

New Horizons of Southwest Florida

Annual Report

2016



Empowering Tomorrow's Generation Today

**New Horizons of SW FL:
Empowering at-risk youth to reach
their full potential through tutoring,
mentoring and faith-building.**



Dedicated to Diana Alvarez

Super Kids Club student

Missing from her home since May 29, 2016

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Dear New Horizons Friends,

What an amazing year to recap with you! We have grown in student population and as an organization. This year, New Horizons took time to ask what it is that makes us unique, special and able to accomplish all that we do. First and foremost, we accomplish what we do through God's will and wisdom. It is He who brings us at-risk students, passionate volunteers, committed staff and generous donors. Then we asked the next question: how are we applying what He gives us? We determined it was in four key areas:

Unique and Innovative Programs:

- Learning environment tailored to the needs of each student
- Combination of one-on-one tutoring/mentoring with a computerized learning system
- Continually improving programs based on needs and opportunities
- Developing and launching new programs to address identified needs
- Weekly action plans for students who are falling behind worked by staff/teachers/parents/students

Degrees of Influence:

Students: the high school graduation rate of our teens is 88% and they have a plan for their lives

- Families: New Horizons' students impact their families from little things to life changers
- Teachers: surveys report the positive impact of New Horizons' students on the classroom
- Volunteers: multi-generational mentoring; giving retirees purpose and passion
- Community: businesses gain educated and motivated employees when they hire Super Teen Graduates
- Staff: Working for New Horizons isn't just a job; it is a mission that impacts the staff in all they do

Partnering for Impact:

- Keeping overhead and costs low through partnerships to provide more opportunities to students and increase enrollment
- Adding new locations in partnership with churches, who provide facilities at no cost to New Horizons and offer our students and their families additional ministries and events
- Providing our students with first-time experiences to grow their horizons

Planning for the Future:

- Growing sustainability of New Horizons through an endowment and planned giving
- Strengthening continuity of staff with succession plans, training, and benefits
- Growing presence in Collier County

We hope this gives you a sense of the solid foundation this organization has established and assurance that your time and financial support are wisely invested. Enjoy reading about everything highlighted above in more detail in this fiscal year 2016 Annual Report. Together we are empowering tomorrow's generation today!

Humbly,

New Horizons Board of Directors

Gus Arredondo

Denise Carlin

Debbie Finch

Debra Haley

John Jazwa

Steve LaBelle

Rob Lancaster

West McCann

Ron Miller

Bob Nichols

Ellen Nichols

Dave Shellenbarger

New Horizons

By the Numbers

409

Participating
Students

460

Volunteers

7

sites

Estero, Bonita Springs, Naples, Fort Myers

58

high school
graduates who are:

Serving in Military
Attending College
Volunteering
Working

74

Community
Partners

39%

of middle school
students made
the honor roll

3.15

average
high school
GPA

73%

of elementary
students earned a
“C” or better in
language arts

Unique and Innovative Programs



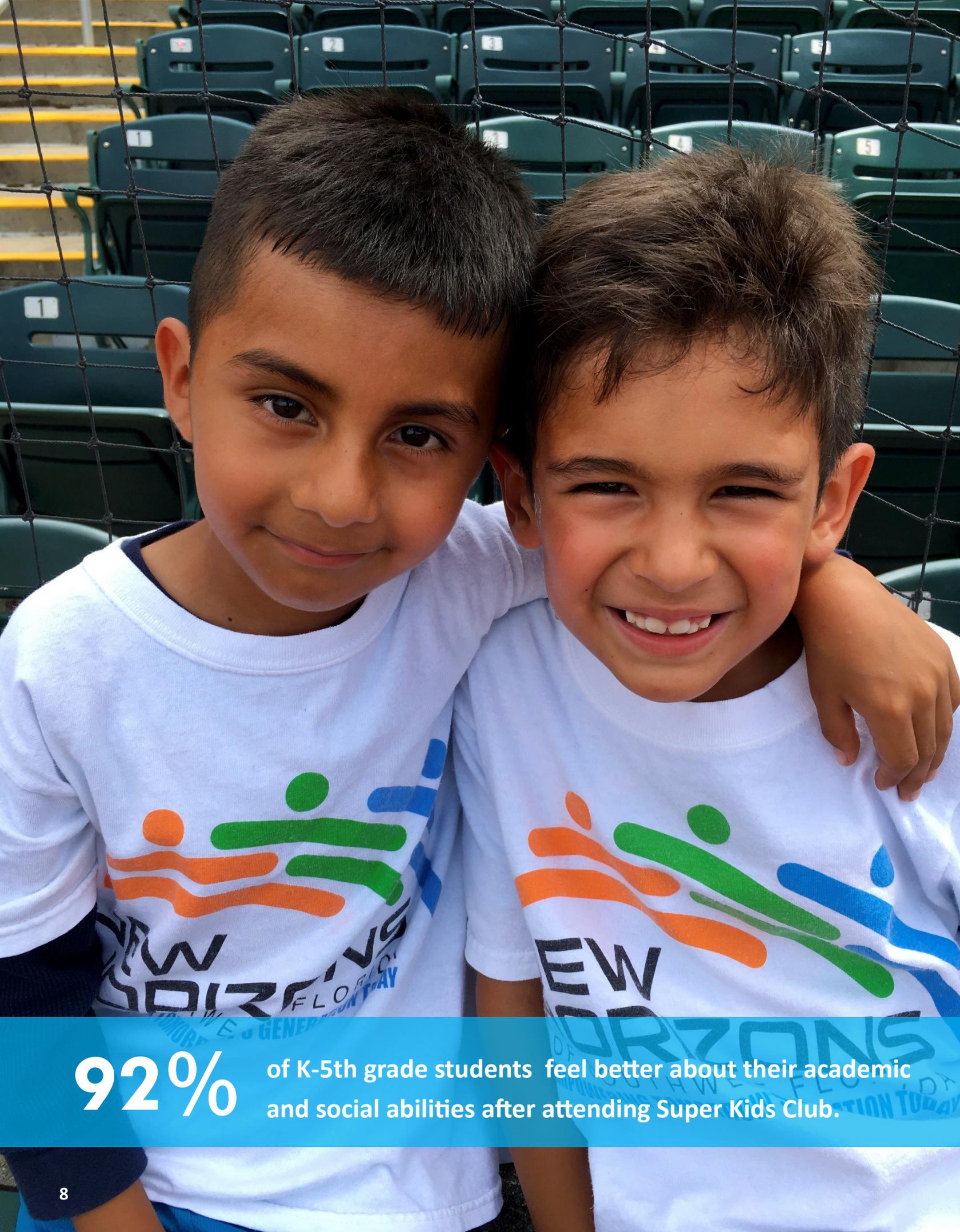
New Horizons was established and continues to grow based on two key issues that at-risk students in Southwest Florida face: the need for additional help with homework and the demand of adapting to a world they and their families are not accustomed to.

First, when homework is assigned in the classroom, the school system assumes that students have a place to study after school and parents who can help them complete the assignment. In reality, many students receive no additional help outside of the classroom and have no place to study.

Second, the at-risk population across the United States is growing along with increased immigration, yet our school system is not staffed or equipped to help these students readily and fully assimilate. In 2014, 17.4% of the U.S. population was Hispanic. That number is projected to grow to 28.6% by 2060, making the Hispanic population the largest ethnic minority in the United States.

Through its range of programs, New Horizons is focused on specifically addressing these issues to help both our students and their families. Our Super Kids and Super Teens Clubs give at-risk students a place to study after school and a group of dedicated individuals to help with homework. The learning environment is tailored to meet the needs of each student through a combination of one-on-one tutoring/mentoring and a computerized learning system. Our other programs supplement the after school programs with camps during the summer and specialized programs throughout the year.

We serve the mostly Hispanic at-risk population in Southwest Florida by providing over 80,000 hours of tutoring and mentoring annually at no cost to our students or their families. We offer weekly action plans for students who are falling behind, and our multi-generational approach to tutoring and mentoring helps students further adapt by learning from people of all ages. This year, New Horizons saw its largest enrollment to date: 409 at-risk children and teens.



92%

of K-5th grade students feel better about their academic and social abilities after attending Super Kids Club.

Super Kids Club

At six locations from south Fort Myers to east Naples, **272** at-risk students in grades K-5 received *individualized* after-school tutoring and mentoring as part of Super Kids Club. Volunteers and staff helped students one-on-one in areas where they struggled and encouraged them when they succeeded.

One way we encouraged students this year was with “Super bucks.” Super bucks are earned for completing homework, reading lab modules and learning Bible verses. Super Kids can spend their hard-earned bucks in exchange for gifts like toys and food (1). Not only do they enjoy their gifts, they take a more active role in their education!

Super Kids Club proves when people come together, amazing things can happen. For instance, when Lisette arrived at our program in kindergarten, neither she nor her parents knew any English. Mary, a **dedicated** volunteer, worked with Lisette and by the end of the third quarter Lisette could read Dr. Seuss books aloud!

Along with help from volunteers, generous community partners **enriched** the lives of our Super Kids this year. They went fishing and shared conversations with guests from the fire and police departments. Shadowlawn students visited the East Naples Library where they had a day of reading (2).

Ninety-six percent of Super Kids believe it helps to have someone help them with their homework, and at the end of the school year 93% agreed that they were **doing better in school**. As the school year drew to a close, 51 of our 5th grade students celebrated their graduation from Super Kids Club in anticipation of middle school and Super Teens Leadership Camp (3)!



Christopher's Story

Christopher, a 4th grader who loves the pool and the library, joined New Horizons last summer and has made vast improvements since. When he arrived, Christopher needed to work on his reading skills. Now, his grades have improved, he has begun to enjoy reading, and he **feels more confident** in his schoolwork. “Now I think it's fun to do things that help me learn more,” he said.

But Christopher has grown more than academically; he's also displayed tremendous character development. Christopher quietly **leads by example** and shows kindness to all, without looking for recognition or praise. In the club, he makes a point of helping others as he sees their need. This humility at such a young age will ensure his success later!



2016 Graduates—The Facts

67% are enrolled in college this fall with scholarships and/or financial aid

22% are going into military service

11% are going to technical school this fall with scholarships and/or financial aid



93% of Super Teens say they want to be more successful now and in the future.

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, **137** Super Teens were enrolled at our two sites in Estero and east Naples.

One-on-one help and interaction with like-minded peers has served our teens well; our high school students ended the year with an average GPA of 3.14. Overall, the Super Teens Club has an 88% graduation rate since its inception.

Homework help was accompanied by **character-strengthening** activities throughout the year. In the fall, 23 high school and middle school girls went fishing as part of Freedom Waters' Heels and Reels fishing program (1). In January, students participated in Government Day, where they learned about our government, toured Bonita Springs City Hall and participated in mock city council meetings. Each student played roles such as city mayor, councilman, finance director and concerned citizen (2). They also participated in a food build at Naples United Church of Christ and held two car washes to raise funds for summer leadership camp.

One of the highlights of the school year was this spring, when the teens got an up-close look at a Torah scroll that survived the Holocaust. In this once in a lifetime opportunity, teens learned, felt and saw the Bible from a historical view (3).

Ninety-five percent of our teens' public school teachers believe that attendance at the Super Teens Club has had a **positive impact** on their students' academic performance. These unique experiences, combined with consistent and attentive help with schoolwork, are what build our teens into the adults they will become.



Francisco's Story

Francisco is a longtime member of the New Horizons family. When he joined the Super Kids Club in second grade, he was struggling in school.

With a lot of **hard work**, he grew as a student and a person. Today, Francisco is an honor roll student with responsibilities outside of the classroom. He tutors students at the Super Teens Club, something he feels passionate about. "I want them to know what an amazing difference it has made in my life and will make in theirs," he says.

When a New Horizons volunteer learned that Francisco wanted to become a veterinarian, she connected him to Estero Animal Hospital, where he now works two days a week gaining valuable experience.



"My life has been blessed by New Horizons and I thank God for all that they do."

Super Kids Reading Camp

During the summer, when information learned during the school year is easily forgotten, **240** Super Kids attended Super Kids Reading Camp, a four-week intensive reading camp aimed at significantly improving reading skills.

Students were separated into small groups and worked one on one with public school teachers hired by New Horizons. Teachers concentrated on students' reading comprehension and oral reading fluency, the ability to read text quickly, accurately, and with proper expression.

Teachers and students alike are seeing the difference. Ninety-eight percent of students surveyed feel that they have **improved** their reading skills. One Kindergarten teacher said, "I feel it helps them not only recognize letters and some sight words, but also prepares them with school socialization like: lining up, waiting for a turn, listening for information, following directions, and working as a team."

Campers were not only fed academically; Lee and Collier County Summer Food Programs provided breakfast and lunch daily. They also had the chance for some recreational activity with four afternoons of swimming lessons at community pools. Laces of Love provided back to school shoes for the kids, and Estero United Methodist Church and Bay Presbyterian donated backpacks filled with school supplies for each student. It was a summer of giving and receiving, learning and fun.

One teacher said, "The **personal attention** the students get is **priceless**. What an amazing opportunity for both the teachers and the students!" After camp, 97% of students believe that they will do **better in school**. We give our students the tools, and they are inspired with the confidence to use them!



Super Teens Leadership Camp

This year, **114** Super Teens arrived at the five-week summer camp ready to practice and apply their leadership skills. Based on *Forty Days of Freedom* by Kit Cummings, teens focused on building five skills necessary to lead successfully: integrity, effective listening, good judgement, empathy and emotional stability.

The skills were taught through lessons that were both educational and fun. They took lessons on singing, playing musical instruments (1) and even dancing, courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio (2). They explored the outdoors, learning to kayak; visiting the Naples Zoo; taking paddle boarding lessons (3); and learning to geo-cache with help from the College of Life Foundation. They also experienced history by touring the Holocaust Museum. These group activities showed that leaders must also be team players. “Super Teens Leadership Camp has helped me to talk to others and be more of an active listener,” one camper stated. In fact, 98% of teens said that they want to have **more integrity**, be a better listener and show good **judgement** after attending the camp.

For one week, 62 students attended Fellowship of Christian Athletes Camp, which taught leadership through sports activities and faith-building breakout sessions (5). After that 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 40 students attended a two-day marine biology excursion in Key West. There, they had the opportunity to snorkel, experience marine life up close and personal, and better understand the delicacy of the marine ecosystem (4). “Super Teens Leadership Camp helped me become a **better person**,” one sixth grader said.





192

number of badges earned by the Super Girls Club in eight units of study, including teambuilding, self-esteem and faith.

Super Girls grow their own food at the community garden

Super Girls Club

Our 4th and 5th grade girls spent their Friday afternoons at Super Girls Club, where they completed eight learning modules that ranged from **team-building** and **community service** to **self-esteem** and **nutrition**. The 34 Super Girls had many meaningful experiences throughout the year. Modules were measured with written tests, club participation and skills demonstrated during activities.

The girls received a history lesson, visiting the Estero Historic House, which taught them about the history of where they live (1). They participated in a community garden, demonstrating the different stages of plant growth and how food can go from a seed to your dinner table. This activity promoted **teamwork** and confidence! The girls also worked with community partners to learn how to cook, a skill that they may not have the resources to learn at home (2).

But the Super Girls also learned how to give back. The Estero club washed the van that transported them to Estero United Methodist Church, the Shadowlawn club baked and sold cookies to help the Super Teens raise funds and the Rosemary club made blankets to give to underserved communities.

One of the most significant factors in the success of the Super Girls Club this year was the integration of the three Girls Club locations. When the clubs got together, they shared experiences, learned teamwork and made new friends.



Ana's Story

Ana has been a Super Kid for four years. In that time, she has displayed tremendous growth as a student. In March, the Southwest Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce named her Elementary School **Student of the Year**. What a great honor!

As a member of the Estero Super Girls and Kids Clubs, Ana continues to grow and **inspire** the other students as she develops the self-confidence and character skills necessary to succeed in school and in life.



Super Moms Club

This was an incredible year of learning and opportunity for the Super Moms, mothers of our students who attend the Estero and Bonita Springs sites. The Super Moms Club met for three hours each week to learn parenting, health and nutrition, English, about U.S. culture and social skills (1). Their toddlers also had the chance to enhance their pre-K skills (2).

Through a unique grant opportunity from the O'Neill Family Foundation, we hired a part-time staff person with a previous career in social services to serve as case manager and help these mothers with basic family needs. The result? A noticeable improvement in their children's grades because of the more **stable home** life the mothers could provide.

The program, Family Central, became an important part of the Super Moms Club. Through the program, 73 families were introduced to community **resources** that they did not know existed and were able to get furniture, rent, food, clothes and attend human trafficking workshops. Families even received transportation to nearly 70 doctors appointments with help from the case manager. At the end of the year, the moms celebrated their progress with the first Super Moms Gala (3).

Family Central enhanced the Super Moms Club, giving confidence and resources to the moms. This change was reflected in their students' grades: in 2014-15 only 42% of students received a reading grade of "C" or better, but in 2015-16, that number jumped to 67%. It made a significant difference in the academic and social **well-being** of our students' families and confirmed that many at-risk families are isolated and need a trusted agent to help them integrate into society and reach out for the help they desperately need.



College Bound

Juniors and seniors gathered together on Friday afternoons to prepare for the next phase of their education – college and Vo-Tech. Each week, they had intensive preparation for the SAT and ACT, and worked on applications for college, scholarships and financial aid.

In January, the students toured Florida SouthWestern State College and Florida Gulf Coast University (1). They visited FSW’s nursing program, FGCU’s athletic facilities and the residence halls in each school to learn about on-campus life. They discussed admission requirements, college expectations and course options. This **learning** experience encouraged students to envision themselves as college students.

The result? Ten scholarships were awarded to nine seniors to attend college after graduation and eight of the nine received additional financial aid through FAFSA. Scholarships came from the Bonita Lions Club, Dollars for Scholars and more. Two seniors, Velma and Angelica, both received a 100% tuition paid scholarship for an Associate’s Degree at Hodges University from the SWFL Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (2). Velma said, “College Bound gave me **the push I needed** to get motivated on applying for scholarships. Thanks to the program I have a two year scholarship!” As graduation becomes a reality for our older students, College Bound gives them the resources and support to develop a post-graduation plan and put it into action.



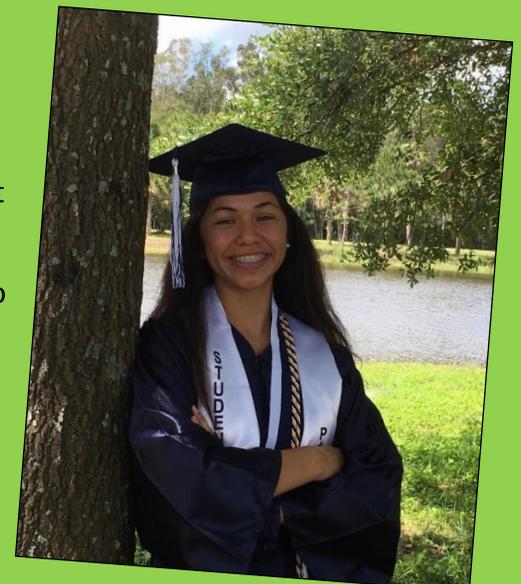
Evelyn’s Story

Evelyn spent many years with New Horizons before graduating from Estero High School this year. When we first met Evelyn, she struggled with school and maintaining good grades. At Super Teens Club, she received help with her most difficult subjects, eventually becoming an **honor roll** student.

During her time at New Horizons, Evelyn sang with the choir and volunteered to give back in return for all the help she’s received with New Horizons programs.

Evelyn graduated with a Take Stock in Children scholarship, a four-year scholarship that pays the full tuition for any College in Florida. She plans to major in criminal justice this fall.

“I want to help anyone that I can because I want to give back to the community.”



Degrees Of Influence

The lives we touch only start with the students in our programs. From there, they take on various degrees of influence, causing a ripple effect as we impact thousands of lives across our community.



Students

Every connection that our students make within and beyond the walls of the Super Teens Club is a degree of influence they have on others. They are **role models** for the younger students and encourage their Super Teen peers. For our students, the volunteers, staff and other Super Kids and Teens are like a second **family** (1). They celebrate successes and share sorrows together always keeping an eye on the vision to reach their full potential.



Volunteers

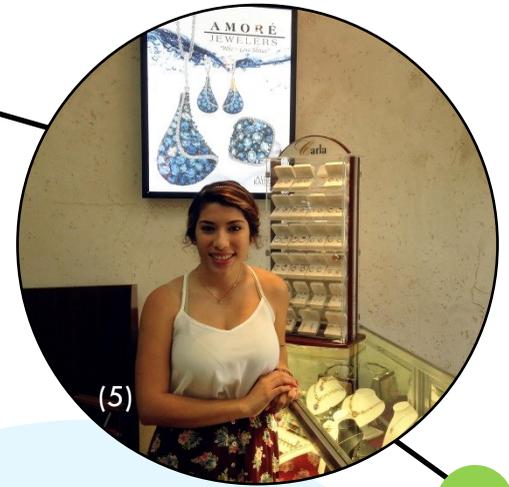
This year, **460** active, committed and caring volunteers served our students in a multitude of ways: praying for them, helping them with homework (4), teaching them a skill, donating snacks and more. At Shadowlawn Super Kids Club, an active volunteer named Miss Lauren shared, “I **love** this more than anything else I do.” Our innovative multi-generational approach to mentoring helps volunteers find purpose in the connections they make with our students. Clint Cottrell, Pastor of Cypress Presbyterian Church and host to a Super Kids Club, relates a story about a volunteer at his site: “The way he walked, the way he spoke, **his whole life changed** because he was making a difference by volunteering at Super Kids Club.”





Families

While 99% of parents agree that their child is doing better in school because of the help he/she receives at New Horizons, the impact is not just academic. Our students influence their families in various ways. For instance, we teach our students the value of **giving**. This has influenced parents to volunteer each week to clean up at the Super Kids Club (2) as a way of saying thank you. Through the program, students grow in ways even their families can see: when students grow in their relationship with God, we begin to see familiar faces in church; when they earn good grades, their younger siblings see that accomplishment and want to model it. Their **good example** influences parents and siblings alike.



Classrooms

We **challenge** our students to take what they have learned and put it into action. The skills they learn at the club have a **positive impact** on their performance in the classroom, and teachers are seeing the difference (3). For example, when Aedyn first came to Super Kids Club, he knew very few sight words. We worked with him diligently and by January, Aedyn and his teacher called to tell our staff personally that he now knew 75 sight words! And as Cathy M'Bark, 3rd grade teacher at Villas Elementary School, shared: "As I prepare report cards and look at end of quarter data, there has been a significant increase in both reading and math grades and test scores – representing an average 7 month **increase** in the 2.5 months since the quarter began!"

The Community

New Horizons programs influence the community. The high school graduation rate for our teens is 88%, and each student walks across the stage with a **plan** for his or her life. They're joining the military, enrolling in college or a vocational school and/or entering the local workforce. When a company hires a Super Teen graduate, they gain motivated employees with **valuable** skill sets and strong moral values. From veterinarians to military service, many Super Teen graduates choose careers that are geared toward helping others. Michelle Ramirez is a 2014 Super Teen and high school graduate who is now an employee at Amore Jewelers (5). Her employer Bill Skidmore says, "Michelle brightens the day of our staff and customers with her servant's heart."

Staff

We are fortunate to have a staff of hardworking people who are dedicated to fulfilling our mission (6). Staff members go **above and beyond**; donating their personal time and resources when they see an unmet need, spending extra time with volunteers who want to share their experiences and connecting with the community to promote the New Horizons mission. Their **dedication** is easy to see: Club Directors Tom Hazell and Louis Campbell both celebrated 10 years of service this year. Yady Galano, Super Kids Club Director, was recognized as Employee of the Year by the Southwest Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Staff members are also influencing their own networks. Many new volunteers, donors and luncheon attendees have gotten to know us through conversations with staff!

Partnering for Impact

We are blessed to partner with so many community businesses and organizations. They provided many wonderful opportunities, experiences and blessings to our students. For so many of them, these are first time experiences and opportunities that expanded their horizons and the realms of possibility. They received heartfelt gifts that let them know they are special.

Throughout this past year, our partners donated snacks, shoes, Christmas presents, offered workshops on financial literacy and more. Students' families celebrated Thanksgiving with turkey dinners donated by local churches and community groups. **Opera Naples** visited the Super Kids Club to share the love of art and education with our students. **First Tee Lee County** gave Super Teens a lesson in character development as well as a lesson in golf. After the **College of Life Foundation** taught students the Art and Science of Bread Making, the students took the bread home to share it with their families and neighbors!

Through our partnerships with various churches (**Cypress Lake Presbyterian, East Naples Baptist, Emmanuel Lutheran, Estero UMC, 1st UMC of Bonita** and **River of Life**), we are able to keep overhead costs low. When our newest location at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church was launched last October, it became a wonderful addition to the New Horizons family, serving students who attend Villa Elementary.

Our corporate sponsors helped with fundraisers, raised visibility of our mission to their customers, hosted events and more. We offer special thanks to our diamond level sponsors: **Amore Jewelers, Coconut Point Ford, John and Lesley Hill, Northern Trust** and **Roderick and Sue Price: Realtors (John R. Wood Properties)**.

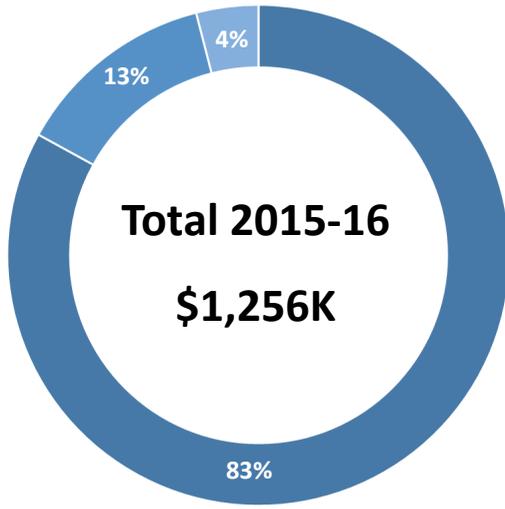
We could not accomplish our mission without the support of our generous and caring community. Our heartfelt **thanks** for all you did for our students in 2015/16.

To learn more about our community partners and corporate sponsors, please visit our website at newhorizonsofswfl.org

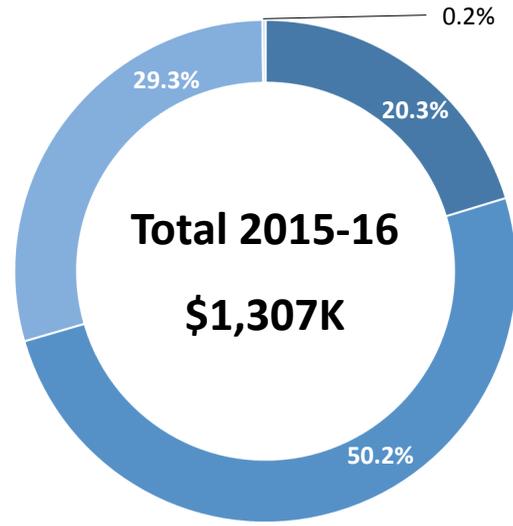


Financial Highlights

Expenses



Revenue



■ Programs ■ Management ■ Fundraisers ■ Fundraisers ■ Donations ■ Grants ■ Investment Income

Over the course of the year, New Horizons was:

- Awarded grants from foundations including Maximus, O’Neill Family, Schulze Family, and the Community Foundation of Collier County, Lee County Partnering for Results, McCune, Dollar General
- Recognized as a 2016 Top-Rated Nonprofit by Great Nonprofits
- In the queue to be reviewed by Charity Navigator
- Awarded the Make More Happen Award, a national award from Safeco Insurance
- Awarded Champion of Service Award from the State of Florida
- A partner agency with the United Way of both Lee & Collier Counties

In the coming year, New Horizons plans to:

- Create a more sustainable program through our endowment fund and planned giving program
- Strengthen staff retention and continuity by creating succession plans and offering benefits and training
- Build on a growing presence in Collier County



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:** NewHorizonsofSWFL.org/giving-circles



Class Of:

2008

Johnny Medina

Currently stationed in Japan as part of the U.S. Army

2010

Jose Hernandez

Attends Florida SouthWestern State College and works at Publix

Manuel Ortiz

Served in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army and currently attends Florida Gulf Coast University

2012

Elvira Jose

Majors in criminal justice at Florida SouthWestern State College, works full-time at Dillard's

Josue Regalado

Works at Naples Manor Assisted Living and is studying to be an EMT

2011

Alexia Ramirez

Earned an AA degree at Florida SouthWestern State College, currently attends Florida Gulf Coast University and works full-time at Panera Bread



Alexia Ramirez '11

2013

Moises Juarez

Earned an AA degree at Florida SouthWestern State College, currently studies business at Florida Gulf Coast University and works at the Super Teens Club

Javier Olivares

Currently works full time at Able Scape Tree Service

2014

Maria Guerrero

Studying to be a nurse with the Take Stock in Children scholarship, works as a tutor at the Super Teens Club, and is in the Army Reserves

Angel Lopez

Studies biology at Florida Gulf Coast University on a Rising Star scholarship, aims to be a nurse, and works at the Super Teens Club

2015

Jose Cortes

Currently a student at Florida SouthWestern State College and works at the Super Teens Club

Michelle Ramirez

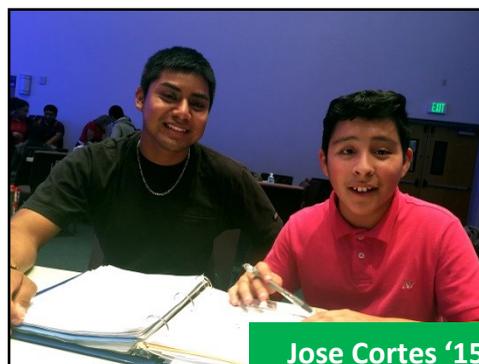
Studies elementary education at Florida SouthWestern State College, works at Amore Jewelers

2016

Congratulations to our 2016 Graduates:

Velma Bautista
Evelyn Pacheco
Eloise Guerro
Jesus Yanez
Mario Reyes

Martin Tiburcio
Andrea Valdez
Angelica Valdez
Kenny VanVo



Jose Cortes '15



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 or **donate** your resources 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

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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 over 400 children and teens at seven locations in Naples, Bonita Springs, Estero and South Fort Myers; providing over 80,000 hours of after school tutoring and mentoring annually at no cost to their families.