



# JAMES R. JORDAN FOUNDATION

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to serve as Corporate Board President of the James R. Jordan Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to ensuring high-quality educational opportunities to students and empowering youth to achieve their full academic potential. As I look back at the 2012-2013 school year, I am delighted to not only see students eagerly taking advantage of the resources provided by the Foundation to improve their academic experiences but actually seeing past alumni successful in life due to their hard work and academic excellence. In all three of the Foundation's Chicago Public School partners, and our school in West Aurora, Illinois we saw improvement in the number of students enrolled in the program as well as those earning scholarship rewards. It is my hope that as many of these young children from the under-served communities in which we serve will be inspired to pursue a college education and will dream big, for truly nothing can hold them back from their dreams if they work hard and pursue excellence in their educational future.



Best Regards,

*Jodeen Benjamin*

Jodeen Benjamin  
Corporate Board President,  
James R. Jordan Foundation

## Young Entrepreneur Program (YEP)



Entrepreneurial education is becoming more prevalent in elementary education nationwide, teaching students not only the principles of personal financial, economics and entrepreneurship

The James R. Jordan Foundation and Austin Coming Together, funded by a generous grant from our long-time partner **State Farm**, along with funder **JP Morgan Chase**, piloted a successful new entrepreneurship program that began in the February of 2013, with a vision of providing fundamental entrepreneurial skills to students in the under-served communities we support.

### New Updated Website!

In May we launched our new and improved Foundation website! We have updated photo and video galleries as well as easier ways to get in touch and stay in touch with us here at the Foundation. Please take a tour of the new site: [www.jamesjordanfoundation.com](http://www.jamesjordanfoundation.com) and let us know what you think!



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# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Wendy's family immigrated from Mexico in the 1980's and she was raised in West Chicago, IL. She began in the A-Team in the fourth grade when the program was introduced at Smith Elementary School in Aurora. She graduated this year from West Aurora High School with a 3.8 GPA and is currently attending St. Louis College of Pharmacy in St Louis, MO. She plans on completing the six-year program with a Pharm D. in Pharmacy, and would like to work as a retail Pharmacist for Target.

"What I liked most about the A-team program was that it engraved an ambitious mindset at a young age. It allowed me to constantly push myself to my limits to obtain good grades throughout my entire grade school experience. Receiving certificates every quarter, having celebrations, and seeing how proud I made my parents made me feel good about myself. It is a feeling many kids lack growing up which is why they eventually lose interest in education. It made school more worth it, knowing that there was eventually going to be a reward to pay off for all my hard work."

-Wendy Andrade 2013  
A-Team Graduate

## Alumni Success Story:

Young Whitley Temple as a 2005 A-team Graduate



Whitley Temple  
A- Team Alumni,

Portfolio Accounting Analyst,  
The Northern Trust Company

“The appreciation I had for the individuals that barely knew me that decided to invest in my future is what I remember most about the A-Team. It was a very exciting time in my life! To have Michael Jordan, his mother, and other companies being extremely hands on made everyone overwhelmed with joy. Another thing that I would never forget is when the owners of the Gatorade company invited the A-Team members to their house for a pool party. They did an extremely good job at catching our attention, and showing us the importance of an education. The delight on some of my classmates faces is something that I would never forget. Coming from an area where poverty is prevalent, a thing like the A-Team is something that you carry with you forever. I'm proud to have been a part of it, and I will do what I can to ensure that this program perseveres.”

-Whitley Temple

## A-Team Year-End Award Ceremony



Arielle Bluntson and Ashanti Robinson, two very happy A-Team Scholars from Sherman School of Excellence with their medals of achievement.

Victor Herbert Elementary- pre K- 8th grade (class of 2001)

Von Steuben Metropolitan High School (class of 2005)

Chicago State University- class of 2011 B.S. (Accounting Minor: Finance)

Chicago State University- class of 2012 B.S. (Business Administration/ Accounting)

(\*Currently lead accounting analyst on one of the most prestigious relationships on the insurance team, Cascade Investments controller for William Bill Gates at Northern Trust Company)

## Featured Programs

The goal of A-Team Scholars is to increase educational opportunities for students in under-served communities. The program opens doors to higher education by investing in students who consider college out of reach.

**a\*team**  
**scholars**

The students are bright and eager to learn; A-Team Scholars inspires them to succeed in school by leveling the academic playing field. 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. Thanks to our partnership with the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office, the scholarships are invested in Bright Directions 529 college savings plans, and are available to the students upon enrollment in a higher educational or vocational program.

To view more information on this and the other programs that the Foundation offers, please visit [www.jamesjordanfoundation.com/our-programs](http://www.jamesjordanfoundation.com/our-programs)

## Student Explorers - Space Camp

The Student Explorers trip to Space Camp last year 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, flight simulations, wilderness survival training, and various teamwork exercises. The students even had the opportunity to interact with real life astronauts!



travel sponsored by:

**UNITED** 





## Read with Me! Family Festival

The James R. Jordan Foundation hosted its third annual Read with Me! festival on Saturday, June 22nd. Read with Me! is a festival with a purpose: encouraging families to read together through 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 Idy Ciss (West African Drum and Dance), and a special appearance by “Those Funny Little People”. A number of activity booths provided fun, hands-on projects like caricature drawing, face painting, puppet making, The Truck Farm, a real live “Farm in a Truck”, and a host of other fun and educational activities. Everyone in attendance received lunch and ice cream. Most importantly, families had an opportunity to “shop” the Read with Me bookstore and take home donated, age appropriate books to enjoy over the summer. Over 2,500 books provided by Bernie’s Book Bank were distributed to the nearly 400 who attended the festival.



To View more information on the Read With Me! program visit: [www.jamesjordanfoundation.com/read-with-me](http://www.jamesjordanfoundation.com/read-with-me)



## Beyond A-Team College Fair

Our second annual Beyond A-Team College Fair held on April 20th, 2013 was a big hit with our students. There were 14 college representatives and a great group of educational and financial representatives on hand to answer all of the questions or concerns our A-Team scholars and their parents may have had.

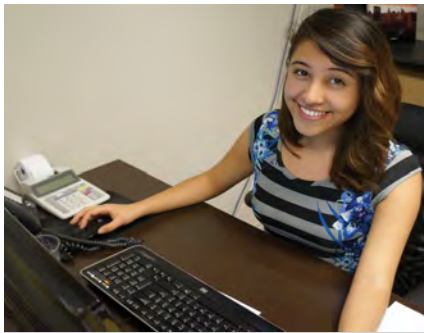
We offered several workshops with educational and financial advice. It was a great opportunity for students and parents to take advantage of beneficial resources and information to help shape their future.

Lunch was provided by Pompei Restaurant on Taylor Street. We were happy to see our West Aurora families who got up extra early and took advantage of the transportation that was provided to the James R. Jordan Boys and Girls Club on the west side of Chicago.

To see more pictures from this event please visit: [www.jamesjordanfoundation.com/a-team-photos](http://www.jamesjordanfoundation.com/a-team-photos)



## Partnership Highlights



Abigail Richards-Lugo from UIC CHANCE

**UIC CHANCE**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT CHICAGO PROGRAM



We are grateful for partners like **UIC CHANCE** who give their time and effort to help us accomplish our mission of strengthening families, motivating youth and ensuring high quality academic opportunities for children in under-served communities. That, together with our partners, we can make a difference. We empower children to achieve their full potential, and we level the playing field for them to become productive contributors to society.

**UIC CHANCE** has been involved in many of the Foundation's programs and events over the last two years. They have provided volunteers for our annual "Read With Me!" Festival, "Beyond A-Team" College Fair and Holiday Celebration. They also teamed up and helped mentor and develop the students in our newest program the YEP "Young Entrepreneur Program." Abigail Richards-Lugo came to the Foundation last year from the **UIC Chance Program**. She worked over the summer as a finance intern and was eager to learn and help out in any way she could. She was offered a part-time position this year while completing her last year of school. She has also become our unofficial Spanish interpreter.

"The CHANCE Program is a multicultural academic support program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. We strive to provide our students with personalized and customized services as they transition from high school into the university setting. Early outreach is important, which is why we have established strong partnerships with the James R. Jordan Foundation, Chicago Public Schools, and other public and private organizations dedicated to "giving back" key resources such as one-on-one mentoring, scholarships, and job placement to support our youth."

-Alicia Sanchez (Education Retention Specialist UIC CHANCE)

For several years **VTech** has been one of our major holiday celebration partners. Each year nearly 1,000 children receive educational toys and tablets in the schools that we serve and provide a wonderful holiday celebration to. We are indeed grateful for their valued partnership and their generous contributions each year. The smiles on the faces of the children when they unwrap their new Innotab Tablets and toys are priceless.

VTech is the creator of the Electronic Learning Products (ELP) category and the award winning InnoTab, MobiGo, and V.Reader handheld toys, is a world leader of age-appropriate learning products.

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2014

Student Holiday Celebrations	December	Read With Me Family Festival	June
Young Entrepreneur Program Registration	January	Student Explorers Educational Summer Camp	July
A-Team Scholars United Airlines Family Dream Vacation	March	Beyond A-Team College Fair	September
A-Team Scholars Year End Awards Ceremony	May	A-Team Scholars Program Registration	September
A-Team High School Graduate Recognition Dinner	May	Read With Me! Classroom Kickoff	September

visit [www.jamesjordanfoundation.com/jrjf-calendar](http://www.jamesjordanfoundation.com/jrjf-calendar) to stay updated on future events



## The Jewel Sisters (Sherman School of Excellence, Chicago, IL-Englewood)



Even though she admits that she has limited resources as far as exposing her twin girls, Afi and Anona, to the world outside of their neighborhood in Englewood, Mrs. Jewel is always looking for ways to broaden their horizons. One way is by encouraging them to watch educational programming instead of mainstream television. Their favorite channels are the Discovery Channel, the National Geographic Channel and PBS. She realizes that many parents simply use the television as a mindless babysitter for their children, and she wanted to make sure she made the most of it as an educational tool for her two daughters.

Another way she and her husband have taught their girls life lessons is through the game of chess. One of Anona's teachers gave her a chess set last year, and she quickly realized that it was a game she loved. Her father has taught her how to play and she enjoys trying to beat him at the game. Mrs. Jewel says of the game of strategy, that even when they lose at the game, losing is not really losing if you learn from your mistakes and improve your strategy for the next time. She has instilled in both of her daughters the importance of planning for the future and making sure that they have a strategy to succeed. She is grateful for the James R. Jordan Foundation and the support that they are providing through their Vision for Families set of programs. We are honored to help these two amazing students achieve their full potential.



Afi Jewel

**Afi:** Afi is the eldest of the two twins by only two minutes. She and her sister have been in the A-Team program for two years now. Afi is a straight-A student and has earned an all-expenses paid trip for herself and immediate family to Disney World next Spring Break sponsored by our long-time partner United Airlines. Afi's favorite subject is Science, and she is very passionate about the ecosystem. She is excited because she knows her hard work will pay off as her scholarship money will follow her to college. We asked her, if she could fast forward her life 20 years what would she be doing that would make her happy. She said that she would love to be working as a journalist either for a newspaper or on television. Her sister agrees that she would make a great reporter, because she always asks a lot of questions! In her free time she loves to draw and paint and also play tennis with her sister, Anona.



Anona Jewel

**Anona:** Anona, the younger of the twins, has set a goal already of achieving a college degree and getting the best job she can. Her dream job would be as a scientist working with modern technology. She recently won a brand new computer for having perfect attendance at school and loves doing research, especially about the human body. She is fascinated at how complex the human body is. It only makes sense that her favorite subjects in school are Math and Science. She loves to play tennis and chess in her free time and would love to improve and possibly add to her A-Team Scholarship by playing tennis and/or chess when she goes to college.

To help support the college dreams of children like Afi and Anona please visit [www.jamesjordanfoundation.com](http://www.jamesjordanfoundation.com)

### Partners & Friends



# James R. Jordan Foundation

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## Financial Highlights

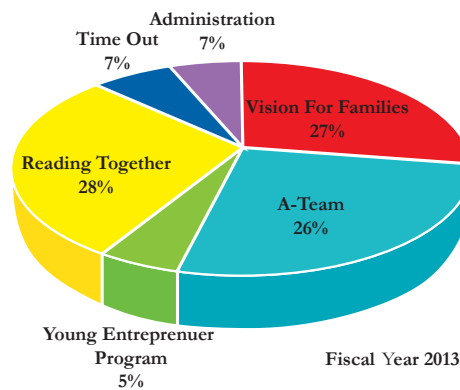
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Education is a way out of poverty. If you have a good education and determination, there isn't a glass ceiling that can stop you, because you can, and will find a way!

-Mrs. Deloris Jordan

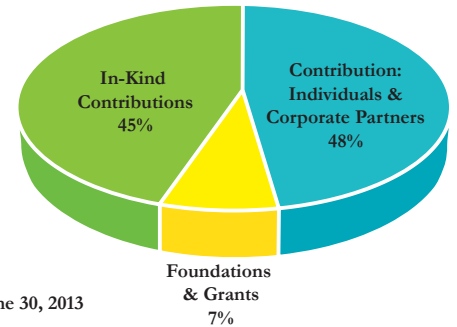
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FY 2013 Functional Expense by Program



Fiscal Year 2013 July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

FY 2013 Revenue by Source



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JRJFoundation

The average cost of one year tuition at a state university or two years at a junior college is \$7,200. Won't you join our A-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.

scan to donate!

or visit [www.jamesjordanfoundation.org](http://www.jamesjordanfoundation.org)



## Help a Child Do More Than Dream!



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