

Houston Achievement Place
Project CLASS
Progress Report 2021

**This Year's 2021 Highlights: See Section below on Pages 2-3:
Community Outreach & Partnerships**

BACKGROUND

The HAP motto is the HAP commitment: ***Kids Come First!***

Founded in 1974, HAP helps children by providing two sets of program services: ***Project CLASS for Schools*** and ***Project CLASS for Community***. Our primary mission is serving children who are disadvantaged, underserved and from low-income families. Our complementary mission is serving ALL children and ALL adults for achievement and success at home, in school and in the community.

Project CLASS (Children Learning Appropriate Social Skills) improves children's behavior and learning readiness. These days, too many children have behavior problems in school, at home and in life. Too many children are not able to Engage Eye Contact, Pay Attention, Follow Instructions, Accept No, Calm Down when Angry, Make Good Choices. Too many children are not able to Learn, Get Along with Others and Succeed. Project CLASS significantly improves children's behavior for school, home and life success.

Project CLASS teaches core-foundation social and learning readiness skills to children 3-5 and 6-12 years old. Core-foundation skills are the ABC basic underpinning skills critical for: Positive Behavior; Learning; Focus of Attention; Academic Achievement; Family Relationships; Getting Along with Others; Combating Bullying & Hate; Mental & Behavioral Health; Success not Failure.

PROJECT CLASS FOR SCHOOLS

Project CLASS for Schools currently benefits 32,000 children, 4,000 teachers and 2,000 parents annually in 60+ elementary schools and early childhood centers. School partners include Houston ISD, Spring Branch ISD, KIPP Charter, Catholic and Faith-based schools. Music, songs and movements accelerate skills development and retention, contributing to proven benefits and impact.

PROJECT CLASS FOR COMMUNITY

Project CLASS for Community is an exciting and creative set of complementary services. With the goal of helping tens of thousands, potentially hundreds of thousands more children, parents, teachers, grandparents, foster parents, youth ministers, daycare & after-school staff, HAP has developed the rarest of rarities: a way to serve an astonishing number of children and adults that is remarkably cost effective and economically viable.

Project CLASS for Community umbrellas our newest offering- ***Children's Books Animated Films Social Skills Initiative***. This Initiative involves an integrated series of Children's Books, Animated Films, Comprehensive Parent & Educator Guides, Songs, Song Animations, Demonstration Videos, Training Sessions (In-Person, Virtual-Live, Virtual On-Demand), Help-Line Services, and Community Outreach & Partnerships.

The Books, Animated Films, Guides, Songs, Animated Songs, and Demo Videos are all free internet giveaways available to all with instant access. This newest offering is ideally suited for teachers, families, day-care, churches, and community-engaged organizations. HAP is

committed to addressing significant community needs in affordable ways that make a positive difference in the lives of many children and adults.

Community Outreach & Partnerships

1 On the HAP good news front, we have established a major collaboration with the YMCA through their After-School Centers on Education program (Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant).

The YMCA is providing high quality supplemental enrichment and academic activities at 9 school sites in 4 school districts through their grant program and are having a lot of challenges with student behavior, attentiveness and learning readiness, which are bullseyes for our areas of HAP and Project CLASS expertise. And so, we are in the process of training 80-90 YMCA staff members annually with the potential to help several thousand more children through our curriculum of skills and skill sets.

We're heartened we can help more children in the universe of improved relationships and learning.

2 Also in the HAP good news arena, we have established a significant collaboration with Communities in Schools (CIS). Since 1979, CIS has been a major force in our community to help students stay in school and achieve in life. With current CIS services on 167 school campuses and serving 100,000+ children, CIS has wide reach and meaningful impact. CIS exists because children across Houston face a myriad of barriers to success including social, relationship and mental health challenges. The CIS and HAP partnership add Project CLASS competencies to CIS' commitment to surround students with a community of resources and support.

Because HAP and Project CLASS effectively train and develop the skills and skill sets for improved children's behavior, focus of attention and learning readiness, we are in the process of annually training up to 125 CIS staff members (Student Support Specialists) with potential to beneficially help tens of thousands more children have a better and more productive future.

3 More positive HAP news, we have established an important partnership with Attack Poverty. Attack Poverty's mission is to empower people to attack poverty in their life and community by strengthening under-resourced communities through spiritual growth, education, revitalization, and basic needs.

With this mission in mind and their commitment to breaking the cycle of generational poverty, HAP and Project CLASS are providing staff training services and resources for Attack Poverty staff to strengthen their educational and community initiatives. We are in the process of training the Attack Poverty Program Managers and Team Leaders with the potential to help thousands more children and adults through our curriculum of core-foundation social skills for children and the teaching skill sets for teachers, parents and other caring adults.

4 Significantly, we have established a trailblazing, remarkably innovative and creative collaboration with Rotary and a cluster of their Clubs & Districts across the country and across the world. Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves. In a nutshell, Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Rotary is a vast network of 530 Districts and 35,000 Clubs with a presence in 200 countries. The education of children and better relationships are priority Rotary focus areas.

Project CLASS for Community is ideally suited to partner with Rotary Clubs and Districts based on our exceptional capacities to improve children's behavior, focus of attention & learning readiness and to strengthen adult abilities to equip children with core-foundation skills. Especially relevant is the way Project CLASS for Community promotes these developments-through On-Line, Virtual, Interactive & On-Demand access to Children's Books, Book Animations, Book Reading Videos, Songs & Song Animations, Parent & Educator Activities Guides, Training Sessions and Help-Line Services.

The Rotary & Project CLASS collaboration is on track to help tens of thousands more children and thousands more parents, teachers, grandparents, foster parents & other caring adults.

5 On the especially resourceful front, we have established a partnership with the Houston Food Bank involving our donation of Project CLASS Children's Social Skills Books in tandem with food donations through the Backpack Buddy program. During the school year, in conjunction with participating schools, school district delivery sites and community partners, the Backpack Buddy program ensures that food sacks are distributed to children and families on a weekly basis. For hundreds of children and families, these food sacks are enthusiastically augmented by Project CLASS Books and Resources facilitating fun and engaging activities for enhanced focus of attention, learning readiness and relationships.

To sum up the year, there is a tremendous need for Project CLASS services to improve children's behavior, focus of attention and learning readiness. It is a blessing to be able to help more children and their parents, teachers, grandparents, foster parents and other caring adults have more meaningful and productive lives.

LINKS for ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Impact, Results & Outcomes](#)

[Project CLASS Overview Video- 7 minutes](#)

[Social Skills Will Rock You \(Pine Shadows Elementary School\)- 30 seconds](#)

[Eye Contact Animated Song- 1 minute](#)

[Everybody Gets Mad Animated Song- 1 minute](#)