Three powerful pillars of support & empowerment: persevering through the pandemic
LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ashley Nechaev
Executive Director

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Supporters of Horizons at Sacred Heart University,

I am truly honored for the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director of Horizons at Sacred Heart University. In my three years as HSHU’s Academic Director, I had the privilege to work with highly engaged board members, committed families, brilliant teachers, and exceptional young people.

The COVID pandemic has widened educational gaps in access, opportunity, achievement and outcomes that existed before the pandemic. These gaps disproportionately impacted students who experienced the pandemic with the greatest educational needs and fewest opportunities—many of them from historically marginalized and underserved groups.

With renewed momentum and increased urgency, I look forward to leading the organization to advance educational equity and mitigate the multi-layered impacts of the COVID pandemic. Using a robust, values-driven model that we refer to as the “Three Pillars of Support,” HSHU has taken close account of the disparities the Bridgeport community faces and will continue to offer programs that are inclusive of teacher, student, and parental voices, reflective of our collective learnings and intentionally designed to remind students that learning can be joyful, mysterious, fun, and uniquely challenging. Our continuum of support will help us ensure that each of the 168 HSHU students have equitable opportunities to participate, connect, learn, and thrive.

This year, in addition to responsive programming, we are focused on collecting a comprehensive mix of quantitative and qualitative data to refine our efforts and showcase our impact; leveraging financial efficiencies of the organization; and refining HSHU’s policies and practices to ensure our community is both inclusive and representative of the diverse population we support.

Horizons at SHU has reached an exciting place in its evolution—we have an engaged and committed board, a newly appointed Operations Manager, a powerful development team, a new regional model, and an engaged and committed group of supporters. The future for the organization is bright, and we are working to ensure that families who are members of the Bridgeport community have equitable opportunities that include joyful academic and social-emotional learning.

Thank you for your support in creating a future where every young person has equitable opportunities that include joyful academic and social-emotional learning, and opportunities to thrive.

With sincere gratitude,

Ashley Nechaev
Executive Director

MISSION AND COMMUNITY VALUES

MISSION

Our vision is a future where every young person has equitable opportunities that include joyful academic and social-emotional learning, and opportunities to thrive.

VISION

We advance educational equity by building long-term partnerships with families, communities, and schools in Bridgeport to create experiences outside of school that inspire the joy in learning.

VALUES

I know I am safe at HSHU because:

• I am not alone in my hopes
• I am able to make mistakes and see them through
• I am heard
• I am respected
• I am not alone in my hopes, dreams, and fears

I am part of a family of learners, in a community of scholars, and a network of educators who believe in the power of education to create opportunities for all children to thrive.

I am truly honored for the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director of Horizons at Sacred Heart University.

Sacred Heart University
LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIRS

Our Bridgeport children,

In 2022, we continue to grow and work to provide a brighter future for our Bridgeport children. Thank you for supporting Horizons at SHU. We look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Love of Learning:

Empower our students as they develop their skills, intellectual curiosity, and love of learning.

Executive Director, Ashley Nechaev, and Operations Manager, Amanda Baez, alongside our dedicated faculty and staff, are passionate about our mission and its impact on our students.

Our Board of Directors and the members of the Evans Society, who support our work, are deeply grateful for all of you.

Dear Friends,

We cannot think of a better theme than the "three pillars of empowerment" for this year's Impact Report. As you will see throughout this report, the metaphor represents the three distinct phases of support we provide to the Bridgeport students we serve: our intensive 6-week summer program, our K-8 year-round program, and the high school program administered by Horizons at SHU.

The Bridgeport program is our newest initiative at Horizons. This summer, we welcomed our first group of students, who received support from our dedicated faculty and staff. We are excited to see how this program will evolve and grow in the future.

Thank you for your support of Horizons at SHU. We look forward to seeing you in 2022 as we continue to grow and work to provide a brighter future for our Bridgeport children.
In honor of HSHU’s 10th Anniversary, the Evans Society was established to honor all past members of the HSHU Board of Directors. The Society, named in honor of Brad and Barbara Evans, recognizes the extraordinary amounts of time, resources and expertise that former Board members have shared to ensure the quality and sustainability of the organization. Members of the Evans Society were inducted at the golf outing dinner in June 2021 to honor all past members of the HSHU Board of Directors. The Society was established to honor all past members of the HSHU Board of Directors. The Society was established to honor all past members of the HSHU Board of Directors.
Horizons at SHU provides year-round support for the Bridgeport students in our program.

**PILLAR 1**
- 6-weeks Monday through Friday during the summer for HSHU K-8 students
- Rigorous project-based academics – literacy and math skills development
- Enrichment activities including swimming, music, physical education, cooking
- Community Service
- Field trips
- Community service
- Cooking
- Enrichment activities including swimming, music, physical education
- Literacy and math skills development
- Rigorous project-based academics
- Students during the summer for HSHU K-8

**PILLAR 2**
- School Year Support for HSHU K-8 students
- Highly personalized, one-on-one support from an HSHU academic coach/mentor
- Monthly meetings to provide tutoring and support
- Community-building and peer support opportunities and events
- One-on-one coaching/mentoring for 9-12th grade students focused on 9-12th grade students focused on post-secondary planning
- Weekly mentor meetings to support post-secondary planning
- In-person school year programming for K-8 students
- Monthly peer support opportunities and events
- Highly personalized one-on-one support for K-8 students
- In-person support for K-8 students
- Weekly peer support opportunities

**PILLAR 3**
- School Year Support for HSHU K-8 students
- Highly personalized, one-on-one support from an HSHU academic coach/mentor
- Monthly meetings to provide tutoring and support
- Community-building and peer support opportunities and events
- One-on-one coaching/mentoring for 9-12th grade students focused on 9-12th grade students focused on post-secondary planning
- Weekly mentor meetings to support post-secondary planning
- In-person school year programming for K-8 students
- Monthly peer support opportunities and events
- Highly personalized one-on-one support for K-8 students
- In-person support for K-8 students
- Weekly peer support opportunities

**K-8 SUMMER PROGRAM**
- Equitable opportunities for Bridgeport students that promote academic and SEL growth, and inspire joyful learning

**K-8 SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM**
- Equitable opportunities for Bridgeport students that promote academic and SEL growth, and inspire joyful learning

**HB HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**
- Students in our program benefit from the year-round support for the Bridgeport students in our program.
WHO WE SERVE

RACIAL REPRESENTATION

- LATINO: 59%
- AFRICAN AMERICAN: 26%
- OTHER: 11%
- CAUCASIAN: 4%

SCHOOL REPRESENTATION

- PUBLIC: 55%
- CATHOLIC: 41%
- PRIVATE: 4%

FY21 - EXPENSES BY ALLOCATION

- ADMIN: 13%
- FUNDRAISING: 17%
- PROGRAM: 69%

FY21 - REVENUE BY SOURCE

- NETWORK: 7%
- GRANTS: 7%
- PRIVATE GIFTS: 31%
- EVENTS: 54%

FISCAL YEAR

Impact Report for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

Students are 5-18 years old

PARTNER SCHOOLS

- Barnum School
- Great Oaks Charter School
- New Beginnings Family Academy
- Blackham School
- John Winthrop Elementary School
- Madison School
- Luis Muñoz Marin Elementary School
- Discovery Magnet School
- Read Elementary School
- Read School
- Park City Magnet School
- Cesar A. Batalla School
- Catholic Academy of Bridgeport

COVID ACCOMMODATIONS

Because of the timing of our fiscal year, the fiscal year 22 Impact Report will be shared in the fall of 2021. FY21 expenses will be shared in the fall of 2021. FY22 expenses will be shared in the fall of 2022. Because of the timing of our fiscal year, the 2020 Virtual Summer Program was significantly impacted by COVID. FY21 programming was virtual and many enrichment activities (swimming, etc.) were not possible. FY22 programming will be in-person, and many enrichment activities will be available.

HORIZONS AT SHU FINANCIALS

Because of the timing of our fiscal year (July 1-June 30th) the above chart reflects expenses incurred during the 2020 Virtual Summer Program. The 2021 Summer Program was significantly impacted by COVID. Programming was virtual and many enrichment activities (swimming, etc.) were not possible. As such, this allocation is not representative of typical HSHU operating expenses.

FY21 - EXPENSES BY ALLOCATION

- PROGRAM: 69%
- FUNDRAISING: 17%
- ADMIN: 13%

FY21 - REVENUE BY SOURCE

- NETWORK: 7%
- GRANTS: 7%
- PRIVATE GIFTS: 31%
- EVENTS: 54%
Horizons means happiness, opportunity, and success. And during my 10 years in Horizons, I’ve been able to accomplish so much.

- HSHU STUDENT

"I noticed my students growing as readers when they practiced their phonics skills. Most of these skills they may have missed due to COVID/distance learning. The program helped close the gaps and focused on below grade level phonics skills for those who really needed it."

- A HSHU TEACHER ON ACADEMICS

"The social emotional learning at HSHU allowed entire classes to become connected to each other. It showed us all what it means to be a community. Most importantly, it demonstrated how each one of us contributes to a community and is a unique piece of the puzzle. Students asked powerful questions which was amazing to see how the students are already seeing how they can make a difference in the world."

- A HSHU SOCIAL WORKER ON SEL

Tauck Family Foundation proudly supports and partners with Horizons at Sacred Heart University. Over the last four years, we have watched the organization expand its efforts to provide holistic support for Bridgeport students by expanding its efforts to include students that is inclusive, trauma-responsive, and culturally relevant. Their student-centered approach meets students where they are and offers engaging learning opportunities in a safe, collaborative, nurturing environment that students and families can thrive. Horizons at SHU is a valuable asset to the Bridgeport community.

- KIM HEIN, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"I think it is important for people to know that Horizons is not just a summer program. The summer program is just a part of the year-round program that the children can grow in program like the children who care for them. It is so fortunate that it is a full-year program and that the children who participate in the program can grow in and become a year-round program."

- HSHU PARENT

"Horizons means happiness opportunity, and success. And during my 10 years in Horizons, I’ve been able to accomplish so much."
Like the children served by HSHU, our Board and supporters gathered virtually to raise funds and celebrate the organization’s important work. In June 2021, we welcomed more than 100 golfers for our annual golf outing at Great River Golf Club and more than 175 for our evening reception. Not only was it a wonderful day of golf, it was the first time we were able to gather for an event after all the COVID-induced separations. During the dinner after golf, we launched the Evans Society. The evening concluded with a spirited live auction and paddle raise, which raised a record-breaking $350,000+ of essential funds for the program.

The annual luncheon was held on Thursday, October 7th, and raised nearly $80,000 to support HSHU’s mission. Despite being virtual, Dr. Ken Hugh’s President and Director of Research at Haskins Laboratories at Yale University/University of Connecticut, engaged the audience with his compelling presentation on “Literacy, Brain Plasticity, and the Covid Slide.”

ANNUAL LUNCHEON
GOLF OUTING
2021 EVENTS
LOOKING FORWARD:

We are very hopeful that Summer 2022 will represent a return to our in-person programming and to the various enrichment activities that distinguish Horizons at SHU. As such, our funding needs will increase over the past two years as we work to provide deep academic, athletic, and social-emotional opportunities for our students.

WE ARE PLANNING:

• Swim instruction for all HSHU students
• Field trips
• Physical education and athletic skill development
• Healthy, nutritious breakfasts and lunches
• Rigorous and engaging academics
• Health, nutrition, breaks, and uniques
• Community/place based learning
• Impactful SEL instruction

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Students celebrating HSHU and giving thanks at the HSHU Thanksgiving Community Event