

## Horizons at New Canaan Country School Volunteer Opportunities

### **Who we are:**

Founded in 1964, Horizons at New Canaan Country School provides long-term educational and enrichment support to underserved students primarily from Stamford and Norwalk public schools. Our programs and services are designed to eliminate the significant achievement and opportunity gap experienced by these students and put them on track for success in college and career. Our six-week summer enrichment program is a core component of our programming and serves students from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Over the past five decades, we have enhanced and expanded our services to include a 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade school year program, a high school program and a parent engagement program. Our programs are offered on a full scholarship, and once enrolled in Horizons, we encourage our students to remain in the program through high school graduation. Beyond high school, our Alumni Association provides a vehicle for our graduates to stay in touch, network and share their successes.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **Year-round opportunities:**

**Birthday Card Committee** - Do you love getting a birthday card in the mail? We are looking for a team of volunteers to coordinate the selection and mailing of birthday cards to all of our Horizons students. The commitment is just 1 hour per month.

**College Care Package Committee** - The adjustment to college can be tough, especially for first generation college students. We want to provide a little extra love and support to our Horizons graduates as they take this important step in their educational journey by sending them a package twice per year. We are looking for a team of volunteers to secure care package goodies and to package them and ship them to our college students twice per year.

**Office organization and photo archiving help** - The Horizons office is in the process of organizing, archiving and purging its old files and photos and needs volunteers to help with this effort.

#### **Summer Opportunities:**

**Mystery reader** – volunteers sign up to read a story to one of Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes. Time and date can be arranged with the volunteer coordinator

**Pool volunteers** – Homeowners who have pools and are within a 2.5 mile radius of New Canaan Country School make their pools available for recreational swimming for small groups of students in the afternoon. Schedule can be negotiated with our Office Manager

**Parent swim class volunteers** – swimming is a hallmark of the Horizons summer program and we don't just teach the kids to swim! Once a week on Tuesday evenings, we provide swim lessons for interested parents. In addition to volunteer swim instructors, we also need volunteer childcare providers.

**Group Volunteer Projects:**

Horizons has a variety of needs that are ideal for church groups, social clubs, scout troops, etc.

**Backpack project** - Each year at the end of the summer program, we like to provide our students with a new backpack, filled with basic school supplies. We need 265 backpacks each summer. We provide a list of requested supplies and groups can commit to providing a certain number of backpacks. Backpacks are delivered during the last week of the summer program (the week of July 30<sup>th</sup>)

**Care Package supplies** – The Care Package committee can provide groups with a list of recommended supplies for the twice a year care package mailing to Horizons college-bound students.

**Birthday card collections** – Groups can pick an age or age groups and select and donate birthday cards to be mailed to our students.

**Book donations** – Groups can collect and donate age-appropriate books (new, please) to be distributed to our students throughout the year.