,000 in state funding was secured for Horizons' longstanding Playspace program.

Horizons took a leadership role to advocate with government and the nonprofit sector to achieve some key goals, including:

- Bringing attention to young children living in large-scale hotel-based shelters.
- Supporting the Department of Early Education and Care in crafting new family-centric financial assistance regulations and increasing support for infant and toddler care.

We are leading the way to support the growing family homelessness population, and it is through the support of our community we are able to make a difference for the children and families who need us. We are grateful for the continued investment that makes a positive impact for the hundreds of families who depend on our services.

Sincerely,



Kate Barrant  
President & CEO



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past fiscal year, Horizons made great strides in our work. Here are just a few highlights:

## Early Education Centers



We continued our work on behalf of children experiencing homelessness in Boston by offering free, high quality, trauma-sensitive early education in the Edgerley Family Horizons Center, located in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

## Family Partnerships Program



We partnered with Horizons' parents by using a strengths-based focus to support and empower them as they build skills and strategically set goals for a sustainable future.

## Playspace Program



We reached children and families all across Massachusetts by designing, building, and staffing playrooms called Playspaces in shelters, providing value to children, parents and volunteers.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2023

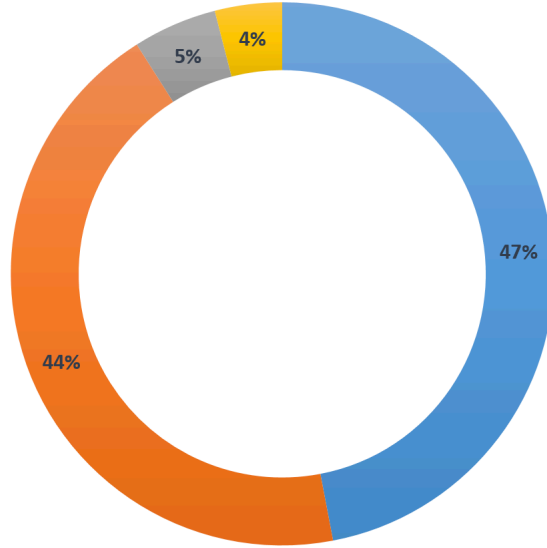
## Horizons for Homeless Children and Affiliate Combined Statements of Activities For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

<b>Revenues</b>	<i>Without Donor Restriction</i>	<i>With Donor Restriction</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Program revenues:</i>			
Contracts, grants and vouchers	\$ 8,185,806	\$ -	\$ 8,185,806
Donated professional services	122,600	-	122,600
Total program revenues	<u>8,308,406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,308,406</u>
<i>Fundraising revenues:</i>			
Contributions	4,891,941	403,959	5,295,900
Capital campaign contributions	1,292,824	200,000	1,492,824
Special events	2,159,551	-	2,159,551
Net assets released from restrictions	1,435,182	(1,435,182)	-
Total fundraising revenues	<u>9,779,498</u>	<u>(831,223)</u>	<u>8,948,275</u>
<i>Interest income on notes receivable</i>	<u>745,161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>745,161</u>
Total revenues	<u>18,833,065</u>	<u>(831,223)</u>	<u>18,001,842</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<i>Program services:</i>			
Early education centers	10,272,423	-	10,272,423
Playspace	739,760	-	739,760
Training and technical assistance	108,713	-	108,713
Evaluation	211,064	-	211,064
Policy and advocacy	200,655	-	200,655
Total program services	<u>11,532,615</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,532,615</u>
<i>Supporting services:</i>			
Fundraising	1,888,696	-	1,888,696
Marketing/communications	323,639	-	323,639
General and administrative	1,259,634	-	1,259,634
Total supporting services	<u>3,471,969</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,471,969</u>
Total expenses	<u>15,004,584</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,004,584</u>
Changes in net assets from operations	<u>3,828,481</u>	<u>(831,223)</u>	<u>2,997,258</u>
<b>Non-operating activity</b>			
Rental income	111,582	-	111,582
Interest and dividends on investments	72,256	-	72,256
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	756,140	-	756,140
Total non-operating revenues	<u>939,978</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>939,978</u>
Changes in net assets	<u>4,768,459</u>	<u>(831,223)</u>	<u>3,937,236</u>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<u>36,832,080</u>	<u>2,523,282</u>	<u>39,355,362</u>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 41,600,539</u>	<u>\$ 1,692,059</u>	<u>\$ 43,292,598</u>

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022 assets

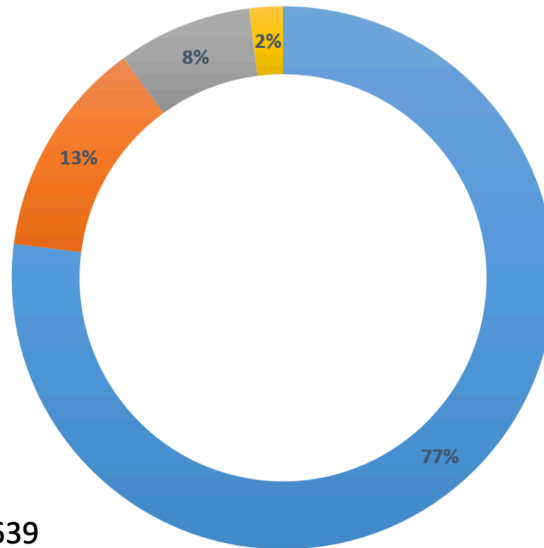
## FY 23 Revenues: \$18,941,820



Fundraising: \$8,948,275  
Program Revenue: \$8,308,406  
Non-Operating Revenue: \$939,978  
NMTC Interest Income: \$745,161

■ Fundraising ■ Programs ■ Non-Operating Revenue ■ NMTC Interest Income

## FY 23 Expenditures: \$15,004,584



Programs: \$11,532,615  
Fundraising: \$1,888,696  
G&A: \$1,259,634  
Communications/Marketing: \$323,639

■ Programs ■ Fundraising ■ G&A ■ Communications/Marketing


# HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

By the numbers


## FACTS ON FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

### HORIZONS' IMPACT IN 2023

Last year, Horizons for Homeless Children had...



**6,000 children**  
under 6 are currently in the Emergency Assistance shelter system across MA.



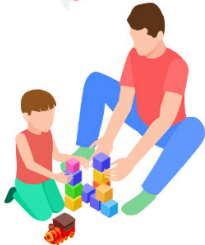
**\$149,572**  
is the required income a single parent with two children would need to make (\$71.91/hr) to support their family according to MIT's living wage calculator for Boston.



**1 in 19 children**  
under the age of 6 experience homelessness in MA in a given year, either in shelter or doubled up.



**800**  
Playspace Activity Leaders (PALs) volunteer with our Playspace Program



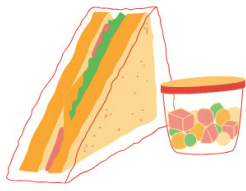
**37,800**  
hours spent playing with children experiencing homelessness



**42**  
workshops with parents living in shelters to deepen the parent-child bond



**155**  
community activities, such as personal finance workshops and parent breakfasts for enrolled families



**103,000**  
hot meals and healthy snacks served to children in our early education center

# GENAE'S STORY

Childhood homelessness is a traumatic experience. It can impact healthy development and have lasting effects into adulthood. Genae, a mother in our program, is working to break the generational cycle of trauma so she and her son Damani can thrive.

Growing up with an unstable childhood herself, Genae was separated from her single mom and raised by relatives in a space that barely fit a bed. Running with the 'wrong crowd', Genae became pregnant at 17 and dropped out of school to live with her soon-to-be-born son's father. During the stress of this experience, her partner became regularly violent. Their relationship issues escalated in a fight that landed Genae at the bottom of his steps with a shattered knee and broken wrist.

"I barely got away that night. I vowed I would never go back."

Moving into a domestic violence shelter, Genae's emotional and physical stress took a toll on her, pushing her into early labor. Scared, hurt, and alone, she welcomed her son Damani into the world without a safety net to fall back on or resources to adequately care for her premature newborn.

When her case manager connected her to Horizons, everything changed.

Damani joined Horizons' program developmentally behind, but with each day, he's been reaching important milestones. Under the guidance of our specially trained teachers, he's steadily catching up with his peers. He's flourishing socially, his vocabulary is expanding, and his confidence is growing as he connects with classmates in class, the library, the STEM lab, and on the playground.

While her 'little man in the making' is at school, Genae's been working with her Family Advocate on how to handle life's challenges. From connecting her to food resources to helping her define a career path, Genae is working toward building a sustainable life for her and her son. Knowing how critical these early years are for Damani, she's seeing firsthand the impacts the early education program is having on her son. She too has admitted to learning some life lessons along the way.

"The people we choose to spend time with influence who we become...well, I know the team at Horizons has helped me to raise my standards and become the best woman and mother I know I can be, so I can create a better future for myself and my family. "

Genae and Damani's story of resilience is one of many we see at Horizons. Through our work, we're helping moms like Genae find a path forward despite life's challenges. We're providing an enriching curriculum and trauma-informed care to students like Damani so they don't begin school behind their peers. And our work extends beyond Boston to shelters throughout the state where we host play sessions with caring, trained volunteers.





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# Give. Volunteer. Connect.



**HORIZONS  
FOR HOMELESS  
CHILDREN®**

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