



HSBC ANNOUNCES \$1.5 MILLION GRANT TO EXPAND HORIZONS LEARNING PROGRAMS TO REACH MORE KIDS

*And, on May 17, “Horizons Giving Day,” HSBC will match
first \$100,000 in public donations*

Studies show all children learn at similar pace during school hours
but lower-income children fall critically behind during the summer months;
Horizons works to change that.

New York, NY -- (May 15, 2017) – HSBC today announced a charitable grant of \$1.5 million to help bring Horizons multi-year learning programs to new communities and serve more low-income children across the country. In addition, HSBC will support Horizons National’s “Horizons Giving Day,” held for 24 hours on Wednesday, May 17, by matching the first \$100,000 of the public’s generous donations.

Studies show that, while children across different income levels learn at similar rates during the school year, during the summer months lower-income students sustain a substantial learning disadvantage. [According to Johns Hopkins researchers](#), by 9th grade, approximately two-thirds of the reading achievement gap between higher and lower income students can be attributed to summer learning loss and differences in out of school opportunities.

The disparities are substantial and persistent. The [achievement gap](#) between children from high- and low-income families is roughly 30 to 40 percent larger among children born in 2001 than among those born twenty-five years earlier.

Horizons challenges this ever-widening gap by providing low-income children with an opportunity to gain, rather than lose, skills each summer and throughout the school year.

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The results are impressive. Students who attend Horizons' highly-effective, tuition-free, six-week summer program achieve, on average, 8-12 week gains in reading and math compared to the 8-12 week loss most low-income children experience. Most return year after year from kindergarten through high school. Horizons high school students have a 99% graduation rate, and 91% of these graduates go on to college or other post-secondary education.

Demand for summer programs is high, and outstrips supply. According to an [Afterschool Alliance national study](#), 33% of families said at least one child attended a summer program in 2013, while 51% of families reported they would like their child to participate. Additionally, parents of 19.4 million children, roughly equivalent to two in five children in public schools, said they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available.

Horizons currently has over 50 programs in 17 states and continues to expand. HSBC's funds will help make this a reality, bringing learning opportunities to more children in need.

"Our purpose as a bank is to help people realize their ambitions, and through this partnership we'll be able to help children, regardless of their economic status, reach their full potential," said Pat Burke, President and Chief Executive Officer, [HSBC USA](#). "Today, as part of the 'Horizons Giving Day,' I invite the public to see firsthand what these programs achieve and join us to support existing Horizons programs in their hometowns."

To learn when HSBC announces an expansion of Horizon programs to new cities, "[like](#)" HSBC on Facebook or [follow](#) on Twitter.

"The real gaps in opportunity and achievement affect everyone. It's easy to think, 'this isn't my problem,' but limited opportunity and achievement for any one of us means a limited future for all of us," said Horizons National CEO Lorna Smith. "Becoming a successful adult isn't a short term proposition, and a one-time intervention won't fix the problem. Horizons works because both students and educators make a long term commitment."

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Horizons Giving Day (www.horizonsgivingday.org) is a nationwide digital fundraising effort on May 17 with a single goal: to raise more than one million dollars to grow existing Horizons programs and bring Horizons to more communities and families nationwide. Gifts given to local Horizons sites stay local, and gifts given to Horizons National will help bring Horizons to even more communities.

Media enquiries to:

Horizons National
Kelly Mattox
+1 203 594 7040
kmattox@horizonsnational.org
@HorizonsNatl

HSBC
Rob Sherman
+1 212 525 6901
robert.a.sherman@us.hsbc.com
@HSBC_US

Notes to editors:

HSBC Bank USA, National Association

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Horizons National

Horizons is a growing, community-centered network of over 50 affiliate sites across the country that provides high-quality academic enrichment programs to children in need, from Pre-K through high school. Coming to Horizons with a broad range of academic ability, low-income students discover the joy of learning, the skills for success, and the inspiration to achieve their dreams. With an intensive six-week summer program, and afterschool and weekend programs throughout the year, Horizons students explore a project-based curriculum and focus on reading and STEM, and participate in the arts, fitness, nutrition, and field trips. Horizons programs are located on the campuses of independent schools, colleges, and universities, and are taught by professional teachers with a 5:1 student to teacher ratio.

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