

Combined Annual Report 2018-2020/21



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 (MA), Professional Educator, our programs were formed and readied for children whose disabilities affected communication and their level of independence.

The thirteen years of serving our guys and girls with special abilities as a non-profit proved beneficial to parents, their children and to our preteen and teen volunteers. The community support throughout the years allows us to continue providing social communicative opportunities for the children, while providing encouragement for their educators, respite for their parents and or care providers and leadership opportunities for the volunteers.

We are thrilled to report that our expansion efforts allow increased numbers of children, families, volunteers, locations, service times and service types. We continue to create non-curricular venues with sensory enriched environments for our portable programs. During the first year of the global pandemic, we were able to create a time of virtual engagement through newly created "M.I. Way Zoom Camp." It was truly a delight to interact with our special friends who we would not otherwise see. We were able to have three in person respite weekends and a one-week camp, closely following CDC guidelines.

Challenges have involved losing our donated office space that we had used for 10 years and having the cost of usual rental space for camp increasing beyond our ability to pay. We are still without an Executive Director who can focus on fund raising, donor care and marketing. Even in absence of this critical employee position, we are thankful that our long-time supporters remain committed to helping us, Buster Hayslip and the Golf Tournament Friends and the I.A.D.C. of Houston. We are also thankful for the new groups who have chosen to support our efforts, The Faithful Followers/Sojourners Class of Champion Forest Baptist Church, the Pastors and members of Arise Baptist and Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the new board members that have joined us over 2019 through protracted 2020 and 2021 years.

We continue With Grateful Hearts for the incredible community support, the wonderful girls and guys we have the pleasure of serving, and our marvelous volunteers and staff.

Dr Deborah Carr, President of HRHII

HRHI Mission

Mission remains: To Provide increased opportunities for successful interaction and social engagement between children whose disabilities affect their communication and level of independence and volunteers of all ages. The children may be non-verbal with no oral expression or verbal but not understood. Parent and educator support also part of provision.



We Believe

All persons have a desire to be known, 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 known, noticed, recognized for who they are and seen as “of worth”.

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

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

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.

HRHI PROGRAMS

Programs

We continue to accomplish our mission through creating environments that foster interaction and a need for communication. These opportunities are rare or nonexistent in standard social settings for children with significant disabilities. Each of our programs require that our children with special abilities be teamed with volunteers.

Switch-A-Thon A community service event where our guys and girls meet and greet at least 5 friends who become sponsors. Sponsors pledge some money amount for each time the switch is hit. They “hit” capability switches to independently control bubbles, lights, songs, messages and much more. All while interacting with their volunteer Cheer Captain during the main event. Each hit is a way to help others.

The Home Run Hitters Club A time of engaging a volunteer ‘Coach’ in a special game that all players can play. The player may use phrases, words, sounds, facial expressions, gestures, movements, a communication board, a Voice Aide or a combination thereof. Four interactions result in a Home Run!

Camp M.I. Way An interactive indoor camp for our campers. Campers and volunteer counselors explore multi -sensory environments together. Campers indicate preferences, demonstrate personal control, organize activity “First, Next, Then, and Finally” and participate in skits, dances and song productions, ending around the campfire.

M.I. Way Zoom Camp In response to the health advisory and shutdown Spring 2020, a virtual camp was launched. Our campers are teamed with a group of friends (counselors) for times of interactions online. There is singing, flag raising, story-telling and campfire. Campers engage their counselors through movements, sounds or words. It was fun having a camper from Arizona and Counselors from Florida to join us for the Zoom Camp!

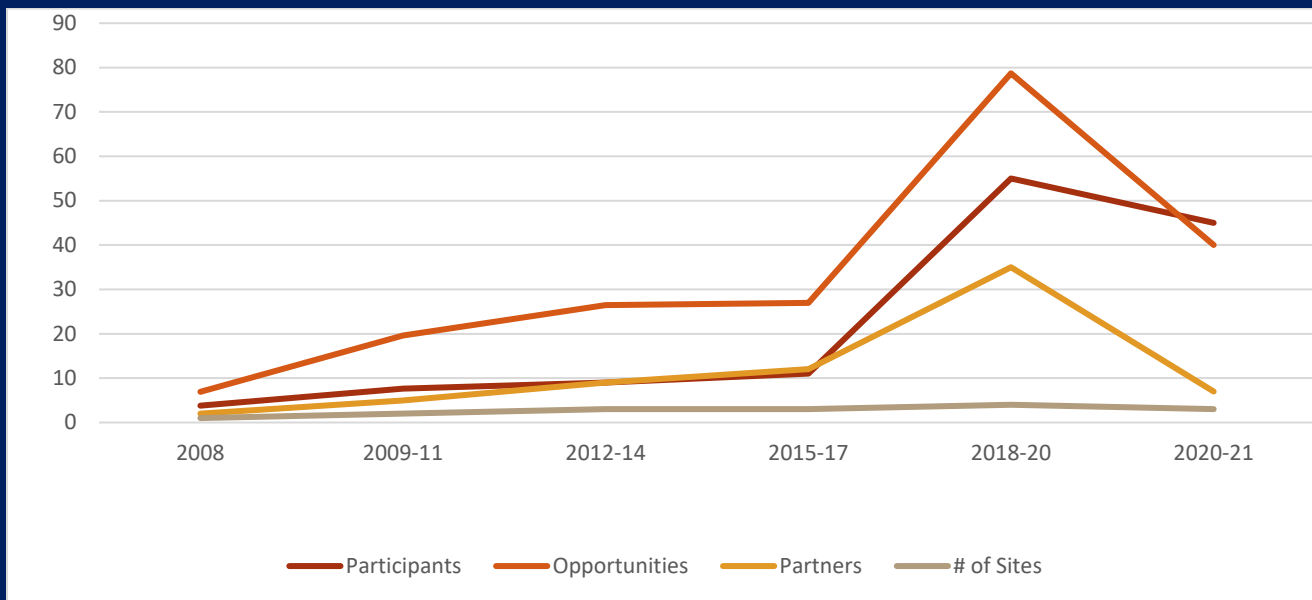
M.I. Way Practice Camp In response to a need for young children to review reading or math concepts, facts that were missed during the school year online, a Practice Camp was offered where counselors would meet online with the regular and special children and in fun activities review and reinforce words or math facts and concepts that were missed during the year. This Practice Camp also allowed our campers who could not meet at scheduled camp times to be engaged in social interactions that had been missed due to the Pandemic.

Away Weekends Our special guests and their hosts/ hostesses meet at a hotel for a 12hour day of games, outings, tours, stories, skits and much more. Parents meanwhile have a 12hour day for relaxing, refreshing and attending to other family members.

Program Growth

The programs continue to show growth. The growth on graphs continues to be 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. A decline was seen in numbers for the Summer of 2020 through the Summer of 2021 due to shutdowns and guidelines put in place during the Pandemic. Summer 2020 thru Summer 2021 will be displayed but read with caution as the numbers of and types of programs available were different for the Summer of 2020 thru the Summer and Fall/Winter of 2021.

Program Segments for Social Communication Success



Year 2018-Spring 2020

Average of 2 yrs is 110: 60 children on one campus 50 at new sites.

Average number of interactive opportunities for this period was 787.

Average number of volunteers positioned to engage each child was 35.

In 2019-Total of 97 counselors: Rogers/Caroline/Smartie Pants/Lee

Note: Due to spacing issues on above chart, 787 was entered as 78.7

Variations in Numbers due to Pandemic Limits and Guidelines

Year Summer 2020 - 2021

Summer 2020 (Pandemic)

Virtual Camp M.I. Way: 16 virtual campers 36 virtual counselors

In Person Mini Camp M.I. Way: 4 campers and 6 camp counselors

In Person Away Weekends: 5 special guests* 5 hosts/hostesses**

Average number of interactive opportunities for this period was 320.

Average number of volunteers positioned to engage each child was 2.

Summer 2021(Pandemic)

Virtual Camp M.I. Way: 23 virtual campers and 55 virtual counselors

Virtual Practice Camp M.I. Way: 6 campers and 5 virtual counselors

In Person Camp M.I. Way: 24 campers and 32 counselors

In Person Away Weekends: 10 special guests 18 hosts and hostesses

Average number of interactive opportunities for this period was 480.

Average number of volunteers positioned to engage each child was 4.

Note: The numbers of opportunities and the number of volunteers are dependent on the available programs in which the individuals are involved.

*Special Guests are the weekend children with developmental disabilities

** Hosts/Hostesses are the weekend volunteers

Meet Our Girls & Guys



Story #1: HRH Player This year we saw our guys and girls reach new heights as coaches encouraged them to interact. This player was always ready to play games with her coaches and camp counselors. We watched her use her smile to engage and comment on activities and items offered. What was amazing to all of us was seeing her in the dugout. She had a challenging job. Before the games could begin, she had to look at her coach to initiate the game. The coach could not start until she looked. Although this sounds simple, for this player, it was very difficult because her range of movement for her head was always left of center (midline). Her coach would wait for her by standing at center (midline) or to her right. She would work to glance at her coach in order to start the game. However, as the season came to an end, this player would work to position herself so that when she arrived in the dugout, she had moved her head to a midline position and was able to look at her coach with no problem at all. We asked if she was being positioned in her classroom but she was not being assisted, she learned to bring herself to a midline position with no help at all. We were all so excited and rejoiced in her newly acquired skill. She had learned to do what needed to be done and did it all by herself!!

Story #2: HRH Player What a joy to watch our player use her movements, visual gaze and vocalizations to engage, to make choices and participate in a variety of activities offered during a Home Run Hitter Season! This season our player surprised us all as she used visual gaze to initiate interactions with three different people in the dugout! She used the VOCA to help tell a story, waiting for the perfect time to activate her switch to tell her part of the story.



She also participated in our Virtual Camp this summer. She showed by her movements which activities were her favorite and which were not. Her teen counselors provided songs, stories, recitations, cheers and campfire reviews. She dropped her head and got really still to indicate “I would like to do something different”. She sat with her head up and even smiled when participating in activities she enjoyed. She would vocalize and move her arms when asked if she wanted to do more. See a screen shot of Virtual Camp below!

The camper appears to be attentive for the pledge.



"I like this story!", our camper says with her smile.



M.I. Way Zoom Camp "Story of the Three Pigs" by counselors brings a big smile to our camper!

Story#3: HRH Player One of our players enjoyed our games so much that he became a volunteer who helped the other players play. He would help with the set up by giving the other children the ball or showing the children the ball. He would point out the player's movements so that he or she would score points and make home runs. He would help count the number of games and corresponding stars for the scoreboard using his communication board/STRIP. This player also performed actions such as walking, running, sitting in front, behind or beside the coach. He did this to help a team mate tell her blindfolded coach what was happening in the dugout.



Story#3: M.I. Way Camper One of our campers was very interactive having speech that needed augmenting. He had a great time in camp using sentence strips to go through the opening ceremony at camp. He also used the strips to successfully communicate his feelings and choices of preferred counselors and activities. He specifically shared with his counselors when he wanted alone time and whether that time would be inside or outside. He also loves books and likes to read with his counselors and sometimes likes to have private time to read alone. We are all delighted that he can express his preferences through the use of gestures and vocal utterances and printed words.



Story#4: HRH Several teams are formed with a player and two 5th Grade volunteers. The team of two volunteers and one player commits to play 9 games for the season. This team of two volunteers and one player finished the 9-game commitment. One of the two coaches wanted to engage the player for more than 9 games, and she did. She and her player interacted and engaged in playing a total of 24 games. This player seemed to enjoy his coach and was always alert and prepared to play. He appeared to anticipate the games as he left his classroom. He moved his legs and head more frequently as he approached the dugout area. His coach waited there to present sensory items and complement him on each of his movements. Great team!!



Home Run Hitter Fans Talk



Statements from Parent 1

I am thankful that Home Run Hitters offers programs in which my daughter can be involved. I like the fact that additional children and teens take time with her and engage her in activities. There are sensory items and activities that she can enjoy while interacting with friends of all ages.

Listen In as More Fans Share



Statement from Parent 2

My son sits in his room looking out of the window watching his brothers play outside. It is great that he could come on the special weekends and hang with his friends. He loves coming to the special weekends where he can have fun. We appreciate this opportunity where our son can be safe, interactive and socially engaged with friends.



Statements from Parent #3

Another parent was so excited when her son won the election and became Home Run Hitters' King she and her husband could not stop smiling. She said the entire family was excited. They thanked us for allowing them to take the King's robe home so that other family members could see their son in his royal attire. The parents were planning a luncheon at a restaurant for the entire family to gather and celebrate the special occasion. The parents felt as if this was a once in a lifetime event for their son. Parents were very pleased.

Teacher/Staff Fans Talk

Comment from a New Staff Member

Staff #1

One of the new staff members on campus was excited to learn to play the Home Run Hitter games with her player. Once she learned how we presented objects, and drawings for eye gazing and for touching, she was inspired to put together objects and drawings to use for her player in their classroom. She reported to us that her player was being attentive to some of the items and drawings that she presented in her classroom. She said she was happy that she learned ways to engage her player not only in the dugout but also in the classroom.

Comments from 2 Staff Members

Staff #2

Home Run Hitters have programs that keep our special guys and girls busy throughout the school year. Our students really enjoy seeing the Home Run Hitters' Dugout set up. When Home Run Hitters are not there the guys and girls pass by without positive expressions but when they are set up, there is an increase in vocalizations, body movements, visual attention and smiles. They appear to look forward to the social interaction that happens in the Home Run Hitters' Dugout. To many of the staff, the Camp is the highlight of all.

Community Teams Donate

Range of Gifts from Community Teams

2019 thru 2021

\$8000 to \$15,000	IADC; Astros Foundation
\$5000 to \$15,000	Charitable Foundations
\$500 to \$50,000	Personal Charitable Foundations
\$5 to 20,000	Personal Gifts

We Applaud the Longevity of Our Grand Slam Supporters

Buster Hayslip and Golf Tourney Friends

International Association of Drilling Contractors

Tina & Rafael Colaco*

*Special Recognition to Tina Colaco, our first supporter. Her support came through hours of listening to us dream, giving exceptional advice and support through the two non-profit organizations which she founded: “Be An Angel” and “Just Like Us”! Her personal support continues to this day for which we are forever grateful!

HRHI Community Teams

Companies and Organizations

International Association of Drilling Contractors

Dirty's Golf Tournament

The Astros Foundation

HEB on San Felipe

Krogers on Voss

Randall's on San Felipe

Metro Transportation

Mounting Horizons

Faithful Followers/Sojourners Class at Champion Forest Baptist Church

Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Arise Baptist Church

Program Support (In Kind)

Elk's Lodge Kemah

Hampton Inn and Suites

Holiday Inn Kemah

Hyatt Regency

Krogers on Voss

Tide Cleaners on Augusta

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

Jackie Cockrell Christopher Howard Phinny Armstrong Jay Ford

HRHI Financials 2020 & 2021

Home Run Hitters International, Inc

Profit and Loss

March 1, 2019 - February 28, 2020

	TOTAL
Income	
Contributions	113,887.50
Returned Expenditure	-7,726.97
Services	-512.00
Total Income	\$105,648.53
GROSS PROFIT	\$105,648.53
Expenses	
Activities & events	19,847.37
Advertising & promotion	261.84
Bank service charges	30.00
Camp Bus & Truck Rental	768.02
Comcast Internet Service	552.66
Compensation	1,834.47
Dues & Subscriptions	415.44
Fuel	50.08
Gifts & Appreciation	519.52
Insurance	7,115.30
Life Storage	6,240.01
Office supplies	1,064.19
Other Business Expenses	992.36
Payroll Expenses	3,566.36
Taxes(58)	6,341.98
Wages	78,377.87
Total Payroll Expenses	88,286.21
Payroll Tax Expense	3,400.55
Postage and delivery	710.04
Printing & reproduction	519.50
Professional fees	33,255.00
Rent	7,621.35
Rent for Storage	362.00
Supplies	593.65
Taxes	17,347.97
Telephone	268.90
Todd Fisher	800.00
Travel	400.00
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Exp	4,260.00
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	6,250.00
Uncategorized Expense	112.00
Utilities	181.02
Worker's Compensation Insurance	503.34
Total Expenses	\$204,562.79
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -98,914.26
NET INCOME	\$ -98,914.26

Financials Continued

Home Run Hitters International, Inc

Profit and Loss

March 2020 - February 2021

	TOTAL
Income	
Contributions	29,368.20
Returned Expenditure	527.37
Total Income	\$29,895.57
GROSS PROFIT	\$29,895.57
Expenses	
Activities & events	7,348.12
Bank service charges	45.00
Computer & internet expenses	42.91
CPA	800.00
Dues & Subscriptions	167.16
Gifts & Appreciation	1,278.15
Insurance	7,521.74
Worker's Compensation	173.73
Total Insurance	7,695.47
Meals & entertainment	61.50
Office supplies	591.67
Other Business Expenses	593.51
Payroll Expenses	1,052.31
Taxes(58)	756.77
Wages	33,901.58
Total Payroll Expenses	35,710.66
Payroll Tax Expense	2,592.63
Postage and delivery	189.60
Rent	8,819.00
Supplies	291.58
Taxes	3,733.46
Telephone	222.89
Worker's Compensation Insurance	228.11
Total Expenses	\$70,411.42
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -40,515.85
NET INCOME	\$ -40,515.85

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 in extra-curricular venues. During this process, we are highlighting, celebrating, and heralding the inherent worth of each individual while supporting parents and educational/care staff.

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, interaction, independence, and access 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, independent, and interactive opportunities (numbers & quality). Verified by video, photos and or coach, teacher, staff, 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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Join Our Team!!!