



HORIZON HIGH SCHOOL

Wisconsin's only Recovery High School

Helping teens succeed in sobriety and in life since 2005

## HORIZON HIGH SCHOOL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

January 20, 2020

Dear Valued Friends and Supporters:

**This month, January 2020, Horizon High School will have our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of starting operation!** It seems like a miracle that we have survived – we've had two "close calls" over the past 15 years, almost having to close our doors due to lack of funds to pay our hard-working, dedicated staff – but you all came through and provided the necessary funding. We have a great staff! We are at our 5<sup>th</sup> location (the last 3 all within the same block) and could use more room. Our financial status is stable, as we now have a more "braided funding stream" as our Vice-President (and national recovery school expert, Paul Moberg) has been telling us for 15 years. And in December we received a gift of a 16-seater van/shuttle bus, so now transporting our students to weekly events (such as working out at a gym, doing community service and life skills) is easier and more efficient. **We will have a formal celebration of our 15 years on April 29th at the Madison Club (details forthcoming). We hope you will be able to attend and celebrate with us.**

Best wishes,

John Fournelle, HHS Board President



Horizon High School students weekly visit senior citizens at the Jefferson Senior Home



As of December 2019, Horizon has a bus!

**April 29, 2020 - HHS 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration @ Madison Club  
With Guest Speaker: Ritchie Davidson**

P.O. Box 45045, Madison, Wisconsin 53744 • 608-442-0935 • [www.horizonhs.org](http://www.horizonhs.org)

## Report from the HHS Staff:

The last 3 months at Horizon has been a time of growth and learning for all of the students and staff. We have been working on solidifying curriculum and establishing boundaries for our students.

In classes we are working to meet the students where they are at with their academics. Math is split between Chromebooks using the program Aleks the students are working on geometry, algebra I and algebra II with trigonometry. The other group is working on prealgebra out of a book.

The Chromebooks are integral to our English program. We have a guest teacher coming in and teaching formal grammar and writing skills. We have completed 2 plays and have gone to ATP to see Macbeth. We have completed *The Seed Folks*, *EVA* and are working on completing *The Japanese Lover*.

In history we have been focusing on World War II from the European perspective. We have completed individual projects on major players. Watched *Schindler's List* and are working on individual creative writing papers on people from this era. In the new year we will read *The Diary of Anne Frank* or *Night*.

We are working on earth science from a book. We have been working on pollution and our carbon footprint. We completed a project looking at the resources that we use and how we can use less and recycle. The Chromebooks allow us to use Google Classroom so that our students can work from offsite if needed.



The wheels on the bus go round and round!  
HHS Director Traci Goll likes the new school bus!



Horizon High School students and staff at the May 14, 2019 HHS fundraiser at Rocky Rococo

The students also have many opportunities to spend time in the community and give back. Mondays the students have been volunteering at The Jefferson. Spending time with our older generation. On Tuesday's our students have gone to farms, volunteered for the Berbee Derby, MATC tour, gone hiking, Union South and Memorial Union. Wednesdays the students participate in Art therapy. Thursdays the students go to The Princeton Club and work out. Fridays has turned into classic movie afternoon with students being exposed to movies from the AFI's top 100 list.

Horizon High School is continuing to grow and evolve as we meet our current students' needs and work toward accreditation.

Thank You for your continued support of our wonderful students and our efforts to work with these young adults.

Traci, Bob, Kim, Darby and Gavin

## STUDENT STATISTICS December 2019:

We generally have a census of 12-15 students.

As of the 3rd week of December 2019, Horizon High School has 13 students:

Gender: 8 Females, 5 Males

Race: White - 7

Black - 2

Bi-racial- 2

Latinx -2

(students self-identify)

Free and Reduced Lunch:

11 (85% of our students are low income)

## Meet one of our graduates!



Shodari Knowles graduated last June from Horizon High School. She just completed a “making the cut” program at Madison College and will be taking one class next semester there. She is a mom to a 1&1/2 year old named Dazari; once Dazari is old enough for Madison College daycare, Shodari will attend the Cosmetology program full time which she has already been accepted into. Shodari is sober, a wonderful mom, and lives independently on her own. She looks forward to be in school full time, and still spends time at Horizon once a week.

## STUDENT STATISTICS: 15 years of operation

When Horizon started in January 2005, our prime concern was setting up a school that would save the lives of our kids. With minimal funding, and no director—just a teacher and contract counselors—we did bare minimal record keeping. However, over time and with additional staff, record keeping improved. Recently, we have improved it further and have looked back to develop comprehensive statistics about Horizon’s operation. Here is an initial summary:

Student records indicate that, since it opened in January of 2005, Horizon High School has served a total of 166 (thru June of 2019) students. Under a contract with the Madison school district (started in 2011), Horizon has served 65 MMSD students by the end of the 2017-18 school year. (Both the Horizon records and MMSD data report were examined for this summary.)

### Characteristics of the students:

--55% Male

--Mean age at entry to HHS was 16.6 (s.d., 1.02); range: 14.3 to 19.8.

--51% White, 24% Hispanic, 13% Black, 9% multi-racial (among 65 MMSD Students)

--MMSD data show 41% had a disability (IEP); the proportion increased each year from none in 2011-12 to 76% in 2017-18.

--MMSD data show that 67% were low income; this number has increased from 40% in the 2011-12 school year to 82% in the 2017-18 school year.

--Students experienced an increasing number of difficulties over time, including substance use and mental health disorders, food insecurity, residential instability, and homelessness.



Horizon Students and Staff at Annual Recovery Lunch in September 2019

## Horizon's First Audit (voluntary)

Horizon High School of Madison Inc (HHS) had its December 31, 2018 financial statements audited by an independent auditor for the first time. The Board of Directors decided that an audit was necessary to meet the criteria of potential funding sources, such as, government agencies, United Way and any other donors that require audited financial for funding.

HHS received a favorable opinion from the auditor regarding HHS financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2018.

Here is the opinion issued by the auditor, "In the auditor opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Horizon High School as of December 31, 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

## Horizon's 2019/20 Budget

<b>Horizon High School of Madison</b>		
<b>Budget</b>		
<b>2019/20 School Year</b>		
	<b>School Year</b>	
	<b>2019/2020</b>	
<b>Revenues</b>		
School Districts	\$97,200	
CCS	33,000	
Donations	115,000	
<b>Total Revenues</b>		\$245,200
<b>Expenses</b>		
Wages	160,000	
Employee Benefits	24,750	
Taxes - Payroll	12,500	
Rent	13,800	
Insurance	8,690	
Student Activities	4,600	
Office Supplies	2,600	
Books and Supplies	2,650	
Compliance	3,440	
Other Operating Expenses	19,670	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		252,700
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>		<b>(\$7,500)</b>

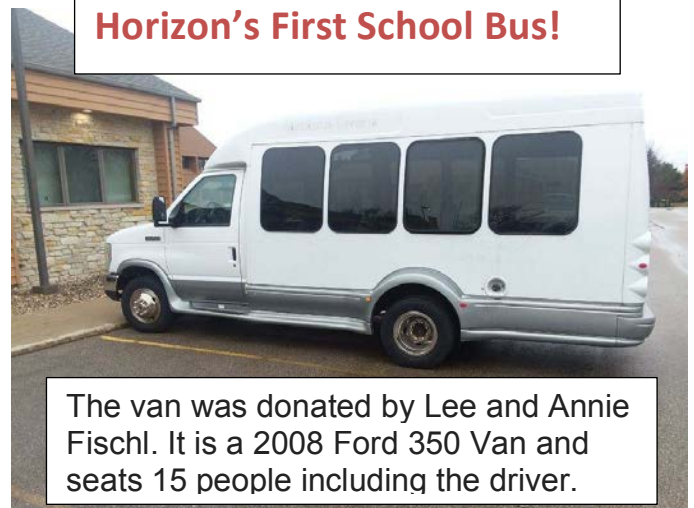
## Homelessness Close to Home

For the past 2 years, we have had students at Horizon who are homeless, either as individuals or as part of a family. This is an increasing problem and requires extra efforts for our staff to attempt to locate resources to alleviate this situation. Winter is the worst time. Additionally, it creates immeasurable stress on the young person and impinges upon their Horizon educational experience. But our staff does what it can do.

Additionally, a larger number of our students have food shortages in their homes, and rely upon meals at Horizon (funds provided by board member Stan Kanter). Community groups such as Middleton Community Church UCC and Thea's Kitchen have stepped in and now regularly provide food to these families.

**CCS: Comprehensive Community Services**—funded by Medicaid through the State of Wisconsin and operated by Dane County Department of Human Services. CCS provides compensation for dual diagnosis support services and therapy provided by Horizon staff counselors. This is critical funding, though it only covers a fraction of our students for essential non-educational services which Horizon provides. We currently (Dec. 2019) have 2 students with CCS. This funding helps a lot!

## Horizon's First School Bus!



The van was donated by Lee and Annie Fischl. It is a 2008 Ford 350 Van and seats 15 people including the driver.

## 2019: What's New at Horizon High School

Staff changes:

We welcomed **Gavin Briscoe** as a Special Education Assistant, as well as **Valarie Yudice**, as a Special Education Assistant from MMSD.

We said goodbye to therapist **Katy Ainslie-Wallace** and Special Education Assistant **Alison Jones Chaim**. We thank them for their service with our students.



Horizon HS (Traci, Kim and Bob) had a table at the Mental health and substance abuse conference in the Dells in October.

Board of Directors Changes:

In 2019, **J.J Andrews** joined the Board of Directors. In his day job he is an assessment & teaching specialist with the PEOPLE program at UW-Madison. Previously he taught in a range of schools in NY, FL and WI, after working 12 years as a newspaper editor in NY, FL and OH. When he joined the board he said “My more than 16 years of continuous sobriety is a result of hard work, focus and the strong support by those around me. I would like to use my professional skills as an educator to help others beginning their path to recovery. “  
Welcome J.J.!

What's New:

In early 2019, we were contacted by a group in Waukesha, which has been investigating the possibility of creating a recovery school there (recall that there was a recovery charter school there a decade or so ago, but it closed due to lack of support from the school district). We have provided them with information about how we started. Two of their members visited Horizon's Open House in September.

In October, 3 members of the Board met with a member of the Governor's staff, to initiate a discussion of the need for more funding at the state level for recovery schools (as is the case in Massachusetts, where recovery schools are a line item in the state budget). One point they made was that this should not be seen as just an educational funding issue but rather as a critical public health issue. We see this as the first step in a process.

### Horizon High School Staff:

Traci Goll - Director, 335-0387

Bob Weinswig - Lead teacher

Kim Lohman - Dual Diagnosis  
Therapist and Teacher

Darby Buisker- Special Ed Assistant

Gavin Briscoe - Special Ed Assistant

Valarie Yudice - Special Ed Assistant  
(MMSD)

Erin KollenBroich - Art Therapist



Animal therapy is part of the Horizon High School curriculum

## HOLIDAY PARTY AND GIFTS FOR HORIZON STUDENTS

Horizon students were blessed this year! A huge thank you goes out to Nancy Meyer, Lynne Schwarm Pope, Kristen Snell Ripp, Linda Granato, Sarah Dunn, Laurie Fitschen Graham, Kim Krigbaum, Kimberly Payne Carrigan, Sherry Buisker, Darby Buisker, Monica Dunn, Michelle Ripp, Delight Caldwell Oelerich, Angie Powers, Susan L Foster, Joe Tisserand, Kay Tisserand, Chris Ron Vincent, Kelsey Clarkson Stetzenbach, Tena Sue Keil Wild, Pegeen Arnold, Carrie Kirkpatrick, Kari Carey, Deb Holschuh Houden, Cheryl Rasmussen!!

These beautiful human beings spoiled the Horizon high school students! We are all beyond grateful for your generous giving! Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Here's to a New Year!!



### HORIZON'S PARENTS GROUP

From the mother of a Horizon Student:

Parenting a teenager with substance use disorder and / or mental illness is incredibly challenging. The hardest part, for me, is feeling alone and like our family is the only family who experiences intense conflict and struggle because of addiction and mental illness.

This sense of isolation is alleviated during parent night at Horizon. With Kim's guidance and encouragement, I connect with other parents whose experiences are similar - and I feel better because I realize I am not alone.

Kim also presents much needed information on topics such as brain development, coping skills for teens and parents, how to manage holiday stress, the importance of routines, post-high school education, community resources, happenings at Horizon, and other relevant topics.

I look forward to parent night at Horizon. The time to connect with others, to learn about my child's progress at school, and to obtain valuable information on a variety of relevant topics is meaningful, informative, and supportive. Thank you Horizon for offering parent night!



Horizon students and staff volunteered at the annual Berbee Derby

**HHS Board 2019-2020**  
 John Fournelle, President  
 Paul Moberg, Vice President  
 Ken Klinzing, Treasurer  
 Judi Munaker, Secretary  
 J.J. Andrews  
 Stan Kanter  
 Brian Koenig  
 Nancy Meyer  
 Jacci See

In 2019, Horizon HS became a United Way of Dane County fundable organization; we were an option for pledges in the Statewide SECC campaign! We thank everyone who pledged to Horizon!

**The budget for the 2019-20 Academic Year is \$252,700. The proposed budget for a full 2020 Summer School program is \$45,000. With full enrollment of 15 students, the average cost per student is \$17,000 for the academic year with an additional cost per student of \$3000 for a full Summer School program. We must raise \$115,000 in donations to keep our doors open.**

**Become a Monthly Sustainer!** Join a growing number of supporters in making an automatic monthly contribution by credit card via PayPal. \$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100 — these are monthly amounts people currently are giving. Just go to [www.horizonhs.org](http://www.horizonhs.org) and select the maroon "Donate" button, which will take you to the proper location to sign up.



**THANK YOU FROM OUR STUDENTS, STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Thank you to our corporate sponsors and to all the generous community donors who assisted us in keeping our doors open for 2019. Students at Horizon High School will be successful engaged learners and competent problem solvers who know that lifelong learning is the key to personal fulfillment and living a productive life. We never give up on our children. Horizon High School changes lives. Our small class size, individual attention and counseling transforms lives into successful futures!

We thank the community and our generous sponsors who helped to support our school this year. We received generous support from many individual donors and organizations including major donor support from the One Hundred+ Women Who Care-Madison, Stan Kanter, JPK Charitable Trust, Attic Angels Assoc, Thomas & Patricia O'Donnell Fdn, Steve Stricker American Family Fdn, Eric D. & Steven D.Hovde Fdn, Dale Nordeen, SC Johnson & Sons, Cremer Fdn, William Van Haren, Keller Family Charitable Trust, Ted & Susan Oppenheimer, Berbee-Technology Educational Fdn, The Kids Fund, Phil Schaecher, Sauk Trails Optimist Club, John Blaha, Linda and Tony Granato, Kathleen Johnson, Susan & Richie Davidson, Robin Gates & Jan Fulwiler, Tamara Jackopin, Madison 4 Kids, Nancy Meyer, Paul Blair, Teri Edman, Judi Munaker & John Fournelle, Monika Krigbaum, Thomas Kurtz, Alberto Quiroga-The Law Center, S.C., Sherry & Brian Buisker, Karen Christianson, CUNA Mutual Foundation, Middleton Community Church, Jacci & Ted See, George Cutlip, Shelly Dutch, First Weber Fdn, Sinsinawa Dominicans-Leadership Council, George Possley, John Aeschlimann, Mr & Mrs Lin, H. Fred W. Rattunde, Kathleen Stark, Tim Metcalfe, Jill Delisle, Ilene Hagman, Randy & Amy Heidel, Linda Matuszewic, Eric Schulenburg, Arlene Silveira, Anna Becker, Pegeen Arnold, Stephanie Brenneman Ramer, Elliot Butler, CPU Solutions, Inc, John and Lori Faber, Hiam Garner, Robert Gooze, Ellen Grossi, Peggy Hendrickson, John & Andrea Kenny, Carrie Kirkpatrick, Paul McMahan, Ken Mehlberg, Nancy Mohs, James Otterson, Michelle Ripp, Kelsey & Donald Stetzenbach, John Thranow III, Joe & Kay Tisserand, Jean Wallace-Baker, Robert Weber, Jeanne & Theodore Williams, James & Nancy Youngerman, Jeanette & Mike Froehle, Miriam Rohrer, Val Murphy and others

Horizon High School of Madison, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all contributions are fully tax deductible. Our EIN: 20-1240272

P.O. Box 45045, Madison, Wisconsin 53744 • 608-442-0935 • [www.horizonhs.org](http://www.horizonhs.org)

We acknowledge and thank these community businesses and organizations for providing free or reduced services to our students.

**PRINCETON  
CLUB**

**BOULDERS  
CLIMBING GYM**

 **SKY ZONE**



**CHUCK E. CHEESE**



Sett Union South  
**Wisconsin Union**  
Experiences for a lifetime

**Marshall Boats**  
Madison, Wisconsin

**MIDDLETON COMMUNITY CHURCH**