

Making College Dreams A Reality



JAMES R. JORDAN
FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2012



Diamond Cole
Illinois State University

Raul Jacobo, Jr.
Moraine Valley College



JAMES R. JORDAN
FOUNDATION

James R. Jordan Foundation
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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 2011-2012 school year, I am delighted to see students eagerly taking advantage of the resources provided by the Foundation to improve their academic experiences. At the year-end celebration at Brookfield Zoo, the hard work of students participating in the A-Team Scholars program was acknowledged. 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.

Looking forward, the Foundation will expand programming in 2013 to include Spencer Technology Academy located in Chicago's Austin community. Spencer Academy, much like the Foundation's current partner schools, has a high level of low-income families. The students from Spencer Academy will participate in the James R. Jordan Foundation's Entrepreneur Program, a pilot program providing students with fundamental knowledge of US business and entrepreneur practices and the skills and mentoring necessary to ultimately develop their own business plan.

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 it serves.

Best Regards,

Jodie Benjamin
Corporate Board President

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.

605 students enrolled in the 2011-2012 A-Team Scholars Program

\$97,525 in scholarships awarded to A-Team Scholars during the 2011-2012 school year

United Family Dream Vacation

Eight students not only met the rigorous requirements of the A-Team Scholars program each quarter, but also maintained straight A’s in four core subjects: reading, math, writing and science, earning each a ticket to Disney World! These students, from Victor Herbert and Sherman Elementary, accompanied their families on an all expenses paid trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida for 4 days and 3 nights, sponsored by United Airlines.

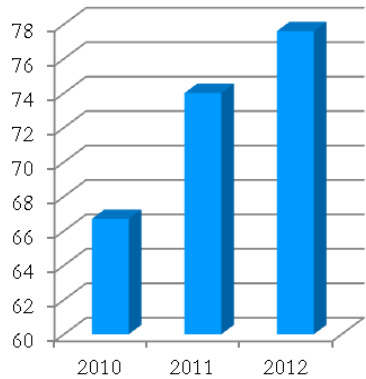
Year-End Celebration

Each year, the hard work of the A-Team Scholars is recognized at the Year-End Celebration. On May 30th, over 160 students from William Brown, Victor Herbert and Sherman Elementary celebrated their achievements at Brookfield Zoo. Radio Disney kicked off the event with music and dancing, followed by the awards presentation in which each student was recognized with a medal and award certificate.

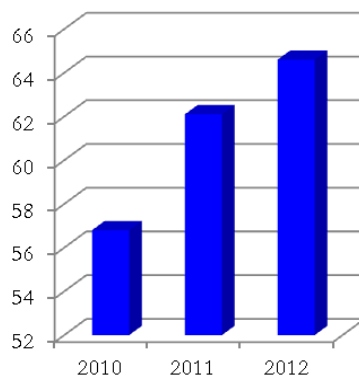


Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Illinois Standard Achievement Test (ISAT) State Standards

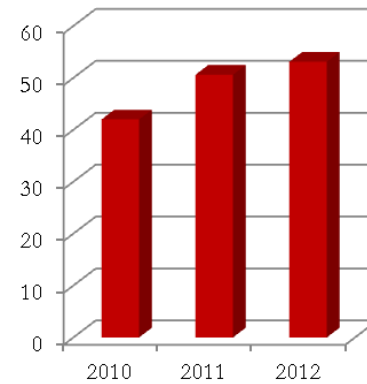
William Brown Elementary:
Mathematics



Victor Herbert Elementary:
Reading



Sherman Elementary:
Science



“My experience working with the James R. Jordan Foundation has been a memorable and positive one! The Foundation has provided motivation for the A-Team students in grades 4th-8th grade who are on the road to academic success. *Read with Me!* has provided students with books to enrich their literate lives, as well as building a home library. My students are always excited to participate in the events sponsored by the James R. Jordan Foundation and are appreciative of all that the Foundation does for our classroom and school. We thank you for allowing Sherman School of Excellence to be a part of these opportunities!”

Ms. Stephanie Thill
Third Grade Teacher, Sherman Elementary



High School A-Team Scholars

The High School A-Team program is focused on preparing students for higher education opportunities. On March 10th, the A-Team program hosted the first “Beyond A-Team” college exposition. Ladder Up, a non-profit organization providing free financial services, provided college financial aid information. 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 University of Illinois-Chicago, Malcolm X College, Chicago State University and Harvard University 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.

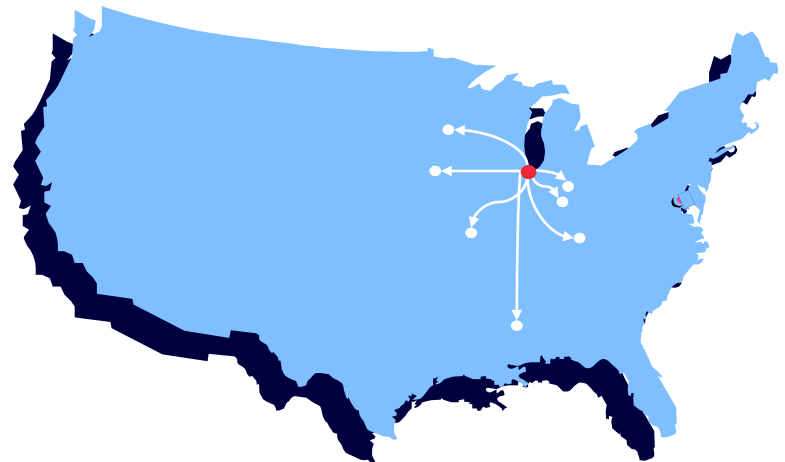
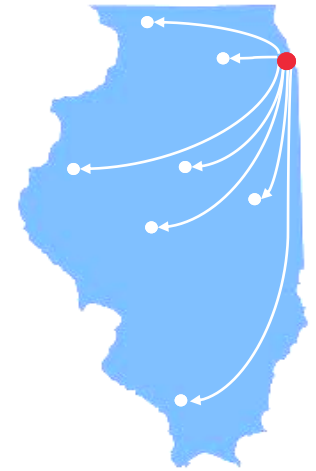
3.2 average GPA of High School A-Team students

109 A-Team Scholars in the Class of 2012

96.8% A-Team Scholars graduation rate

The Class of 2012 is attending...

Ball State University
Campbellsville University
Highland Community College
Illinois State University
Iowa Central Community College
Kishwaukee College
Lincoln University
Mississippi Valley State University
Purdue University
Saint Mary's University, Winona
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
University of Illinois, Springfield
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Indianapolis
University of Missouri, Columbia
University of St. Francis
Waubonsee Community College
Western Illinois University





“Hi, my name is Diamond Cole. I am currently a freshman, political science major at Illinois State University (ISU). ISU is a great campus and the perfect place for me. Although ISU is a great place, it is not free. The A-Team helped a lot with paying for school expenses. Being on the A-Team from middle school through high school helped me thrive to get good grades because college is not cheap. The people involved with this program are all so friendly and great mentors. A-Team is a great program to encourage students to do superior in school.”

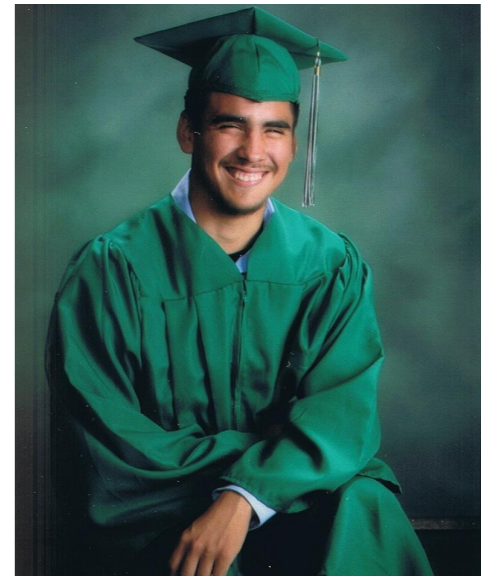
Diamond Cole
Freshman, Illinois State University
A-Team Scholars Class of 2012

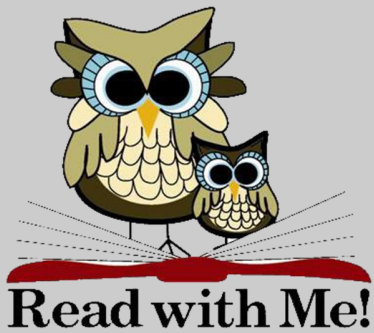


Making college education a REALITY for deserving students.

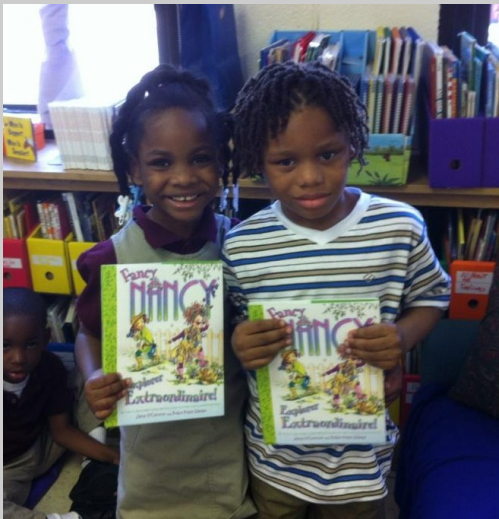
“The A-Team Program provides college savings for students beginning in the 4th grade. It encourages students to get good grades because it will pay off in the long run. In elementary school all of my friends participated in the A-Team program. It was good competition to get good grades. Going into high school, I knew I had started to save for college which helped me stay focused on my academics. I am currently a freshman at Moraine Valley College studying business and working to make my dreams come true. I am very proud and thankful to say I was a member of the A-Team Scholars program. Education is the key to our future, so why not invest in a student’s future?”

Raul Jacobo, Jr.
Freshman, Moraine Valley Community College
A-Team Scholars Class of 2012





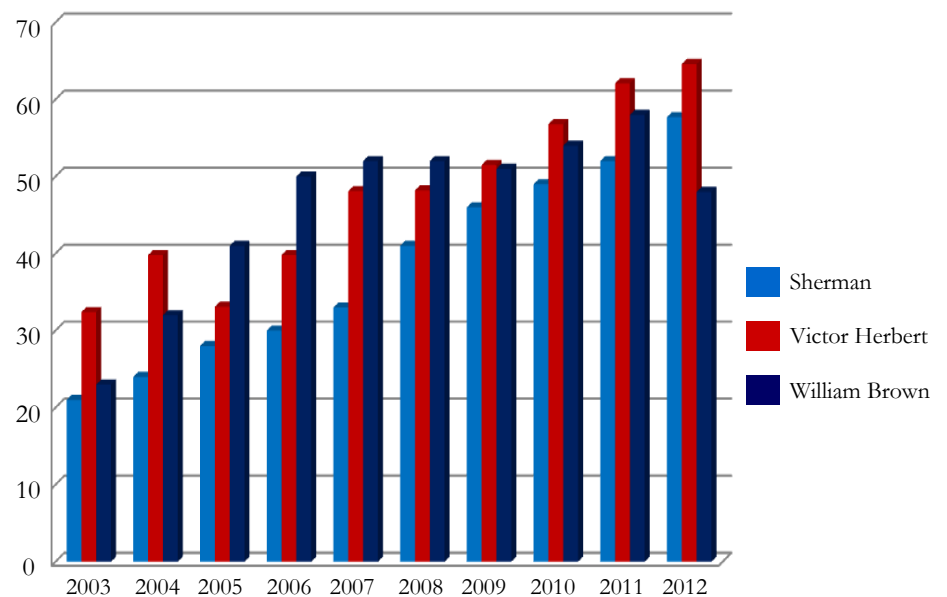
Read with Me!, the James R. Jordan Foundation's family literacy program, began when a group of concerned principals, teachers and parents discussed the upcoming Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), and how their 3rd-graders would fare on the reading section. The school community, together with the James R. Jordan Foundation, determined that a new literacy program for young families would be a critical first step in addressing the issue.



Read with Me! Classroom Program

The James R. Jordan Foundation's *Read with Me!* program is open to students in preschool through 3rd grade and their families. Each week an average of 450 students from Victor Herbert Elementary, William Brown Elementary and Sherman School of Excellence participate in the program. The Foundation's *Read with Me!* coordinator visits the schools weekly, and during a designated reading time, shares a story with the students followed by a question and answer session regarding its moral. Each week, the books distributed encourage positive interaction between parents and children through a shared activity, and help families build home libraries so that they can continue to enjoy reading together at home.

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding ISAT State Standards in Reading





Read with Me! Volunteers

Best Buy
PNC Bank
Northern Trust
Ogilvy & Mather
Core Power Yoga
Bernie's Book Bank
UIC Program Chance



Read with Me! Family Festival

The James R. Jordan Foundation hosted the second annual *Read with Me!* festival on Saturday, June 16th. *Read with Me!* is a festival with a purpose – encouraging families to read together throughout the summer months and inspiring a love of reading in young children.

Read with Me! engaged the entire family with live entertainment, including performances by the Proviso Missionary Baptist Church band, the Monfindu African Drum & Dance Co., James Sanden Magic and Wild Cow Puppet Shows, and storytelling by Sandy Lucas. A number of activity booths provided fun, hands-on projects. Everyone in attendance received lunch and an ice cream treat, served by chef Matthew Greenberg. Most importantly, families had an opportunity to “shop” the *Read with Me!* book store and take home donated, age appropriate books to enjoy over the summer. Over 2,500 books were distributed to nearly 400 children and parents in attendance.

“Reading aloud to young children, particularly in an engaging manner, promotes emerging literacy and language development and supports the relationship between child and parent.”

Archives of Disease in Childhood, September 2008.

“The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study found that beginning kindergarten children who had been read to at least three times a week had a significantly greater phonemic awareness, and were almost twice as likely to score in the top 25% in reading readiness.”

Jim Trelease, Author of New York Times Bestseller *The Read-Aloud Handbook*.

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. Markese Carter, 4th grader at Sherman Elementary, wrote the following essay, which earned him a trip to Space Camp.

| | |
|--|---|
| | Markese Carter |
| | Sherman school |
| | 4th grade |
| | The accomplishment I have made and am proud of is getting good grades so I can be successful. That was a challenge in my life because I wanted to play but I knew work comes first. In the future, one thing I want to accomplish is having my own business so I can offer jobs to those who do not have one. That's my goal for the future. |
| | In ten years, I will be 20 years old. I will be in college with the help of the James Jordan Foundation funds. That will encourage me and help me to get my own business opportunity to help me make a difference in a person's life, like the A-team made in my life. What will be different is a lot of people will be off street working. I want to make it happen for them because if a person can help me I want to make a change for others, what will be the same is I will still be the person I am when I make it big in life. |
| | |
| | |

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 team work skills.

Space Camp

The Student Explorers trip to Space Camp was out of this world! Eleven A-Team Scholars traveled to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama to participate in a special five-day "mission." Camp activities included a shuttle mission, jet flight simulations, wilderness survival training and various teamwork exercises. Students even had the opportunity to interact with real astronauts.



Victor Herbert & William Brown Holiday Party

Students from Victor Herbert and William Brown Elementary enjoyed a full day of holiday celebrations at the James R. Jordan Boys & Girls Club. On December 15th, over 1,000 students filled the club and rotated through a number of planned activities. The craft activities included designing snowflakes reflecting each student's individuality, while the other activities consisted of: an online holiday scavenger hunt, dance lesson, and an opportunity to sample the newest electronics from vendors at Best Buy. Students were also treated to a delicious lunch catered by our friends at Pompei.

Barely recognizable as the club's gym, the "North Pole" featured a decorated Christmas tree and Santa's sleigh and reindeer, its floor lined with gifts for the students. While waiting their turn to visit Santa and Mrs. Jordan, students participated in a snowball toss game and decorated Christmas cards for their families, while listening to Christmas carols performed by the Deerfield High School Choir and *Those Funny Little People*.

Not only were each of the students provided gifts, but they were also given an opportunity to "purchase" holiday gifts for members of their family. Armed with paper money, students visited a shopping bazaar to select holiday presents perfect for their parents, siblings and grandparents. Salvation Army bell ringers made the room feel just like a real department store!

93 Volunteers
4,552 Holiday Gifts Distributed



Holiday Celebration Volunteers

Each year the generosity of our volunteers warms hearts, produces big smiles and helps worries to temporarily disappear. The 2011 holiday season at the James R. Jordan Foundation was a huge success thanks to the volunteers from the following organizations:

Best Buy
Blackstone Bicycle Works
Deerfield High School Choir
Discover
Exelon
FedEx
Gatorade

ING Direct Chicago
McCain Foods USA
Nike
Northern Trust
PNC Bank
Salvation Army



Sherman Elementary Holiday Party

Christmas came a few days early at Sherman School of Excellence! On December 16th, after enjoying a delicious lunch catered by our friends at Pompei, students were greeted by Mrs. Jordan and the Foundation staff in the school's gym. Mrs. Jordan distributed gifts to the students, posed for pictures and wished each student a happy holiday!

Thank you to our partners at VTech who provided *Kidizoom* digital cameras for students in preschool through third grade. NIKE generously provided new backpacks filled with warm weather gear and a basketball for students in fourth through eighth grade.

United Airlines & Bears Care: *Making Holiday Wishes Come True*

On December 13th, the James R. Jordan Foundation partnered with United Airlines, the Chicago Bears and Bears Care once again for the *Making Holiday Wishes Come True* party. 190 family members from two of our partner schools, Sherman School of Excellence and Victor Herbert Elementary, were invited to participate.

The eager students and their families boarded coach buses at school and were driven to the party. Upon arrival, each family was greeted by a "Family Host" and invited to participate in a number of activities, including face painting, dancing, jewelry making, cookie decorating, football drills and much more! The group came together to enjoy a delicious lunch buffet and play a few rounds of Holiday Bingo.

Prior to the event, each family was asked to complete a holiday wish list. Families were then paired with families from United and the Chicago Bears who provided holiday gifts, *making their holiday wishes come true!*





Making college dreams a reality.



“I want to be a doctor once I complete school. I would like to attend medical school and become an obstetrician.”

Chevousia Jones
Freshman, Southern Illinois University
A-Team Scholars Class of 2012

“I would give current A-Team Scholars in 4th through 12th grade the advice to stay focused in school and to know that what the James R. Jordan Foundation has done for them is a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

Adrian Diaz
Freshman, Waubensee College
A-Team Scholars Class of 2012

“Stay focused and work hard. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it because it is an awesome feeling when you know you've made it.”

Markeith Wherry
Freshman, St. Mary's University
A-Team Scholars Class of 2012



“ Hi, my name is Tawashae Garrett and I am an 8th grader at Victor Herbert School. I have been in the A-Team since I was in 4th grade. All I can say is that the A-Team has done a lot for me, such as motivating me to get good grades and helping me in my future for college. One thing the A-Team has taught me is to keep trying, that if I try harder in the end it will pay off. When I graduate from Victor Herbert I will not forget about the A-Team. In fact, when I am in high school I will still be a part of the A-Team. The A-Team is a great program which rewards the students who do well in school. At the end of the school year, A-Team students go on a trip to Brookfield Zoo and we have a big A-Team celebration. We celebrate a job well done and also get a chance to meet other A-Team Scholars from different schools. The A-Team is a great opportunity for students and, in my opinion, a great pathway to an awesome future.

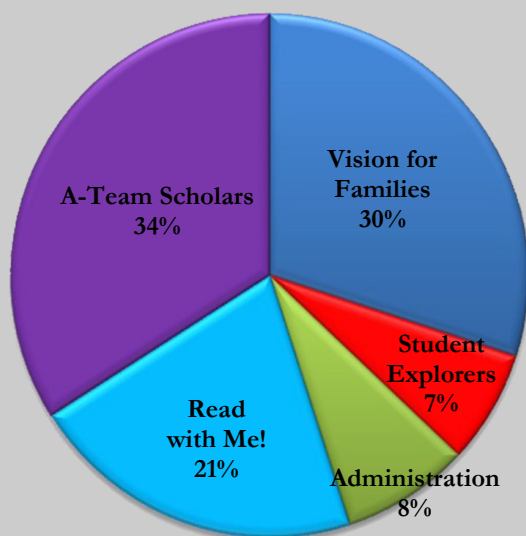
Tawashae Garrett
8th Grade, Victor Herbert Elementary

“ Hello, my name is Latanya O'Connor. I really enjoy working and being involved with the James R. Jordan Foundation. My son Eric Sparks started with the Foundation in the mentor program and A-Team Scholars program. He graduated from high school this year and will be attending college in the fall. My daughter Tawashae Garrett started off in pre-k with the *Read with Me!* program. It showed me how to read with my daughter. She now is in 8th grade and has been in the mentor and A-Team program since 4th grade. My last child Tiyniah Garrett is in 2nd grade and has been in the reading program, which has helped her reading and her understanding what she has read. The family literacy nights also help me as a parent and my child in many ways. The James R. Jordan Foundation also helps out with PTA, providing skills and resources for the parents. All the wonderful things that the Foundation has helped and bring to our school at Victor Herbert has really helped me and my children and their education. As a single mother I would like to thank everyone at the James R. Jordan Foundation.

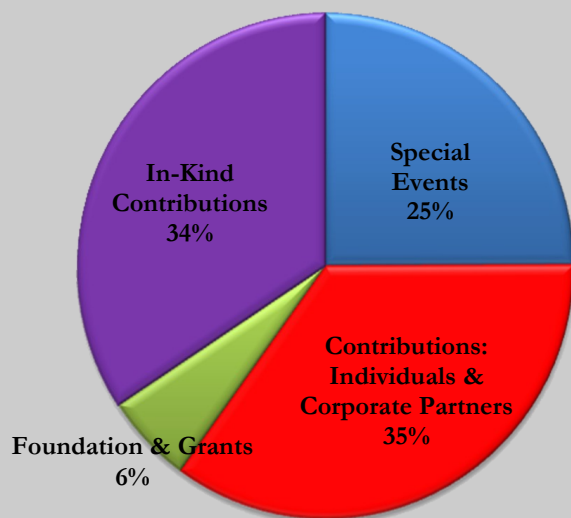
Ms. Latanya O'Connor
Victor Herbert Elementary Parent

Strengthening ties between school and home.

FY 2012 Functional Expense Breakdown by Program



FY 2012 Revenue by Source



Fiscal Year 2012 is July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012 .

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 sustainability even in times of economic downturn.

Strong Fiscal Management

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. The Foundation's goals and objectives serve as the blueprint for its financial management policies, to achieve and maintain fiscal stability. 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. Due to development and administrative costs operating at 8%, the Foundation was able to allocate 92% of our total budget to programs. 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 debuting new programming, such as the Young Entrepreneur Program. The Foundation served over 1,000 individuals through our programs and the *Read with Me!* festival in 2012 and will continue to offer quality programming in the coming year. The Foundation is not endowed; therefore it is through the continued generosity and support of individuals and corporations that we will be able to venture into new programming and remain sustainable.



ROSALIE J. FREIDLIN LTD.
Certified Public Accountants

1546 S. Cuyler Ave.
Berwyn, Illinois 60402
Phone: (708) 749-0055
Fax: (708) 749-0060

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of James Jordan Foundation:

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of James Jordan Foundation (a nonprofit corporation) as of June 30, 2012, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. 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 includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provided a reasonable basis for our 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, 2012, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Rosalie J. Freidlin Ltd.
Rosalie J. Freidlin Ltd.
Berwyn, Illinois
October 17, 2012

James R. Jordan Foundation Programs

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Student Explorers Educational Summer Camp | July |
| A-Team Scholars Program Registration | September |
| Read with Me! Classroom Kick-Off | September |
| Young Entrepreneur Program 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 |



Stay Connected!

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



Help a Child Do More Than Dream

A gift of \$7,200 for a 4th grade student can accumulate to one year of tuition at a state university or two years at a junior college. Won't you join our team and make college a reality for deserving students? Please make your tax-deductible donation payable to the James R. Jordan Foundation or visit our website to donate online.

www.jamesjordanfoundation.com



Scan to Donate!

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