



## Dear Friends,

Despite such an unprecedented year, I am proud of all we accomplished in 2020 and am excited for the growth and potential in 2021. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our hardworking staff, the generosity of our donors, and the dedication of our 168 students, there was no lapse in providing academic support, social-emotional wellness, and a strong sense of community while conducting our program virtually.

We are pleased to share some highlights from the last few months at Horizons at Sacred Heart University in this newsletter, including updates on our innovative virtual programming, the tremendous success of our very first virtual luncheon, the extraordinary commitment of our teachers, and our planning for virtual "Lunch and Learn" sessions on relevant topics in education and youth development. Lots of exciting happenings!

Your invaluable support allows us to serve the amazing children of Horizons at Sacred Heart University, and we are so grateful. Each of our students is full of hope and joy and has infinite potential. Because of friends like you, who believe in them and the work we do, we can nurture that potential and our kids can achieve their dreams.

On behalf of the entire Horizons at SHU Board of Directors and staff, I want to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy 2021! We are grateful for you as there is truly no Horizons at SHU without YOU!

All the best,

Jaime Perri  
Executive Director



## A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

# HSHU's Annual Luncheon

More than 100 people logged onto their computers to participate in our annual luncheon in October! Delicious meals were prepared by Sugar & Olives, and our keynote speaker, Dr. Julie Washington, professor and department chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders College of Education and Human Development at Georgia State University, shared her insights on equity, equality and inclusion of underserved students during the time of Covid-19. Her remarks related to literacy highlighted and emphasized the importance of the curriculum that HSHU's delivers to its 168 students.

In addition to a robust program and pulling raffle winners, Page Tremaine, co-chair of the Board of Directors, announced that all donations made the day of the luncheon through October 30th would be matched twice by generous donors! The double match yielded an extraordinary response and helped us raise

**\$197,165 for Horizons at Sacred Heart – far exceeding our goal for the event.**

**What a tremendous success, and many thanks to all who attended and contributed to the luncheon**

## SPOTLIGHT ON ANDREA



### *A Passion for her community!*

*"I will have to stay motivated and when things get tough, I know I have people I can turn to"*

14-year old Andrea is a quiet, articulate, hard-working, and self-assured young woman who is passionate about serving others.

She joined the Horizons at Sacred Heart program as a Kindergarten and credits her connection to Horizons at SHU with her ability to stay focused on academics, even during the long summer months,

"It [Horizons] always helped me be ready for the next school year," she reports. That focus is surely paying off as Andrea reports an A-average in science!

Her academic success has helped develop her interest in beauty and she has visions of becoming a cosmetologist – or even a dermatologist – when she gets older! Whatever path she chooses, we know Andrea will continue to make herself, her beloved family, and HSHU proud!

# Support our Annual Appeal

**Did you know that under the pandemic relief program, you can deduct up to \$300 on your 2020 tax return even if you take the standard deduction?\***

With that in mind, we hope that you will support our annual appeal that is happening now through January 31, 2021. All gifts, no matter the amount, will be matched so double your impact by giving today! Your support ensures that we can deliver results like the ones we achieved in 2020:

- 168 children from 126 families enrolled and active in our programs
- 80% average daily attendance for our virtual programs
- 48+ hours of professional development for faculty to maximize the virtual platform
- $\geq$  80% of our students show measurable gains in their literacy levels (San Diego Quick Assessment of Reading Ability)
- 100% teacher retention, despite pivot to virtual format
- 70% of our students meet or exceed math facts fluency expectations for their age (STAR assessment)
- 100% of students enrolled in high school program working towards college access and career readiness
- 95% average year-over-year student retention

**You can make your donation by clicking [here](#)**

or mail us a check made out to:

Horizons at SHU  
c/o Jaime Perri, Executive Director  
Horizons at SHU, 5151 Park Avenue  
Fairfield, CT 06825.

\*New York Times article, "It's Easier to Get a Tax Deduction for Donations This Year"  
published on November 20, 2020

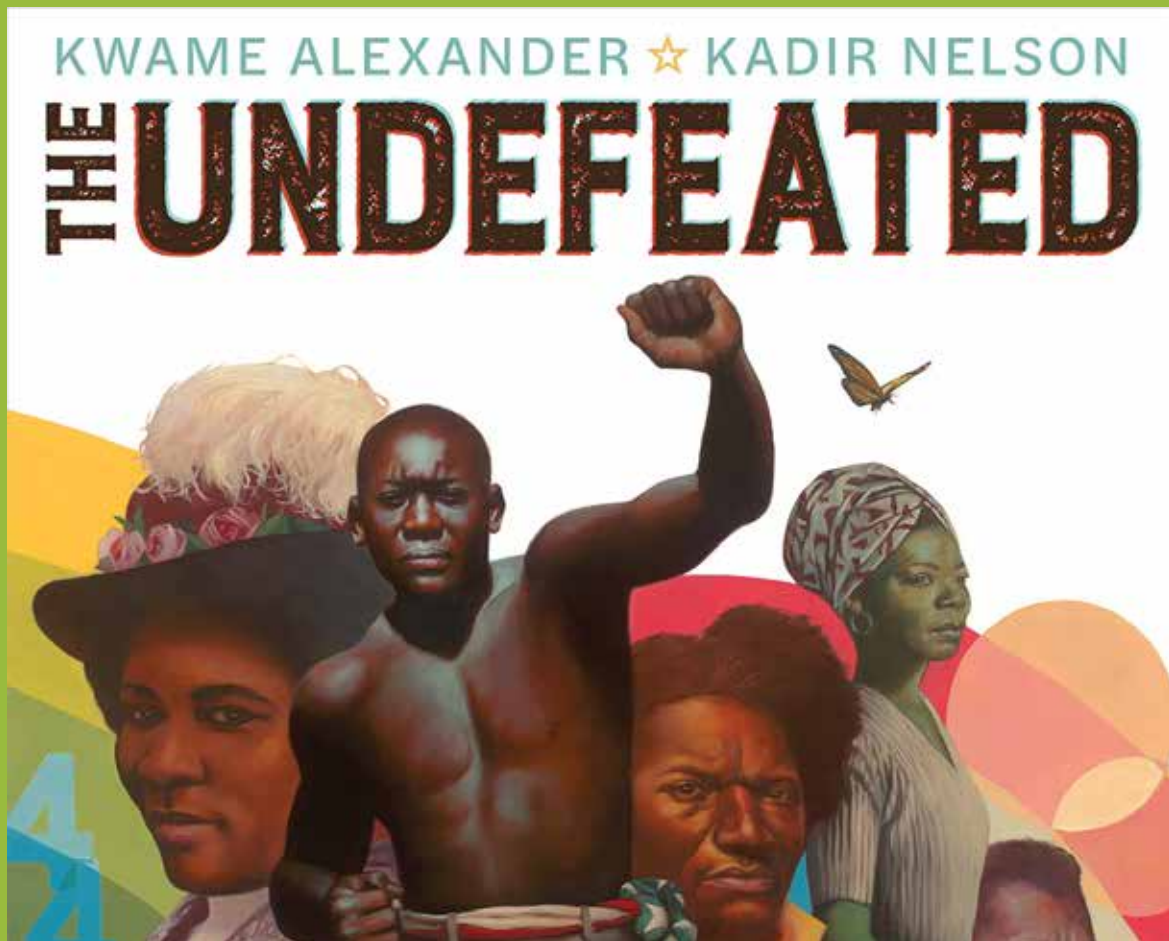
# Wonder

# Discover

# Explore!

Our Saturday program "Wonder, Discover & Explore" is well underway! Offering ten sessions throughout the academic year, the program (delivered virtually for now) prioritizes multi-sensory learning in ELA, ANYTHING MATH RELATED, social-emotional learning, citizenship and community building, and multicultural awareness especially around social justice issues.

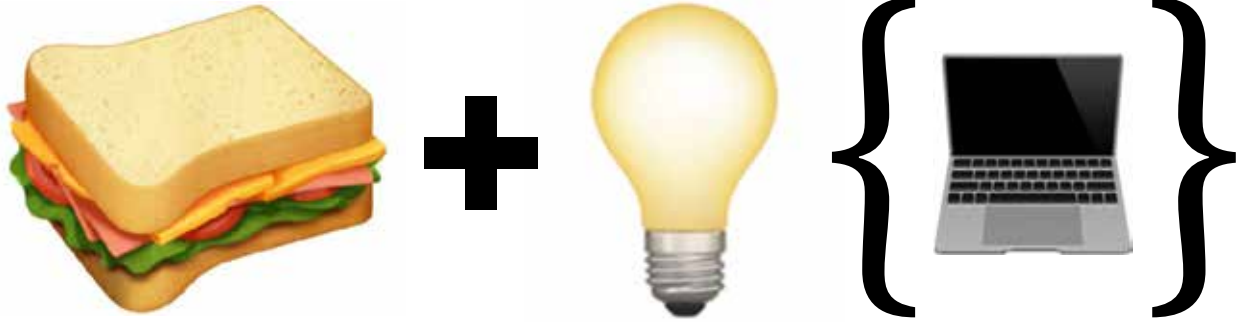
**This Fall, the entire HSHU community explored Kwame Alexander's Caldecott Medal winning text *The Undeclared*.**



Described by the author as "a love letter to his community" tells of the grit and perseverance needed to progress. The entire story was shared at a whole community assembly and then each grade level did a deeper dive – over the course of three sessions – to explore the work with a developmentally appropriate lens. Analyzing for big ideas, themes, and writing techniques, HSHU students were able to personalize the story, identifying ways in which they – like the author – could amplify messages they feel are important to their communities.

Continuing on the themes of self-advocacy and community building, students researched Tibetan prayer flags, traditionally used as a way to share hope and love with the community, and created their own flags that reflected love notes to the community. At the final Saturday session, the entire HSHU came together in small (socially distant) groups to share breakfast and assemble the flags into a large, community display.

HSHU LAUNCHES ITS NEW



## LUNCH AND LEARN {VIRTUAL} SERIES

*“Wonder, Discover and Explore  
the Importance of Opportunity”*

The academic team at Horizons at SHU is pleased to present a series of webinars that will feature leading educators, professionals, and community leaders addressing topics of relevance for all children, especially those served by Horizons at SHU.

Totally free of charge, the sessions are open to anyone who is interested. Grab some lunch and plan to join us at the following sessions!

**JANUARY 19TH, 12:00PM**

*Opportunities in Social  
Emotional Learning and  
Understanding Childhood  
Trauma*

**FEATURED SPEAKER**

**Laura Stickle**  
Harvard EASEL LAB

**Dr. Craig Haen-**  
Psychotherapist and  
Trauma Specialist

**FEBRUARY 16TH, 12:00PM**

*Equal Educational Opportunity  
in Language and Literacy*

**FEATURED SPEAKER**

**Dr. Ben Powers**  
Headmaster of The Southport  
School & Affiliated Research  
Scientist at Haskins  
Laboratories

**Julie Washington**  
Co-director of the Center for  
Research on the Challenges  
of Acquiring Language and  
Literacy

**MARCH 16TH, 12:00PM**

*The Crossroads of Criminal  
Justice and Educational  
Opportunities*

**FEATURED SPEAKER**

**Judge Barry Stevens**  
Judge on the Ansonia/Milford  
District Superior Court in  
Connecticut.

[Register](#) and receive login information by emailing Amanda Baez