

Making College Dreams A Reality



JAMES R. JORDAN
FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2015





James R. Jordan Foundation
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Chicago, Illinois 60611

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www.jamesjordanfoundation.com

The James R. Jordan Foundation is dedicated to creating networks of support for families and communities. We exist to strengthen families, motivate youth and ensure high quality academic opportunities for children in underserved communities. Together with our partners, we make a difference. We empower children to achieve their full academic potential, and we level the playing field for them to become productive contributors in society.



Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to serve as Corporate Board President of the James R. Jordan Foundation, an organization dedicated to ensuring high-quality educational opportunities to students and empowering youth to achieve their full academic potential.

As I look back at the 2014-2015 school year, I am delighted to see students eagerly taking advantage of the resources provided by the Foundation to improve their academic experiences. The A-Team Scholars improved student achievement through the provision of support, resources, scholarships, and leadership skill-building. In all three of the Foundation's Chicago Public School partners, we saw improvement in the number of students enrolled in the program as well as those earning scholarship awards. I was honored to award these deserving students with a certificate and medal during our program year end celebration at Brookfield Zoo. The Foundations Young Entrepreneur Program in 2014-2015 expanded to include S.T.E.M (science technology, engineering and mathematics) which exposes our students for the next level of education. Leveling the playing field of entry to S.T.E.M. careers and social entrepreneurship.

We recently hired a Reading Specialist, to enhance and improve literacy with our students in the Read with Me! Program. She is a dedicated professional in the Education industry, with experience in mentoring and structuring curriculum to accommodate student learning styles, knowledge in education policies and policy writing.

Looking forward, the Foundation will enhance programming in 2015-2016 increasing our mentor volunteer base with company partnerships. Working with students facing the challenges of living in poverty, we realize that mentoring is a key tool to helping them address daily pressures.

Mentoring will strengthen efforts in reducing poverty, truancy, drug abuse and violence; and promote healthy decision-making, positive behaviors, and strong futures. The Foundation's belief is that education and a strong support system is a pathway out of poverty.

I look forward to the upcoming year and the opportunity to again be a part of the success of the James R. Jordan Foundation and the students and families we serve.

Best Regards,

Lodie Benjamin

a★team scholars

The goal of A-Team Scholars is to increase educational opportunities for students in underserved communities. Students in grades 4-12 are awarded scholarship money based on scholastic achievement, character and integrity. They receive \$50 for every “A” and \$25 for every “B” earned per quarter in reading, math, writing and science. The scholarships are invested in Bright Directions 529 college savings plans, and are available to the students upon enrollment in a higher education or vocational program.



United Family Dream Vacation

Eight students met the rigorous requirements of the A-Team Scholars program each quarter, and maintained straight A's in four core subjects: reading, math, writing and science, earning each a ticket to Disney World! These students, from Nathaniel Dett, William H Brown and Sherman School of Excellence, along with immediate family members enjoyed an all-expenses paid trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida for 4 days and 3 nights, sponsored by United Airlines.



Year-End Celebration

On June 10th, students from William Brown, Victor Herbert and Sherman Elementary celebrated their achievements at Brookfield Zoo for our annual Year-End Celebration. A-Team Scholars program celebrated 121 students for their academic success throughout the school year. K-LOVE Radio kicked off the event with music, followed by the awards presentation in which each student was recognized with a medal and award certificate.



2014-2015 Graduation Dinner



"A huge Thank You to the James Jordan Foundation for supporting Smith School. Because of his grades and school attendance from 4th grade thru high school he received over \$5,600.00 to go towards his college schooling. It surely pays to stay in school and get good grades. We are very lucky to have the support of the James Jordan Foundation."

- Missy Siuda Catania
Mother of Nicholas Catania,
2014 graduate class



“

“My biggest take away from the A-Team was to strive for the best and to take my education seriously. Many students do not get the opportunity to go to college. Being a first generation graduate is something to be proud of... A-Team has helped me with college tuition and readiness workshops. Also, by allowing me to share my experience with the younger generation letting them know that college is the best choice.

”

Chereese Hamp
Senior, Millikan University
A-Team Scholars Class of 2012
Speaker for 14-15 A-Team graduation dinner

High School A-Team Scholars

The High School A-Team program is focused on preparing students for higher education opportunities. On September 20th the A-Team program hosted the “City Wide College Fair” with over 20 schools in attendance. Parents and students had the opportunity to learn about the financial aid process and how to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). College advisors met one on one with students to discuss admission expectations. The Schools provided students with general information about their school as well as communicated the qualities their admissions departments look for in applicants. Each student left the event with a detailed plan of the required steps for making college a reality.

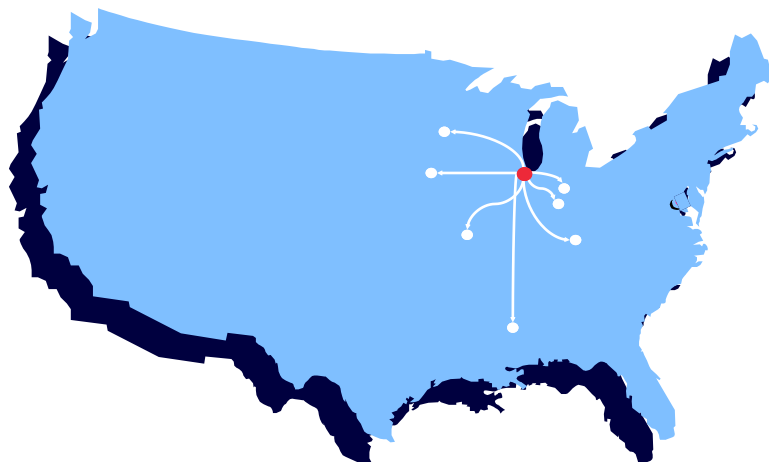
4th Annual College Fair



The 4th Annual College Fair was held at Richard T. Crane Medical Prep High School. Open to high school students and parent, the fair offered financial and educational workshops as well as opportunities to have questions answered. Twenty colleges and vocational schools were represented at the fair.

The Class of 2015 is attending...

Indiana University Northwest
Indiana University- Purdue University Indianapolis
Kennedy King College
Northern Illinois University
Northern Illinois University
Waubonsee Community College
Waubonsee Community College
Aurora University
Lincoln College
Waubonsee Community College
Western Michigan University
Loyola University Chicago
Illinois State University
University of Texas in Rio Grande Valley
Western Illinois University
Waubonsee Community College
Johnson and Wales University
Benedictine University
Rockford University



I am honored to have been a part of the very first A-Team program at Victor Herbert Elementary school. The A-Team provided me motivation, mentors and made me feel that my goal of straight A's was attainable. I had never been a straight A student but when I heard that I could win a trip to Disney World, I knew I had to achieve that goal. Through the A-Team I was able to win two trips to Disney World and go to Space Camp. My family would never have been able to financially afford these trips.

When I started Whitney Young High School, the A-Team helped redirect my focus from just receiving the monetary awards to becoming more focused on going to college. I graduated from the University of Illinois with my Bachelors in Nursing. I was able to use my A-Team scholarship to help with tuition. Looking back, my defining moments with the A-Team would have to be the relationships I built over time with Mrs. Jordan and her staff. I truly felt that they cared for the students and our future by making themselves available. Many of us had never experience the positive influence they provided. I was a shy girl from a gang infested neighborhood but that never determined or dictated my future, as it did for some of my peers. I was able to do more with my life than what my neighborhood offered, because of a strong support system in my family and the support of the A-Team program. I continue to be grateful to the James R. Jordan Foundation for their support. I am proof that their investment makes a difference.



Lanisha Yates Thadison,
A-Team Alum

A-Team Alumni Spotlight

Jerone Thadison, A-Team Alum



The A-Team program was beneficial because in the 6th grade it challenged me to think about what I wanted to be when I became an adult. There was an essay contest where students had to write about the career they would like to go into and why. The winner was able to go on an all-expense paid trip to Discovery Camp in the Bahamas or space camp in Florida. I remember writing my essay on how I wanted to be president of the United States. I was fortunate to be one of the winners and chose to go to Discovery Camp. This was a wonderful opportunity because prior to this I had not traveled out of the state of Illinois. So, to be going out of the country was a dream come true. We had the options of swimming with dolphins, sting rays, snorkeling, and variety of other activities.

I truly did not realize how great this program was until I started my undergraduate degree at Chicago State University. I was wondering how I would pay for books my classes required and other tuition fees. The scholarship money I earned through my participation in the A-Team program supported me when I really needed it most.

Sometimes I sit and wonder if would I have gone to college had I not participated in this program. I don't think I would have. I would have been content with average grades and fitting in with others. I would not have been accepted into Lane Tech College Prep had it not been for my good grades and test scores. Also I do not think I would have had any desire to give my best and go to college, because the majority of people from my neighborhood did not. Although I did not become president, I am fortunate enough to be a police officer. I believe I would not be where I am in life had it not been for this program to motivate me along the way.



Read with Me!, the James R. Jordan Foundation's family literacy program, is a strategy-based school day program that motivates youth to excel academically through small group reading and instruction. *Read with Me!* began when a group of concerned principals, teachers, and parents discussed the upcoming Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), and how their 3rd-graders would fare on the reading section. The James R. Jordan Foundation collaborated with the school community to start a new literacy program that would provide appropriate reading interventions to help students meet academic standards and goals.



Read with Me! Classroom Program

The James R. Jordan Foundation's *Read with Me!* program is open for preschool through 3rd grade students. The Foundation's *Read with Me!* coordinator visits Nathaniel Dett Elementary, William Brown Elementary, and Sherman School of Excellence weekly to share a story with students followed by questions and literacy building activities. Students work on basic vowel sounds to develop reading fluency, build critical thinking skills, and analysis of book themes and characters to develop students' reading comprehension. Each reading group is thoughtfully constructed with the help of the school principal and teachers in order to meet individualized student needs and goals. Students involved in *Read with Me!* are encouraged to attend *Vision for Families* programming so the unique cross-traffic between the day program and evening literacy night creates a rich support system for students and their families.





Read with Me! Volunteers

Bernie's Book Bank
Northern Trust
Nike
BMO Harris Bank
La Casa
City Colleges of Chicago
Vietnamese Association of Illinois
National Hellenic Museum
Gads Hills Center

Assyrian American Civic Club of Chicago
Japanese Cultural Center
Polish Museum of Chicago
Chicago Public Library
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center



Read with Me! Family Festival

The James R. Jordan Foundation hosted the fifth annual *Read with Me! Festival* on Saturday, June 20th at Richard T. Crane High School. *Read with Me! Festival* is a purposeful literacy festival that kicks off the summer by continuing the importance of reading emphasized by the school-day program, and encouraging families to read together throughout the summer months. The goal of the festival is to inspire a love of reading in young children that extends beyond the classroom.

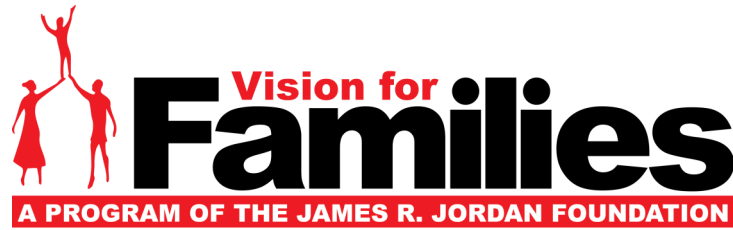
The theme of the festival was a *Reading Journey around the World*. Community organizations and cultural centers were invited to showcase their different cultures and allowed children to learn through cultural stories and visual arts. Families were also invited to live performances by Chicago Lights Dance Group, James Sanden Magic, Those Funny Little People, and storytelling by Roslyn Jordan and Britney Robbins. A number of games and activities provided entertainment and hands-on projects, and everyone received lunch and ice cream. Most importantly, children and their families had an opportunity to receive books to take home donated by Bernie's Book Bank to enjoy over the summer. Over 3,000 books were distributed to nearly 400 children and parents in attendance.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

- Dr. Seuss

"The amount and quality of student's access to reading materials is substantively related to the amount of reading they engage in, which in turn is the most important determinant of reading achievement."

Jeff McQuillan, Author of Heinmann's 1998 *The Literacy Crisis*



Vision for Families/Parent Partnerships

The premiere program of the James R. Jordan Foundation *Vision for Families (VFF)*. VFF/Parent Partnerships aims to strengthen ties between school and home by creating an active support team for students in underserved communities. Parent Partnerships brings together parents, teachers, principals and community organization to create a positive academic and school culture experience for students.

VFF/Parent Partnerships work with parents to create or reinvigorate the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Local School Council (LSC) and to find practical solutions to the obstacles preventing parents and caregivers from attending meetings. The meeting provides an open forum for families to connect with school administration and teachers, and to discuss the challenges they face as they guide their children through the school years. In response, VFF/Parent Partnerships facilitates speakers and workshops that help tackle the issues affecting the parents and community.

Vision for Family Night

Key components of the monthly Vision for Families night are the reading circle, parent workshops and community dinner. Vision for Families encourages parents' participation in the enhancement of their children's reading skills by nurturing a safe social space. Through a reading circle parents connect with their children as well as the broader community around literacy. Books are provided at no cost to families, and the facilitator of the reading circle guides parents and children through discussion of book themes and lessons. Parent workshops address real world challenges such as resume writing, employment opportunities, and health, among other topics. The evening culminates with a community dinner in which families have an opportunity to reflect on the book themes and workshops for the evening.



Strengthening ties between school and home.

2014 S.T.E.M. and Leadership Camp



The Young Entrepreneur Program — (**YEP + S.T.E.M.**) was created in 2012 to focus on introducing students in grades 7-10 to entrepreneurial and S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math) skill, financial literacy, and business management skills. YEP + S.T.E.M. empowers students from low income communities to become active contributors to society.

The JRJF initiative carries great potential for helping students from under-served communities become entrepreneurial thinkers and work ready. Through the curriculum, students participate in classroom-based sessions enhancing their business and marketing skills. Complementing these sessions, student participate in partner led workshops enhancing their science, technology, math and engineering (S.T.E.M.) skills and preparing them not only to graduate but to be better prepared to compete in the global economy.

Student Explorers Essay Contest

The James R. Jordan Foundation Student Explorers program offers students the opportunity to spend five days at a science-based camp a plane ride away from their everyday lives. Students are awarded this experience based on their response to essay questions. Jason Lovett, 5th grader at Brown Elementary, wrote the following essay, which earned him a trip to Space Camp.

Jason Lovett

Brown School

5th Grade

If I could build a robot it would help find a cure for cancer. My robot, Mr. Steel, would travel the world looking for plants to help with the fight against cancer research. He would also work with scientists on creating a formula that would have some type of effect on cancer.

First, Mr. Steel will be programmed to look for exotic plants and other types of living flowers in various rainforest. For example, he will travel to Brazil and locate and extract plants needed to farther the research on finding a cure for cancer. He will also visit Colombia and Mexico in hopes of finding other types of plants that would help people with cancer feel better.

My robot will work with scientist to create medicine that could help with the cure for cancer. Mr. Steel would mix solutions, record data, and draw conclusions about medicines possible outcome. He would list the complications, and possible side effects. My robot will be created to help make the life of human easier, just like a simple machine.

In conclusion, if I build a robot it would be created to help find a solution for cancer. He would find and test plants effects on the human cancer cell. This creation could lead to a cure for cancer.

Inspiring a love of learning.

Student Explorers

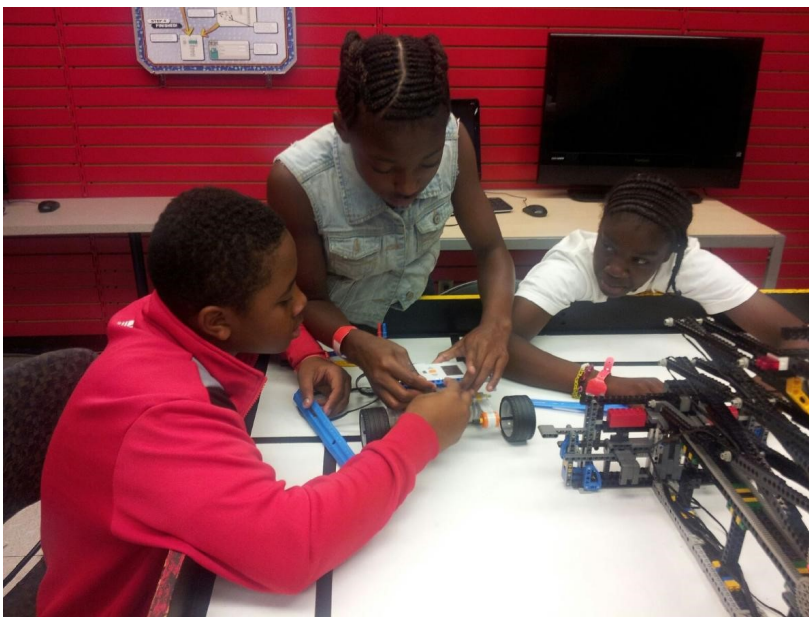
According to the National Summer Learning Association, most students lose about two months of grade-level equivalency in math skills over the summer months; low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement, despite the fact that their middle-class peers make slight gains. More than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. Student Explorers offers an educational summer camp opportunity for underserved students. The five-day adventure is a transforming experience. In addition to the “classroom” learning, Student Explorers gain self-confidence, cultural awareness, and teamwork skills.



U.S. Space & Rocket Center Robotics Camp



The Student Explorers trip to Robotics Camp was out of this world! Twelve A-Team Scholars traveled to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama where they had the opportunity to learn what it’s like to engineer and design robotics on land, in the air and underwater. Camp activities included robotics design, engineering, a robotics competition, teamwork, teambuilding, and technology. Students also had the opportunity to test their talent while competing for the overall Robotics Award, the highest honor in the program.



R. Nathaniel Dett & Sherman Holiday Parties

For the past 17 years we have held a wonderful holiday celebration for the students we work with in the Westhaven and Englewood communities. We transform our partner schools into a “Winter Wonderland” complete with holiday decorations. Students receive gifts from Mrs. Jordan, provided by our partners and sponsors and they get to take pictures with Santa. They are treated to a warm holiday meal with all of the trimmings and abundant holiday themed activities. Students also have an opportunity to participate in a Christmas Bazaar where they can “shop” for gifts for family members. For many of them this celebration is the only holiday cheer they receive at this of the year.



Holiday Celebration Volunteers

Each year the generosity of our volunteers warms hearts, produces big smiles and helps worries to temporarily disappear. The 2014 holiday season at the James R. Jordan Foundation was a huge success thanks to the volunteers from the following organizations:

Nike
Capital One
Exelon
BMO Harris Bank
Neiman Marcus

Brand Jordan
City Year
K-LOVE
La Casa
Northern Trust

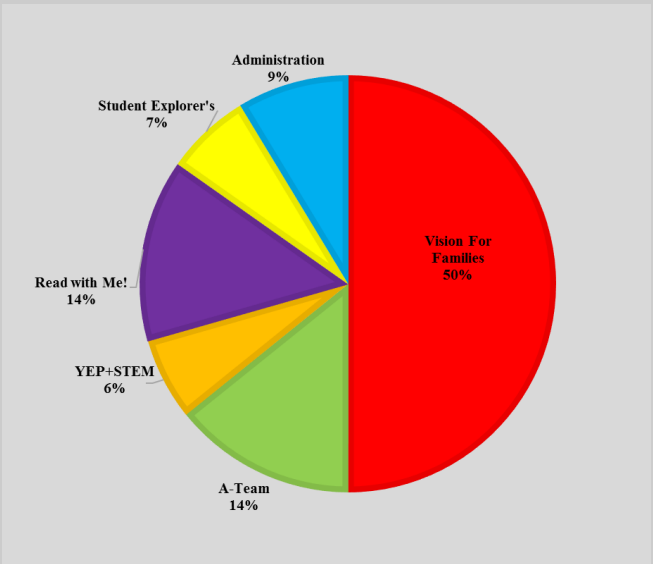


William Brown Elementary Holiday Party

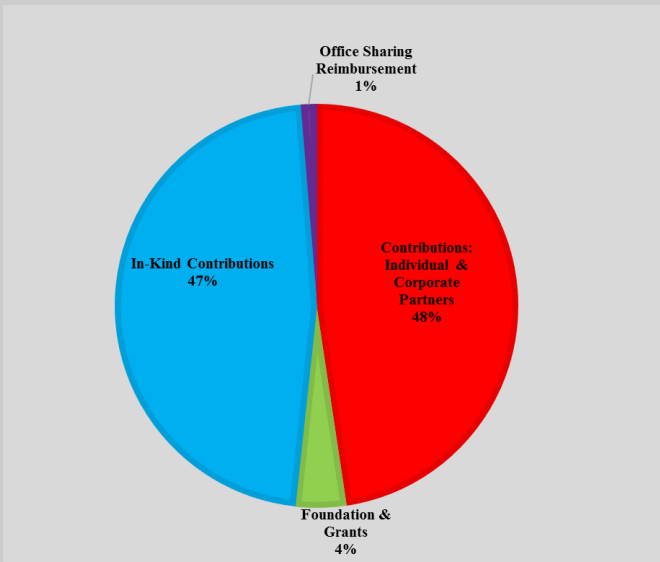
This year the James R. Jordan Foundation in partnership with Brookfield Zoological Society Women's Board hosted a holiday celebration for William Elementary Brown school. The event which took place Saturday, December 6, 2014, afforded Pre K-8th grade students to enjoy a day at the Brookfield Zoo. The celebration featured an activity craft station, an exclusive animal encounter tour, and a delicious buffet lunch. The students learned the value of recycling as they crafted ornaments out of recycled materials which they used to decorate the holiday trees. Also they had an opportunity to visit with and receive gifts from the Foundation and Santa, ride the carousel and tour the zoo.



FY 2015 Functional Expense Breakdown by Program



FY 2015 Revenue by Source



Fiscal Year 2015 is July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015 .

Financial Highlights

The James R. Jordan Foundation accomplished our goal of fiscal excellence through the economic barriers during the past year. Our revenue streams have been solid as the Foundation adapted to the economic change by approaching and evaluating new strategies. Financial responsibility is essential to our Foundation's sustainability even in times of economic downturn.

Strong Fiscal Management

The Foundation understands that donors consider excellent financial stewardship an essential quality of a charitable organization. The Foundation is particularly proud of the fact that 91 percent of every dollar spent is dedicated to program activities. The Foundation is able to minimize and maintain administrative cost of 9 percent while maximizing funds available for direct program expenses and related support.

It is essential that James R. Jordan Foundation continue to promote our standard of excellence, as well as maintain the strong relationships with our partners and the community, by managing a transparent and fiscally responsible policy of financial accountability. All resources are effectively used in a fiscally responsible manner to ensure adequate funding for the services, programming, and infrastructure necessary to meet the Foundation's present and future needs. Our policy is to promote sound financial management by providing accurate and timely reports on the Foundation's financial condition.

Solid Goals for the Future

The James R. Jordan Foundation is committed to furthering our mission in promoting and encouraging academic excellence while expanding programs to meet the needs of our students, families, and communities. The Foundation's Young Entrepreneur Program in 2014-2015 expanded to include S.T.E.M (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) which exposes our students for the next level of education in S.T.E.M. Leveling the playing field of entry to S.T.E.M. careers and social entrepreneurship. The Foundation's goal is increase our mentor volunteer base with company partnerships to address student challenges.



ROSALIE J. FREIDLIN LTD.
Certified Public Accountants

2137 S. Lombard Ave., Ste 204
Cicero, Illinois 60804
Phone: (708) 749-0055
Fax: (708) 749-0060

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors
James Jordan Foundation
Chicago, Illinois

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of James Jordan Foundation (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2015, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of James Jordan Foundation as of June 30, 2015, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Rosalie J. Freidlin Ltd.
Rosalie J. Freidlin Ltd.
Cicero, Illinois
October 27, 2015

James R. Jordan Foundation Programs

Student Explorers Educational Summer Camp	July
A-Team Scholars Program Registration	September
Read with Me! Classroom Kick-Off	September
YEP+S.T.E.M Registration	September
Student Holiday Celebrations	December
Top A-Team Scholars United Disney Vacation	March
A-Team Scholars Year-End Awards Ceremony	May
High School Graduates Recognition Dinner	May
Read with Me! Family Festival	June

Thanks to all of our friends and donors for making 2014-15 a great year for our students and families.

Alpha Baking

AMC Theaters

Assyrian American Associates

Best Buy

BMO Harris

Chicago Cobs

Cheesecake Factory

Dale Freeman

Geneva Seal

Gorgeous Confections

Hearn Toys

Korean American Cultural Center

Kollaboration

National Hellenic Museum

Neiman Marcus

Panera Catering

Patten Power Systems

Polish Museum of American

Pompeo Restaurant

Quaker Foods

Richard T. Crane Medical Prep High School

Simply Thalia Inc.

Connect with us on the following social media outlets to keep up with announcements and events from the James R. Jordan Foundation.



[@JordanFound](#)



[@jamesrjordanfoundation](#)



[@JRJFoundation](#)



William H. Brown School of Technology

Kenya Sadler, Principal

Susan Switzer, Assistant Principal

August 20, 2014

Deloris Jordan
James Jordan Foundation
Board of Directors
Chicago, Illinois 60601


Dear Board of Directors,

James Jordan Foundation has provided the students, parents, community members and staff of William H. Brown School of Technology with many opportunities that have not only strengthened us as individuals but has also broadened our horizons. We are extremely lucky to have worked with James Jordan Foundation on projects like A-Team, Entrepreneurship Program and Vision for Families.

The students at Brown have been able to learn about the importance of academic excellence as vehicle to college and career readiness. The A-Team has made the vision for college attainable. Students learn how to take ownership of their future by employing the discipline and perseverance required as an A-team earner.

The Vision for Families program has allowed Brown School families to become actively involved while learning parenting strategies. The Vision for Families program has created a deeply rooted staple of the school community. Parents know that they are partners and that there is always a place for them in the school. Parents have grown to depend on the learning opportunities learn and grow in a safe space centered around advocacy. Mrs. Jordan is a model and inspiration for this work.

Students have developed and enhanced their social skills, built character and self-esteem while developing skills that have lead to an active and healthy lifestyle due to the programs provided by The Jordan Foundation. We increased in our parent and community involvement along with building our school ad community spirit and pride. The Foundations has funded college education for hundreds of students who may not have seen college as an affordable option. Without all of the support, programs, and collaboration James Jordan Foundation has provided our school and students, we would not see the steady increase of achievement scores and srudents on track to college that we have experienced these past years. . The community and students at Brown School are incredibly thankful for the partnership with James Jordan Foundation and are eager for what is to come.

Sincerely,

Kenya Sadler
Principal

Partners



2014 - 2015 Board of Directors

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Jodeen Benjamin
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James R. Jordan Foundation
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