



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 2017

December 26, 2017

Dear Valued Friends and Supporters:

Horizon High School has been transforming lives since 2005. We sincerely appreciate the support of our community, our generous donors and volunteers and those who have assisted us in keeping our doors open for 2017-18.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

John

John Fournelle, Board President
Horizon High School

WHAT TYPE OF SCHOOL IS HORIZON HIGH SCHOOL?

Horizon High School is Wisconsin's only recovery high school. Horizon is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) recovery high school that meets the needs of students and their families who are seeking a safe, drug-free and supportive environment in which to learn and stay sober.

Education at Horizon includes traditional classroom instruction in core disciplines, life skills education, physical wellness and hands on learning. Team building and social-emotional development are emphasized. Behavioral Health Counseling is provided in addition to the core disciplines. Education is provided in a safe, sober and supportive learning environment.

GOAL OF HORIZON HIGH SCHOOL:

- All students succeed academically and graduate from high school.
- All students have the right to develop their full potential as they become responsible and contributing community members.
- Everyone can succeed in school, work and life.

WHY IT MATTERS?

- All children can succeed and contribute to society
- Children deserve to be in a safe, sober and nurturing environment
- Equal access is fundamental for the future
- Children are our future workforce.

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- Without a high school diploma, children affect their overall success and lifetime earning potential—all barriers to economic stability.
- Investing in a child's high school education provides greater long-term returns and is less costly than the criminal justice system and/or retraining later in life
- Our community becomes safer; students in recovery have a positive effect on our community.

STATISTICS:

Horizon High School has been in existence since 2005, celebrating our 13th Anniversary in January 2018. Since opening, over 150 students have attended Horizon.

The average student census this school year is 13 students. We have generally had 13-15 students enrolled at Horizon this academic year. The student census varies as students move in and out of school due to rehab and treatment programs. This is typical of a recovery high school.

As of December 2017, the current student body is composed of 7 males and 6 females for a total of 13 students. The student body is diverse, with 2 white males, 2 bi-racial males, 1 Hispanic male, 1 Black male, 3 white females, 1 Hispanic female, 1 bi-racial female and two Black females. We have a transgender student. This year we have had 11 students on free and reduced lunches, indicating that many of our students are economically disadvantaged. One student did not have a winter coat as of December 14, so Traci Goll bought one for the student. Ten students have individual educational plans (IEP) in their home school districts oriented to their special educational needs. At the end of the 2017-18 school year, 5 students are scheduled to graduate. One student is scheduled to return to their home school district at the end of the semester. One student graduated in 2017 and is a student at Madison College. She is the first in her family to graduate from High School and will be the first in her family to graduate from College.



Horizon High School Students and Staff at the Holiday Party, December 21, 2017

SCHOOL FUNDING:

As mentioned, we are a private non-profit school. We serve as a partnership school with several area school districts. The largest school district that we provide services to is Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD). MMSD funds make up a small percentage (35%) of Horizon High School's budget. The remaining funding comes from generous community and corporate donations.

In May 2017, we had a very successful fundraiser at Sundance Cinema in Hilldale Mall, Madison. We showed the academy award nominated film, "Hidden Figures". We will be having another fundraiser in May or June 2018.

For the Summer school program, Horizon High School gets no funding from any school district and must rely on community donations. With significant assistance from the community and generous sponsors, we were able to fund summer school for summer 2017. 8 students attended and completed summer school for Summer 2017. Summer School is essential for our students in recovery to help reinforce sober activities and to work on academics.

Summer school programs boost learning. Summer school is needed for our students who come from low-income families who do not have access to educational resources throughout the summer months. Summer school provides time for our low-achieving students to master academic content. Research has shown that during Summer vacation, many students lose knowledge and skills. By the end of Summer, students perform on average, one month behind where they were when they left in Spring. For students in recovery, support is needed to maintain sobriety during the summer months. Summer school is essential for our students.

The summer school program for 2017 consisted of academics, group counseling and life skills training. Academics focused on English, reading "To Kill A Mockingbird" and Sociology studying social stratification. Counseling met once a week and spent a lot of time discussing family issues, how to support recovery, decision making, goal setting, interpersonal relationships, coping with stress, trauma and loss.

School funding continues to be a serious issue. We are passionate about Horizon High School and the good work that is done with our students. We will continue to seek community support and funding to keep Horizon High School a viable part of the community for years to come.

STUDENTS GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY:

It is important for Horizon High School students to learn about community outreach to others with compassion and generosity of spirit. A school priority is to help others. In May 2017, the students cooked a meal for families at the Ronald McDonald House.

Other community outreach efforts for 2017 include volunteer work by the students at Heartland Farm Sanctuary, Verona, WI.

WISCONSIN EYE DOCUMENTARY:

Wisconsin Eye, the State Public Affairs cable network, produced the documentary, "Straight Forward: The Truth About Addiction". The documentary features in-depth interviews with young Wisconsinites that are fighting to recover their

lives from addictions, largely to opiates. Three students from Horizon High School were interviewed for the film. They each share their personal stories of:

- What happened with their addiction
- How they became addicted
- What prompted them to seek help
- What they would say to others
- The hope and confidence they now have for their future

Wisconsin Eye produced this documentary to be used in middle and high schools in Wisconsin with related curriculum and discussion guides. Traci Goll, Horizon High School's School Director, Nancy Meyer, Board Member, one of the student's grandmother, and three students from Horizon were invited to the world premiere of the film on Wednesday, August 16, 2017. The film has been shown at Oconomowoc High School. Horizon High School will be using this film for our fundraiser in 2018. We are proud of our students for sharing their stories and for helping others who deal with addiction and substance use disorder and to show that recovery is possible.

NEW HIRE:

We are pleased to announce that we hired a new dedicated counselor for Horizon High School in September 2017. Brooke Mulcahy, was hired to provide individual and group counseling sessions for Horizon students. Brooke has worked with individuals to overcome mental health and substance use disorders since 2012, first in Seattle, and later in Madison where she interned at Mendota Mental Health institute. In addition to working at Horizon High School part-time, Brooke is also a therapist at Connections Counseling. Brooke is doing a great job with our students and we are pleased to have her as part of our Horizon family!

HORIZON HIGH SCHOOL IN THE NEWS:

We are always trying to spread the word about Horizon High School, both to reach families who have adolescents in need of our program, and to also help with fundraising as 60% of our budget comes from generous donations. UW Milwaukee wrote an article about Horizon High School in March 2017. We are very grateful to have National Public Radio (NPR) coverage on July 8th, 2017. This radio coverage was all over the country! On September 24, 2017 the Daily Cardinal published an article about Horizon. In November 2017, a film crew from Milwaukee Channel 58 (CBS) interviewed Traci with staff and students for special coverage about the Opiate epidemic and Recovery High Schools.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The annual budget for 2017 was \$225,000. The average cost per student is \$20,000 per academic year with an additional cost of \$2,300 for Summer School. We have started a monthly sustainers club with PayPal's recurring payment option. We currently receive \$375 monthly from 6 donors who joined the monthly sustainers club.

Needs for 2018 are \$40,000 for Summer School and \$5,000 for new computers. For the Summer School Program- (\$40,000) We get no funding from any school district or any other entity for Summer School. We rely 100% on individual and community donations for Summer School. New computers are needed for the students. The existing computers are over 5 years old and are very slow. We only have 6 computers so most work is done via paper.



The above picture is from our Fall Open House and Fundraiser, October 2017

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

On Sunday, October 1, 2017, Traci Goll, Horizon High School School Director, was recognized by Edgewood College with the “Living the Mission” award at Nakoma Golf Club. She was recognized for her work with Horizon High School students. This is a wonderful recognition of her work 24/7 for the students at Horizon. Traci represents the core values of respect, integrity and excellence in her work with the students at Horizon. Traci is very deserving of this award. She goes to great lengths to support the students and our school. It is wonderful to have her contributions be recognized by the community.

On Thursday, December 7, Horizon High School was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the University of Wisconsin Fueling Philanthropy Lab. We are so appreciative of this wonderful award which will help fund our Life Skills Training Program for 2018.



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 support from American Family Insurance, the Hovde Foundation, The Capital Kids Fund, Cremer Foundation, Rotary, Sauk Trails Optimists, Monona Bank, Sinsinawa Sisters and the Thomas P. and Patricia A. O'Donnell Foundation.

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Traci Goll, School Director

PURPOSE OF THIS ANNUAL REPORT:

The purpose of this annual report is to show accountability to Horizon High School parents, generous donors and our partnership school districts. We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Traci Goll, our school director, and our Horizon High School Staff- Ketrick Lehman, Bob Weinswig, Erin Kollenbroich, and Brooke Mulcahy who have contributed to the success of Horizon High School this past year.



A special thanks to the Horizon High School Board of Directors:

John Fournelle, Ph.D., President
Judi Munaker, JD, Secretary
Steve Caldwell, CPA, Treasurer
Tracy Gast, CPA, Associate Treasurer
D. Paul Moberg, Ph.D.
Shelly Dutch, Connections Counseling
Nancy Meyer, MS, RD
Jacci See, Realtor
Stanley Kantor, Business Owner

Thank you to our corporate sponsors and to generous community donors to assisted us in keeping our doors open for 2017-18. 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 sized, individual attention and counseling transforms lives into successful futures!

We look forward to another great year in 2018!!

HORIZON HIGH SCHOOL IS A 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all contributions are fully tax deductible.

Website: www.horizonhs.org