

Annual Report

2017-18



Home Run Hitters International

Creating Social-Communication Opportunities for Every Child



Hello Friends and Fans of Home Run Hitters Int'l

I am Dr Deborah Carr (Ph.D.) Founder and President of Home Run Hitters International Inc. Teamed together with Mrs. Karen Ponce, our programs were formed and readied for children whose disabilities affected communication.

Our 10 years of serving our guys and girls with special abilities as a non-profit has been a blessing. Our team is excited about the support which the community has given. That support has allowed us to have donated space in which to office while continuing to provide social communicative opportunities for our guys and girls with communicative challenges. We create non-curricular venues.

It has been especially gratifying to see, not only the increase in numbers and quality of interactions but also an increase in numbers of sites in which we have presented our portable programs! The increase in sites of course means an increase in numbers of children that we are able to serve!

Community support has us in search of an Executive Director. While this search continues, a fund raiser was hired to help us with raising the operational funds for the current years. Our board is becoming actively involved in seeking and producing funding for the ongoing of our mission.

We have heard positive and encouraging words from adult and teen volunteers as well as parents. We have also heard affirmative words from adult persons who have struggled to communicate in their lifetimes. Their comments are summed up in the following statements: "Keep doing what you are doing! Don't stop! You are making a difference!"

Our plan is just that: To Continue working on behalf of our Girls and Guys with Special Abilities.

With a Grateful Heart for the Incredible Community Support and for the Wonderful Girls and Guys we have the pleasure of serving

Dr Deborah Carr, President of HRHII

HRHI Mission

Mission Provide increased opportunities for successful interaction and social engagement between children whose disabilities affect their communication and volunteers of all ages.



We Believe

All persons have a desire to connect with a friend, a person who chooses to be with them, not out of obligation but because they simply want to share life with them. All persons have the desire to be noticed, recognized for who they are.

All persons need someone who will express excitement at what they can do.

All persons desire to show independent control over some aspect of life.

All persons should be affirmed for their special abilities.

All persons should have opportunities to interact successfully with enriched environments and with the people within those environments.

All persons need respite, a time of refreshing and recreating.



Programs

We accomplish our mission through creating environments that foster interaction and a need for communication. These opportunities do not occur naturally in our everyday social settings. Each of our programs require that our children with special abilities be teamed with a volunteer. The programs are as follows:

Switch-A-Thon A fun time of community service where participants meet and greet at least 5 friends. Afterwards they use low tech supports to control environmental items like bubbles, lights, music etc. during the main event. This while having fun with their Cheer Captain.

The Home Run Hitters Club A time of engaging a Coach in a special game that all players can play. They use the equipment they bring with them to the game. It may be phrases, words, sounds, facial expressions, gestures, movements, a communication board, a Voice Communication Aide or any combination thereof.

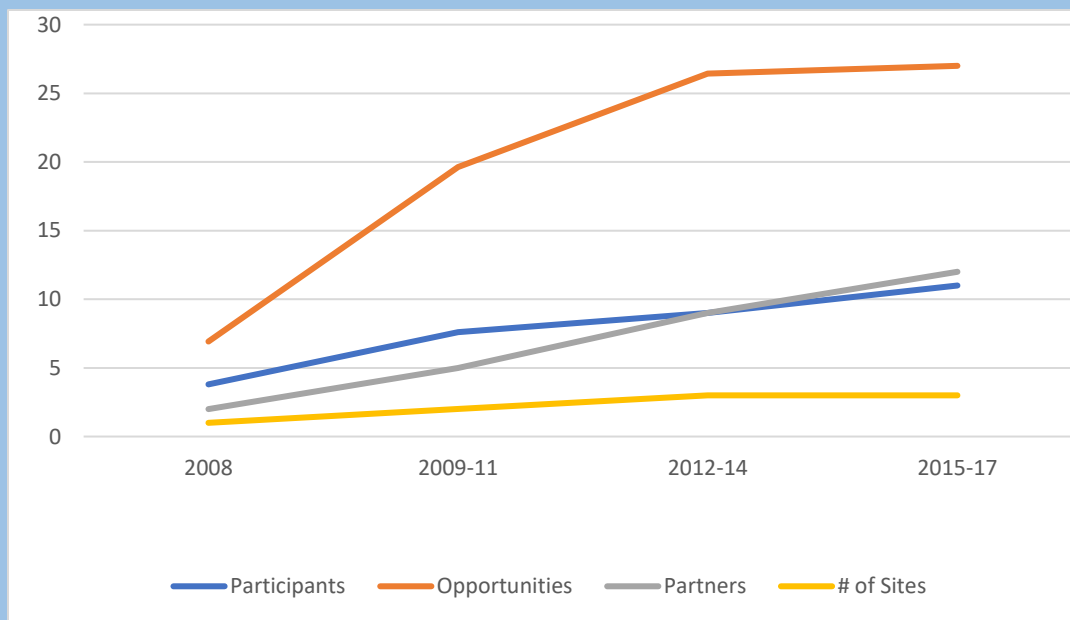
Camp M.I. Way An interactive indoor camp for our campers and counselors. Campers and counselors explore in the multi -sensory environments together. Campers get to indicate preferences, control the environment with low tech supports, participate in skit, dance and song productions. Arts and crafts and of course ending around the campfire.

Away Weekends A special time for our special guests and their volunteer hosts and hostesses to get together for a 12- hour day of games, community outings and tours, stories, and skits and much more. The multi-sensory environment that is created guarantees the special guests will discover a special interest. These weekend days are held at a local hotel or area YMCA.

Program Growth

The programs have shown growth over the 10 years that we have been a non-profit organization. The growth has been in the form of numbers of children served, the numbers of sites where our programs have been presented, the numbers of opportunities for interactions and the numbers of persons with whom the children are involved.

Program Segments for Social Communication Success



Year 2008

We began with three programs and 38 children on one campus. Average number of interactive opportunities per child was 692. Average number of volunteers that engaged each child was 4.

Year 2009-11

Average of 2 yrs: 54 children on one campus 22 at 2 new sites.

Average number of interactive opportunities per child was 1964.

Average number of volunteers that engaged each child was 5.

Year 2012-14

Average of 2 yrs: 60 children on one campus 30 at 3 new sites.

Average number of interactive opportunities per child was 2544.

Average number of volunteers that engaged each child was 9

Year 2015-17

Average of 2 yrs: 60 children on one campus 50 at 2 new sites.

Average number of interactive opportunities per child was 2700.

Average number of volunteers that engaged each child was 12.

Note: The numbers of opportunities and the number of volunteers are based on the inclusion of those who participate in all four of the programs offered.

Meet Our Girls & Guys

Story #1: HRH Player This year we saw our guys and girls use their special abilities in meaningful ways. One of our players who has been known to use only limited movement surprised us this year by moving his legs, head and smiling.



He even began raising his arm up really high bringing on this response from HRH Manager: “Are you saying hello? What a great way to tell us HI!”.

He also participated in singing for young audiences using a special button and Voice Output Device. His was a winter song. He and his coach took turns singing the song. When the lyrics “Till the other Kiddies knocked him down” were sung, he began kicking his legs in an effort to help knock down the snowman. The snowman was brought close so that he and the other children could knock him down together. How exciting to see this player use his movements meaningfully for all present to see. This was a first for this Home Run Hitter Player. It is fantastic that **“Our player was heard even though he has no voice”**.

Story #2: HRH Player One of our players who uses a communication board came to the dugout area to play the Home Run Hitter Games. Being non-verbal, he greeted us with visual attention, a smile and a wave with his arm. He pointed to his shirt. Response from managers “Nice shirt”.



Once his board was in front of him he pointed to “Who”.

Response from managers: “Who are you talking about?”

He visually located his coach. When his coach came, he pointed to “what”.

Response from Coach: “What?” not understanding.

He then used his arm as best he could as if swinging a golf club.

Response from Coach: His coach then went on to explain that they had just finished a golf event where he had lots of fun.

He then pointed to “Again”.

Response from his Coach said “You want to golf again?”.

He smiled and shook head yes.

Response: Coach said you will be able to golf again.

He then pointed to “When”.

Response from his coach “We will have to wait until next year”.

Another first for our player (confirmed by his teacher/coach)! It is so wonderful to watch our player **“share what’s on his mind even though he has no voice”**.

Story#3: Camper One of our campers at Camp M.I. Way at the Caroline School used words to talk with his counselors. However, he was misunderstood by his new counselors due to a lack of clarity in his articulation. Each day at camp we



used Voice Output Communication Devices to lead the opening ceremonies. We raised the flag and repeated the pledge. Daily we repeated the words and phrases UP, UP, UP- HIGHER, HIGHER, HIGHER- ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP! The campers were heard saying these words all around camp as they pretended to raise the flag with their counselors. On the last day of camp this camper led the raising of the flag using his voice. His words were pronounced with clarity as he used the words and phrases to raise the flag at our final camp time. It is exciting to see success for our children whose voices are not always understood.

HRHI Community Teams

Special Recognition to Tina Colaco, our first supporter. Her support came through her two non-profit organizations which she founded: “Be An Angel” and “Just Like Us”! Many thanks To Tina for joining us in our mission and vision!!!

Companies and Organizations

International Association of Drilling Contractors

Weingarten Realty

Dirty’s (Maribelle’s) Golf Tournament

Houston Independent School District

T.H. Rogers School

The Children’s Fund

HEB on San Felipe

Program Support (In Kind)

Hyatt Regency downtown Houston

Hilton Clear Lake

Holiday Inn Kemah

YMCA Cypress

Gables Construction Group

RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) McCurdy & Dennis

Krogers on Voss

MW Cleaners on Augusta

Pilgrims Cleaners on FM1960

Astros

Individual Gifts and Personal Gifts in Memory of or in Honor of Loved Ones

Home Run Hitter Fans Talk



Statements from Parents

It has been especially gratifying to hear parents thank us for being a part of their child's summer experience. The parent reported that her son cried when he was taken to his school. He had to be forced to go which was not pleasant for him nor the mother. Additionally, there were no places that she found in the summer that seemed ready and willing to have him as a part of their day care or summer programs. However, mom says when he would come to our summer camp experience, Camp M.I. Way at the Caroline School, he was delighted and happy to come each morning to camp. The parent was so thankful and relieved that she had found a place that her son enjoyed and a place that was a good fit for him.

A parent of one of our adult participants continues to ask if we can make our camp Year-Round for her son. She says he stays on a correct sleeping schedule when he comes to camp because he is so busy during the day and tired at night. She says that he is so happy to be with us during the summer camp and during the Away Weekends.



Another parent who drives 52 miles daily in order that her child may participate in our summer camp experience said "This camp is really great! We need to have a camp closer to our home so that we don't have to drive as far.

Statements from Teachers and Staff

A classroom teacher was having trouble encouraging one student, one of our players, to signal when she was finished in the restroom. The teacher (also the coach) said that after we playing games to earn a “calling” badge something different happened. The player/student used the words from the HRH game when she was finished in the restroom. Her teacher heard her say: “Teacher Name!” Response from teacher: “What do you want?” The player/student said, “Come here!” and the teacher came but not close. The student/player said “Come here” again at which time the teacher came close to her! The teacher was excited at this first-time success!!! The teacher related this success to the student’s participation in the Home Run Hitters Club.

*In response to an HRH survey given to staff at one of the campuses where our programs have been for years, these comments were made:
Great and Rewarding program for our students!
Great Program! I would not change a thing!*



Community Teams Donate

Range of Gifts from Community Teams

\$15000 to \$75000	The Children's Fund
\$8000 to \$40000	IADC
\$6000 to \$25000	Just Like Us
\$5000 to \$15,000	Charitable Foundations
\$500 to \$50,000	Personal Charitable Foundations
\$5 to 20,000	Personal Gifts

HRHI Financials 2017-2018

Fiscal Year March 2017 through February 2018

Home Run Hitters International, Inc

PROFIT AND LOSS

March 2017 - February 2018

	TOTAL
Income	
Contributions	150,557.29
Interest Income	9.02
Total Income	\$150,566.31
GROSS PROFIT	\$150,566.31
Expenses	
Activities & events	9,080.70
Advertising & promotion	10,250.00
Bank service charges	21.00
Camp Bus & Truck Rental	11,677.08
Computer & internet expenses	779.71
Contract Labor	205.00
Dues & Subscriptions	653.92
Fuel	49.02
Gifts & Appreciation	475.00
Insurance	14,141.05
Worker's Compensation	126.15
Total Insurance	14,267.20
Interest	0.99
Meals & entertainment	2,729.39
Office supplies	1,681.57
Payroll Expenses	28,493.57
Taxes	11,431.36
Wages	16,963.02
Total Payroll Expenses	56,887.95
Postage and delivery	1,800.68
Printing & reproduction	1,074.00
Professional fees	25,050.00
Rent	4,418.97
Repairs & maintenance	254.39
Supplies	3,096.19
Telephone	157.62
Travel	4,507.75
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	0.00
Utilities	1,135.00
Total Expenses	\$150,253.13
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$313.18
Other Expenses	
Ask My Accountant	3,534.24
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.06
Total Other Expenses	\$3,534.30
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -3,534.30
	TOTAL
NET INCOME	\$ -3,221.12

Home Run Hitters Int'l Vision

Our Vision is clear. We are working to eliminate isolation, passivity, total dependence and misunderstanding of persons whose disabilities affect their communication and limit their independence and opportunities for social engagement.

Vision for our Programs:

To maintain and support each program at current sites as desired and expand to new sites, thereby reaching increasing numbers of children with varying communication issues.

Vision for our staff and volunteers

To train numbers of persons as managers to run programs at selected sites while maintaining quality, intent, character and integrity of the programs.

Vision of outcomes

Visible and recognizable changes or increases in communication and interactive opportunities (numbers & quality). Verified by video, photos and or coach, teacher or parent report.

Vision for Home Run Hitters International Inc

To support the programs of Home Run Hitters Int'l with necessary Funding, Marketing, Social Media Presence and Staffing.

For More Information Contact Us

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