



James R. Jordan Foundation

Strengthening Families through Education and Partnerships

ANNUAL REPORT

10

Dear Friends,

The James R. Jordan Foundation is dedicated to providing family programs guided by the belief that a strong family plays a major role in a child's academic success, and that education provides the path out of poverty. Through the years, we have been blessed to have corporate and individual partners that have enabled us to make a real and lasting impact on the students, families, schools and communities we serve.

During the 2009-2010 school year, the James R. Jordan Foundation continued to focus on its mission to help strengthen families through education and partnerships. Through these tough economic times, we are especially thankful to our loyal partners, who join us as we come alongside the students and families we serve as we all struggle to do more with less.

All of us here at the James R. Jordan Foundation were happy to provide a little light through the economic darkness. The holiday season was particularly poignant, as many families were unable to provide gifts for their children. With the help of our partners, the Foundation was able to provide a special holiday meal as well as gifts for all of our students. Our A-Team Scholars program inspired students to stay focused on their studies, and we celebrated their success at the Brookfield Zoo, where nearly 150 students cheered each other on as each received a medal and certificate.

We move into the 2010-2011 school year with a continued and passionate focus on what is important—keeping hope alive. Thank you for your support, and for making a difference in the lives of such deserving children.



Blessings,

Deloris Jordan

Dear Friends,

While the economic ups and downs of FY2010 forced many of us in the non-profit field to make some challenging decisions, they also provided us with an opportunity to reflect on our work over the past 10 years, and really evaluate what makes the James R. Jordan Foundation successful.

As Board President, it has been my pleasure to work beside the Foundation to increase Board capacity and create an active, engaged Corporate Board that champions the good work of JRJF. With a new team of staff members in place, and a growing Corporate Board, I am confident that the Foundation will continue to build on its past successes and reach even more families with their unique and meaningful programs.

It is with great pride that I look back at the 2009-2010 school year. It was my honor to celebrate a successful school year at the Brookfield Zoo with students like Isis Zollicoffer, a 5th grader at Brown Elementary School, who stood up in front of a group of virtual strangers to share why being a member of the A-Team was so important to her.

Isis is just one of the many reminders that the work of the James R. Jordan Foundation is so critical for the families they serve. This year, the A-Team Scholars, one of four programs in JRJF's Vision for Families model, had 410 eager participants working hard to earn good grades.

JRJF's success with students is contingent upon providing whole family engagement and learning opportunities. This holistic approach to long-term family and student academic success will continue to create bright futures for years to come. I am proud to be part of such critical work, and look forward to another successful year.



Best Regards,

Jodie Benjamin

“Thanks for including us in your thoughts and heart during this holiday season. Thank you for choosing our community to give the hope that we so desperately need, and for realizing that we do exist. Thanks for giving us the motivation, that there is love out there and that all is not forgotten.” —Ciara B, Sherman School of Excellence



a★team scholars



The Victor Herbert A-Team Scholars take time out from dancing along with Radio Disney for a photo with Mrs. Jordan.

THIS YEAR'S BRIGHT AND MOTIVATED A-TEAM

Scholars were awarded over \$130,000 in scholarships, and marked their success with JRJF at the Year-End Celebration on June 1. Nearly 150 students from William Brown, Sherman School of Excellence and Victor Herbert raised the roof at the Brookfield Zoo, proudly shouting the A-Team chant, dancing to the music of Radio Disney and cheering on their classmates as each was called up to receive a medal and certificate.



Radio Disney's DJ Adam interviews A-Team Scholars about their college plans.



Mariah McCoy, 5th grader at Sherman School of Excellence, receives her medal and certificate from Mrs. Jordan and Ms. Anthony, Assistant Principal at Sherman.

GRADUATION NIGHT



Graduating senior Dyren Blalock celebrates his accomplishments on the A-Team with Mrs. Jordan.

EACH YEAR, JRJF HOSTS A SPECIAL NIGHT OUT for our high school graduates and their families. On June 17, graduates gathered at one sixtyblue to celebrate the culmination of their hard work and dedication. Forty-five A-Team Scholars graduated high school in 2010, and are attending universities from Chicago to the Carolinas!



A-Team Alumnus Demetrick Coleman addresses the Class of 2010 at the High School Graduates Dinner.

“ Thank you for the gift you gave. I truly am appreciative for your kindness and generosity. I feel that you guys are a blessing to us and truly thank you all! ”

—Kenyatta Dixon, Sherman School of Excellence



Kenyatta Dixon

Kenyatta Dixon is about to be a high school freshman at King College Prep. Give her a few years, however, and this straight-A student may be a Pulitzer Prize winning author, a fashion model, or a sports writer. Perhaps she'll do it all.

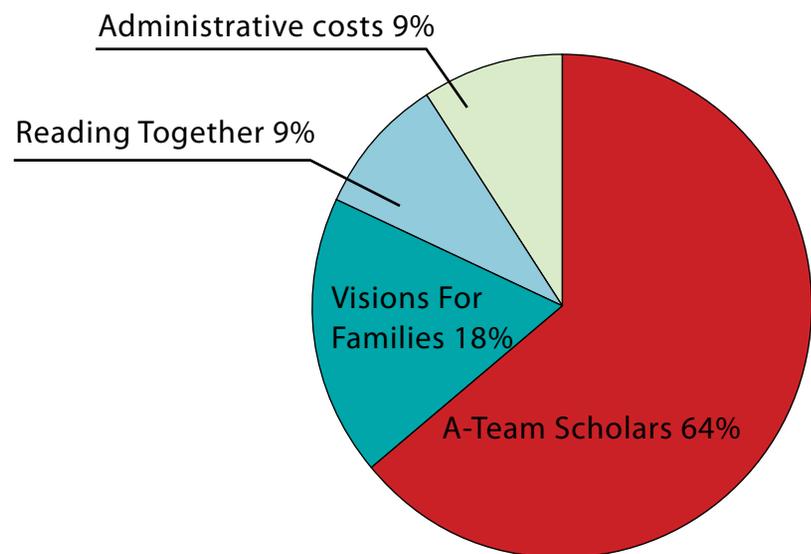
Fourteen years old and a Sherman A-Team student since fifth grade, Kenyatta has earned straight A's in her core classes during the past academic year.

"I think A-Team pushed me," she said. "I was already doing well in school, but the program pushed me even more to get all A's all the time. At school, in order to get an A, you have to put great effort into your work, and so I focused in class more and I had to learn more." As she continues to dream of her future career in writing and fashion, she remains grateful for where she's at now.

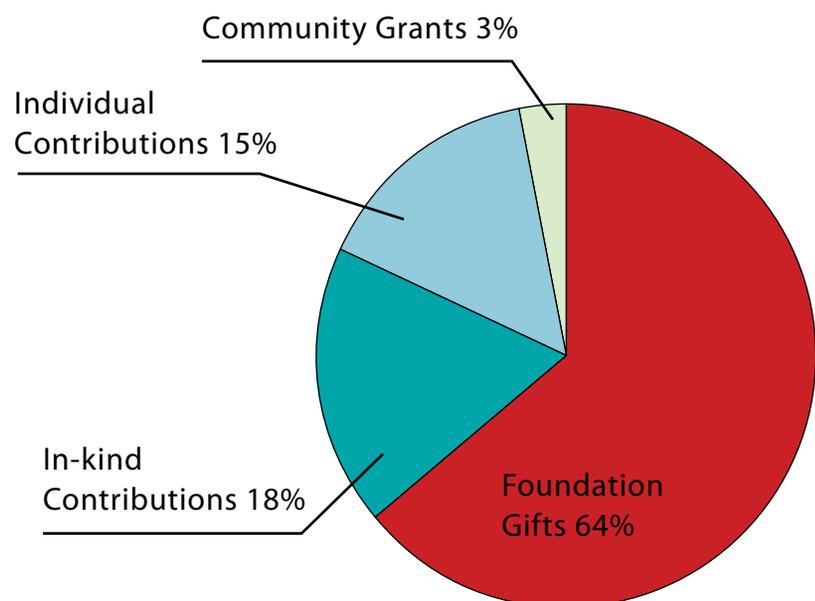
"I love school, I love to learn, and I love the A-Team," she said.

Financials

FY 2010 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



FY 2010 REVENUE BY SOURCE



Brittany Fowler



Brittany Fowler and her family knew that a good education was important. Signing Brittany up for the A-Team Scholars when she arrived as a 6th grader at Victor Herbert Elementary was a no-brainer – Brittany saw the other A-Team students getting good grades, and was motivated to join them and do well in her classes, too.

After graduating from Herbert in 2004, Brittany attended Providence St. Mel High School, where she continued to earn outstanding grades. She graduated high school in 2008 and, with scholarship dollars from JRJF, headed downstate to the University of Illinois.

"Being away at school gives you the opportunity to venture out," says Brittany, now 20 and entering her junior year. "Even though Chicago is huge, you don't see the diversity and the different communities. In college, the diversity is all around you, and you are much more exposed to it."

Brittany is venturing out in a big way. With a double major in nursing and chemistry, and plans to attend medical school following graduation, she is turning her passion for science and for helping people into a career.

She credits her years as an A-Team Scholar with helping her to stay motivated, and teaching her that going to college is really important.

"Even though I'm not earning money for good grades anymore, I know that I still need to do it!" she says.

Her dedication and enthusiasm will surely help guide her path to becoming Dr. Brittany Fowler.

THE A-TEAM SCHOLARS PROGRAM reached across the border in 2008, when JRJF began working with Prince Chapman Academy in Fort Wayne, IN, and Glen Park Academy in Gary, IN. Glen Park and Prince Chapman share many of the characteristics of our Illinois schools. The majority of students live in low-income communities; the schools' state rankings are extremely low and they are on probationary status with the Indiana Board of Education.

Prince Chapman and Glen Park are JRJF Affiliate Schools that have adopted the A-Team Scholars model and run the program locally, with oversight from JRJF. The Indiana A-Team Scholars program has inspired students to get good grades and work toward a higher education. Last year, at the time of publication, 85 students participated in the A-Team, with awards totaling nearly \$20,000 for college.



JAMES R. JORDAN
FOUNDATION

P. O. Box 11698
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OUR PROGRAMS:

VISION FOR FAMILIES/PARENT PARTNERSHIPS strengthens ties between school and home by creating an active support team for students; **A-TEAM SCHOLARS** invests in students who consider college to be out of reach; **STUDENT EXPLORERS** offers high quality summer learning opportunities outside the community; **READ WITH ME!** promotes family literacy.

OUR MISSION:

The James R. Jordan Foundation is dedicated to strengthening families, motivating youth and ensuring high quality academic opportunities for children in underserved communities.

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Friends & Partners



\$134,275

Scholarships awarded A-Team Scholars for higher education during the 2009-2010 school year

45

A-Team Scholars in the class of 2010

\$18,217

Distributed last year by JRJF to colleges and universities across the country on behalf of A-Team scholars

3.2

Average GPA of A-Team high school students

*Current data at the time of publication