



# HORIZON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

EQUITY • PARTNERSHIP • EXCELLENCE



## ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



## STEVIE LEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am incredibly proud to call **Horizon Community School a life-changing force for the Marin City Community.**

Eight years ago, we made a **commitment to the families of Marin City** to help lift up the community through **quality early childhood education**. From the get-go, we knew Horizon Community School would be here for the long haul. We knew that an **impactful education** includes so much more than learning to read, write, add, subtract. It includes social and emotional growth; play and fun; warm and nurturing relationships with teachers; celebrating students' cultures, similarities and differences; healthy food and exercise; identifying and accessing care for learning differences; and advancing our teachers' careers.

We built this program with **intention**, and we have now built **our new campus** with the same level of **attentiveness and dedication**. Our new school, scheduled to open in January, represents the **deep roots we have cultivated in the community**—with our families and caregivers, students, staff, volunteers and donors.

**How do I feel HCS's impact so deeply in my heart?** I see it every day—the unique magic of HCS. I see it in the faces of our parents as they drop off their children each morning, feeling reassured and able to focus on their own studies or careers. I'm proud that our **teacher turnover rate remains incredibly low**, and that teachers return to HCS after having children of their own, choosing to continue building their careers here. I see **our staff continually refining their teaching methods**, inspired by professional development opportunities. **I watch our families form a vibrant, supportive community**, where they recognize and celebrate the beauty of their impact on one another.

**And I see it in you, our dedicated supporters.** Your respect, appreciation and commitment help make all of this possible.

I look forward to welcoming you all to our joyful and enduring new campus, complete with three classrooms, an administrative and parent education building, two state-of-the-art playgrounds and an edible garden for the students to nurture. **I look forward to sharing with you the emotions and impact represented in our new home.**

In partnership,

Stevie Lee  
Executive Director  
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415/388.8408 x261

# GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

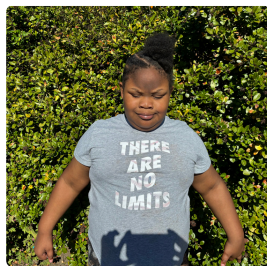
## MIRACLE WILLIAMS



Esther Williams enrolled her two-year-old daughter, Miracle, in Horizon Community School's inaugural class of twelve students in 2017. When HCS Program Director Angie Evans met with mom and toddler, she immediately knew that Miracle would be a great addition to the class. **Esther remembers Angie saying Miracle was just so easy to love.**

Over the course of that initial school year, Angie noticed Miracle not fully responding to teachers and students. She recommended that Esther take Miracle to have her hearing checked. After the hearing test came back as normal, **Angie arranged for an assessment with the Sausalito Marin City School District, and Miracle was eventually diagnosed with autism.**

From there, a path was put in place to provide Miracle with the best care and education possible. Through her preschool years, Miracle split her time between HCS and Marindale School. Marindale serves the needs of preschool children with learning differences and physical disabilities. **And HCS provided Esther and Miracle with a home base of security and advocacy.**



From Esther's vantage point, without HCS and Angie, Miracle's autism would have gone undiagnosed for a long time. "I had no idea. I didn't know how to look for anything—she's my baby. Angie cared enough to see the things we could not see. **Angie saved my baby; she saved me; she saved us.**"

Autism isn't generally diagnosed until age four or five, depending on the severity. **HCS has the ability to recognize, intervene and procure a diagnosis for children and families** as early as two years old, allowing families to access the support they need in these critical early years. And Esther says, "How far could this have gone undiagnosed? My child would have been tagged as the 'bad kid.' Can you imagine the torture my daughter would have gone through? The damage would have been irreparable."

Now a fourth grader at Bel Aire Elementary School in Tiburon, Miracle has an individualized education program with a one-to-one aid who helps her with daily classroom support, including self-regulating, transitioning and behavioral challenges. She also receives speech and feeding therapy.

Esther says, **"My daughter is amazing to me. She is on a great path. Early intervention is the key to navigating a life with autism."** Five years after graduating from HCS, Esther still thinks of HCS as **"home, family and safety...."** Angie has a gift. She guided me to get the services my daughter needed to survive and thrive in this world."







## DR. SHAWN BRYANT

### FOUNDER, YES TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Dr. Shawn Bryant, founder of Yes To Early Childhood Education and expert in trauma-informed care, works with educators, parents and caregivers to help them best serve the children in their lives. **Trauma-informed care is a practice that empowers people who have experienced ongoing and profound difficulties** to understand their trauma and take action to repair their pain. Reparation allows them to provide happier and more fulfilling lives for themselves and the people they love and care for.

Over the past seven years, Shawn has been meeting with Horizon Community School families and teachers, **creating a safe space** for them to delve into specific issues the community experiences —issues like exclusion, financial difficulties and intergenerational family trauma. Two workshops are held monthly: one workshop for parents, grandparents and caregivers and a separate professional development workshop for HCS teachers and staff.

Shawn facilitates **conversations around historical, racial, educational and environmental traumas**, offering tools and practices each person can use to explore and understand their behavior and **learn to believe in themselves, their strengths, their gifts**. He inspires them to challenge, trust and forgive themselves, play with their children, improve their co-parenting and find and receive joy.

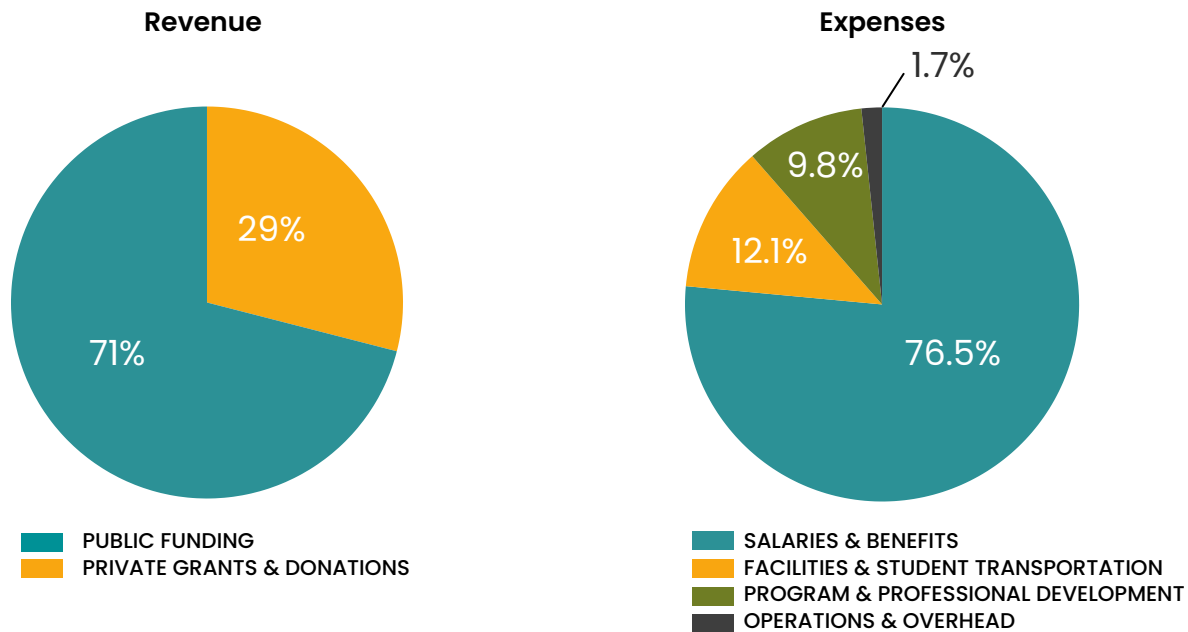
He imparts that **positive interactions matter and inspire change**. Shawn reflects, "I have watched families and teachers grow in confidence in how they parent and teach young children. They are visibly moved in our workshops. One experience I will remember forever was the evening I asked families to identify one thing they did well and could stand up and help other families to see these qualities in themselves. Families from under-resourced communities are not used to finding and locating their strengths. **This experience helps them find 'what's strong in me? What's strong in you?'**"

Shawn is struck by **HCS staff's commitment to their careers and community**, pointing out, "Over the past seven years, the staff turnover is maybe one percent. I see staff returning after having children. Teachers only return when their heads, hearts and hands align."

**Empowerment workshops help disrupt the cycle of negativity** and pain and help caregivers and teachers recognize, cultivate and utilize their innate talents and gifts. Programs like these are foundational to Horizon Community School's success. **Students from historically under-resourced communities thrive when the role models in their lives thrive**. Preparing students to be academically and social-emotionally kindergarten-ready involves nurturing and lifting the entire family, the staff and the community.



## 2023-2024 REVENUE & EXPENSES



2023-2024 represents our first full year of significant public funding. As a subcontractor with the Sausalito Marin City School District, Horizon Community School was approved as a California State Preschool Program (CSPP) serving children ages 3-5, and also received General Childcare & Development (CCTR) funds for services to toddlers.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Conscious Kitchen  
Early Care & Education Pathways to Success  
Help Me Grow Marin  
Jewish Family and Children's Services  
Marin Child Care Commission  
Marin City Library  
Marin County Office of Education  
Marin Horizon School  
Marin Promise Partnership  
Performing Stars of Marin  
Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church  
Sausalito Marin City School District

### HCS STAFF & CONSULTANTS

**Angie Evans, Program Director**  
**Stevie Lee, Executive Director**  
Ashley Alexander, Lead Teacher  
Bridget Anderson, Placement Director  
Raina Baker, Associate Teacher  
Shawn Bryant, Parent Empowerment and Professional Development  
Marcos Campos, Soccer  
Mona Chivers, Site Director  
Patrice Clark-Hill, Associate Teacher  
Kenya Curry, Associate Teacher  
Katie Hribar, Lead Teacher  
Aarti Jesrani, Lead Teacher  
Sabrina Kaschmitter, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants  
Little Stevie Lee, Phys Ed  
Shayna Lee, Administrative Assistant  
Gale Love, Speech Pathologist  
Mercedes Morgan, Gardening, Performing Stars  
Brishay Rackley, Associate Teacher  
Olivia Thomas, ASL Teacher  
Jorge Viaz-Delez, Spanish  
Lisa Willoughby, ABADÁ Capoeira Marin

*I love playing with my friends. I like to learn things I don't know about.*  
-Adalie



## CAPITAL DONORS

We are deeply grateful to these individuals and foundations who have contributed generously to the construction of our new campus.

### **\$100,000+**

Anonymous  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Nina Frank  
The William G. Irwin Charity Foundation  
The Lakeview Foundation  
Laura Lindskog Legacy Fund  
Marin Community Foundation  
Paris Morgan and Eli Bingham  
Morgan Stanley Gift  
Staci, Tom and Dylan Reilly  
Sharon Schendel  
Schwab Charitable Fund  
Stephen H. Simon

### **\$50,000–\$99,999**

American Endowment Foundation  
Daniel and Andrea Elkort  
Angie and Noah Knauf  
Kurland Family Foundation  
Lauren Cooks Levitan and Paul Levitan  
Bill and Trigg McLeod  
Hadley Mullin and Dan Kalafatas  
Sharyon Family Charitable Trust  
The Morris Stulsaf Foundation

### **\$25,000–\$49,999**

Bothin Foundation  
Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund  
Sonia Lee and Al Grumet  
Vanguard Charitable  
Tiana Wimmer and Warren Leiden  
Jacqui Lopez-Wyman and Matt Wyman





## CAPITAL DONORS (cont'd)

### \$10,000-\$24,999

The dg Foundation  
Impact Assets  
Noelle and Alton Lo  
Jon and Gale Love  
Ashley and Elvin MacDonald  
Tatem and Morgan Read  
Olive and Roby Robinson Family Fund  
Carolyn Revelle  
Anne Roche and Bill Perrine  
Sklar Family Fund  
Robin and Geoff Strawbridge

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Steve and Lauren Brown Adams  
Liz Brown-Lewin and Janet Brown-Lewin  
Ulrike and Johann Koehne  
Breanne Martinez and Rasheed Mitchell  
Olive and Roby Robinson Family Fund  
Niya and Shawn Saunders

### \$1000-\$4,999

Bernstein Philanthropic Impact Fund  
Bonnie Brown and Joe Gervais  
Carrie Eagles and Luis Ottley  
Casey and JB Ferrarone  
Megan and Matt Howard  
Jay Jacobs and Liz Hume  
Bonnie and Daniel Kunstler  
Jacqueline and Harrison Kurzer  
National Philanthropic Trust

### \$1-\$999

Agilent Technologies  
Holly Badgley and Peter Stern  
Ted Bayer  
Sally Frank and Steve Mermelstein  
Susan and Craig W. Hupper  
Phoebe Kranefuss  
Megan Lisska and Peter Bryan  
Marie and Tom Lyons  
O'Connor Abrams Family  
Steinberg Family Fund  
Mallory Walker



## GIFTS IN KIND

**Shawn Bryant**, Yale School of Medicine, Child Study Center, coach, trauma-informed parent & teacher workshops

**Dorman Associates**, architectural design services

**Dyer Edington**, special class projects

**Giving Tree Elves**, holiday celebration

**Sabrina Kaschmitter**, Psy.D., Early Child Mental Health Program, Jewish Children & Family Services, observations & teacher consultations

**Phoebe Kranefuss**, graphic design

**Susanne Kreuzer**, MS; CTRS, Manager/Child Development Specialist, Help Me Grow Marin, Developmental and Behavioral Health Screening; Professional Development; Case Management; Special Education Resources; Parent Education

**Bret Matson**, Matson Construction Services

**Performing Stars of Marin**, gardening classes

**Patrick Quill**, summer volunteer

**Charlie Wallis**, summer volunteer

**Wise Choice for Girls**, summer volunteer



*I like to learn everything, I like to learn letters. I love capoeira, and I love all the moves.*

*—Dylan*





## 2023-2024 HONOR ROLL DONORS

Horizon Community School was founded in 2017. We extend our sincere gratitude to the individuals, foundations and community organizations who have donated their resources and volunteered their time or services. We appreciate your support of early educational equity.

*Please note: This donor listing reflects giving from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 that supported annual operating expenses. If your name appears incorrectly, please accept our apologies and kindly send a correction to [development@marinhorizon.org](mailto:development@marinhorizon.org).*

### **\$100,000+**

Central Indiana Community Foundation  
Marin Community Foundation  
The Stephen Simon Charitable Fund, a fund  
of The Indianapolis Foundation

### **\$50,000 - \$99,000**

Mimi and Peter Haas Fund  
Schwab Charitable Fund

### **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation  
Kaiser Permanente, Northern California  
Community Benefits Program  
The Morris Stulsaf Foundation

### **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Anonymous  
Nina Frank  
Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund  
Kurland Family Foundation  
Noelle and Alton Lo  
Kathlyn McPherson Masneri and Arno P.  
Masneri Fund  
The Milagro Foundation  
Hadley Mullin & Dan Kalafatas  
Carolyn Revelle  
Sharyon Family Charitable Trust

### **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

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Angie & Noah Knauf  
Jan and Stephen McDougal  
Bill and Trigg McLeod  
Sklar Family Fund  
Catherine and Greg Stern  
Vanguard Charitable  
Tiana Wimmer and Warren Leiden

### **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Chris Armstrong and Lou Dangles  
Bernstein Philanthropic Impact Fund  
Liz Brown-Lewin and Janet Brown-Lewin  
Marjorie and John Bundschuh  
The Donovan Family Foundation  
Dugan Family  
Carrie Eagles and Luis Ottley  
The Giving2 Fund of Marin Community  
Foundation  
Greystone Foundation  
Impact Assets  
Elena and Jeff Jungsten  
Erica and Jeremy Kelly  
Bonnie and Daniel Kunstler  
Jacqueline and Harrison Kurzer  
Breanne Martinez and Rasheed Mitchell  
Andrew F. and Ann B. Mathieson Fund  
National Philanthropic Trust  
Ted and Ashley Paff  
Jessica and Joe Penrod  
Jeannie Pimentel  
Redwood Valley Construction  
Alanna Spencer  
Robin and Geoff Strawbridge  
Tay Via and Matt Franklin  
Kathy J. Williams

### **\$1 - \$999**

Anonymous  
Bridget Anderson  
Mary Bishop  
Brenda and Donal Brown  
Burr Family  
Familia Castro  
Coyne Family  
Mary and Romeo De La Roca  
Ellen Fine  
Sally Frank and Steve Mermelstein

Cynthia and Ted Frank

Milo Franklin  
Winston Franklin  
Gap Inc.  
Daniel Goldman  
Constance and Paul Goldsmith  
Annie Gordon  
Denise Kendall and Heart of Issaquah  
Paula March  
Diana Mason  
Janet Mumford  
Mo Poxon  
Nancy Puckett  
Nancy Saarmann  
Evelyn and Peter Sayers  
Peggy and Daniel Spears  
Lauren Szabados  
Wells Fargo Foundation





## HONORARY GIFTS

We are grateful to the following donors for remembering or honoring their friends and family with a gift to Horizon Community School.

Brenda and Donal Brown

*In honor of Bridget Anderson:*

*"Bridget Anderson of HCS is such a powerful voice in the community for the good of all."*

Mary and Romeo De La Roca

*In memory of Suzanne Marie Lynn*

Dugan Family

*In honor of the contributions of the Lee Family*

Nina Frank

*In memory of Bruce Frank*

Ted and Cynthia Frank

*In honor of Nina Frank*

Giving2 Fund of Marin Community Foundation

*In honor of Stevie, Angie and Trigg's incredible efforts, and in recognition of Kristen Turek's service to Marin Community Foundation*

Daniel Goldman

*In honor of Bridget Anderson from her granddaughter Quincy*

Diana Mason

*In honor of Nina Frank and in memory of her parents*

Ashley and Ted Paff

*In honor of Trigg McLeod*

Jeannie Pimentel

*In honor of all the teachers at HCS*

Peggy and Daniel Spears

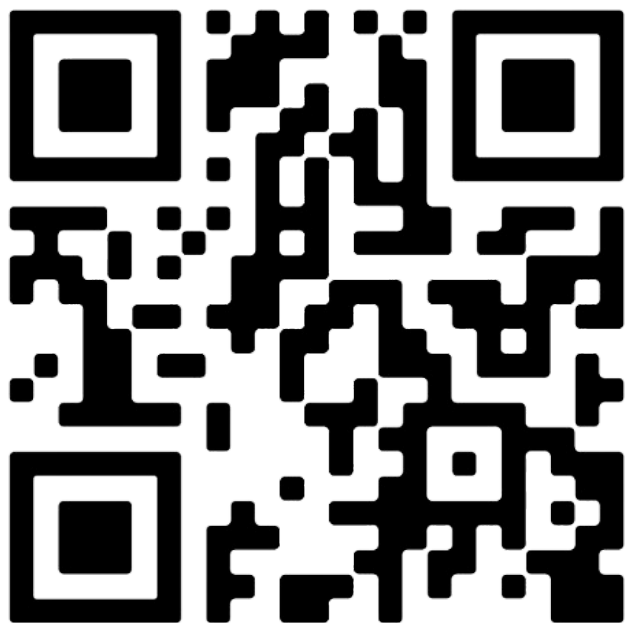
*In honor of Nina Frank*



***I like to listen to my teachers, and I like to go outside, and I like playing with my friends.***

***–Jasmine***





## DONATE TO HCS

*Make a meaningful impact today by scanning the QR code or following [marinhorizon.org/support-hcs](https://marinhorizon.org/support-hcs) and supporting our school with a donation that truly makes a difference. Your contribution - large or small - is so appreciated!*

*Horizon Community School is a discrete, sponsored program of Marin Horizon School. Marin Horizon School is recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution and a fiscal sponsor of Horizon Community School.*







## HCS Mission, Vision & Values

### Mission

Horizon Community School is an early childhood education program that advances educational equity and social justice. We leverage public and private resources with Marin City community expertise to prepare children for academic success.

### Vision

Equitable high-quality early childhood education in a model of community partnership.

### Values

**Partnership** – We partner with families, educators and community members and value each other's voices in our decision making.

**Kindness** – We respect and honor each other, listen with empathy and seek to understand each other's perspectives.

**Cultural Emphasis** – We recognize that each child brings a unique cultural background to the classroom and value these contributions of our children, families and community.

**Transformative Leadership** – We maintain high standards in our research-informed pedagogy. We develop and support passionate educators who exude the joy of learning, reflect the community we serve and mentor others to teach our students effectively.



***I love ABCs. I like music and dancing with the shakers.***

***–Jade***

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



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Campus address:  
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Marin City, CA 94965

[marinhorizon.org/support-hcs](http://marinhorizon.org/support-hcs)

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