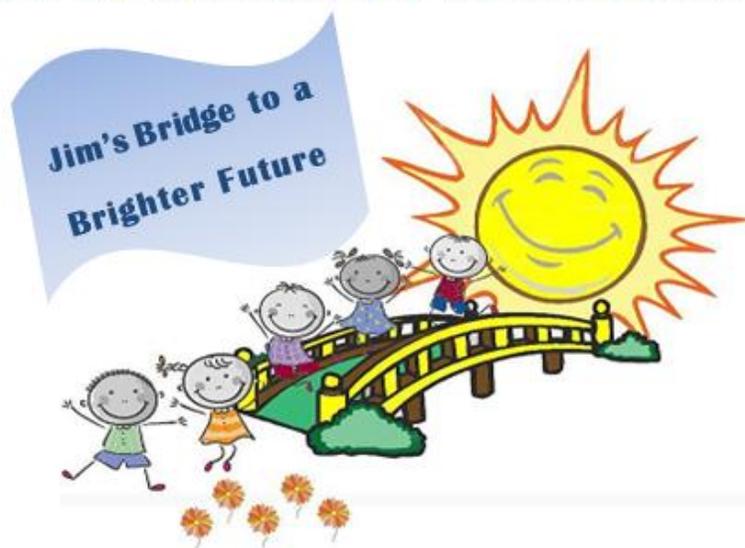


James F. Mikulski Memorial Group



www.jfmmemorial.org

Annual Report 2014

James F Mikulski Memorial Group Inc.
June, 2014
info@jfmmemorial.org

Executive Summary

We are very pleased with the progress that the James F Mikulski Memorial Group, Inc. achieved its first year. The goal of our charitable organization is to establish a legacy of giving and sharing in memory of our son James Mikulski by helping less fortunate children in the Chicago area and do it in a way that promotes wellness and service to others.

We are proud that we have successfully engaged over 200 people to help us with our mission through donation and volunteer work.

Scholarships and funding for programs have been established in two schools, affecting many children.

We are grateful to our generous donors who have helped us exceed our fundraising expectations. As we move into 2015 we are looking forward to sustaining our commitment to the children in those two schools and will look to expand as possible to further our cause.

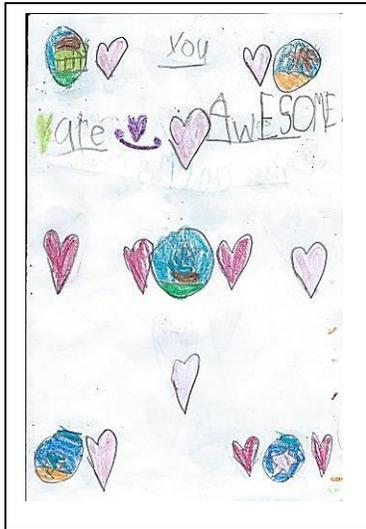
Sincerely

Maureen and John Mikulski



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Mission

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group, Inc. was formed to establish a legacy of sharing, caring and helping others in memory of James F. Mikulski, a wonderful and loving husband, step-father, son, brother, family member and friend who passed away suddenly on October 2, 2013.

The organization accomplishes its mission by providing scholarships and support for school and after school activities which directly benefit needy children in the Chicago area. This is made possible through fund-raising and volunteer activities that promote wellness, service and the opportunity to support the education of less fortunate school aged children. The organization is entirely run by volunteers. The beneficiaries of donations received through these activities will be certified grade school educational institutions in the Chicago area.



The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group is funded through private donations, online contributions and donations in appreciation of organized volunteer services. Donations and volunteer services are accepted from anybody who would like to help make a positive difference in a child's life.

About the Charity Organization

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group was incorporated in the State of Illinois as a charitable organization on January 13, 2014. A five member Board of Directors has been formed. The initial Business Plan was approved by the Board of Directors on June 8, 2014.

Approval of tax-exempt status for The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group was received from the Internal Revenue Service on July 30, 2014 with an effective date of Exemption of January 13, 2014. The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group is included on the searchable IRS Tax Exempt Organization List, which is found at <http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&Non-Profits/Search-for-Charities>

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group is registered with the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Illinois, under both the Charitable Trust and the Solicitation for Charity Acts, effective November 28, 2014.

Accomplishments for 2014

This is the inaugural year of the James F Mikulski Memorial Group as a tax-exempt charitable organization. We are proud of its many achievements throughout the year in establishing and fulfilling its mission.

Established a foundation of Support for children in Chicago area Schools



The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group is honored to provide scholarships and school program support for grade school children on the South and Southwest sides of Chicago. We take a personal approach with these schools to better understand their challenges and needs. We make a point to visit regularly and attend school programs, as much as possible.

Visitation Catholic School serves the Englewood and Back of the Yards communities on the South side of Chicago. Children of all races, ethnic backgrounds and religions are welcome. At this time, the student population is primarily African-American and Hispanic.

In 2014 our charity presented scholarships to three students at Visitation Catholic School, based on nominations from the school administration. In addition, the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group provided funding for

- The Annual “Hoops” Intramural basketball tournament
- The end of school year Academic Awards
- Art workshop for 2nd and 4th grade students in the summer session through Urban Gateways
- Transportation for bus trips to both Lincoln Park and Brookfield Zoos.

St. Gall School serves a primarily Hispanic community on the Southwest side of Chicago. Children of all races, ethnic backgrounds and religions are welcome. Scholarships were presented to four students for the 2014-2015 academic year, based on recommendations from the school administration. We visited with the four students when they were given the scholarship awards as well as before Christmas Break.

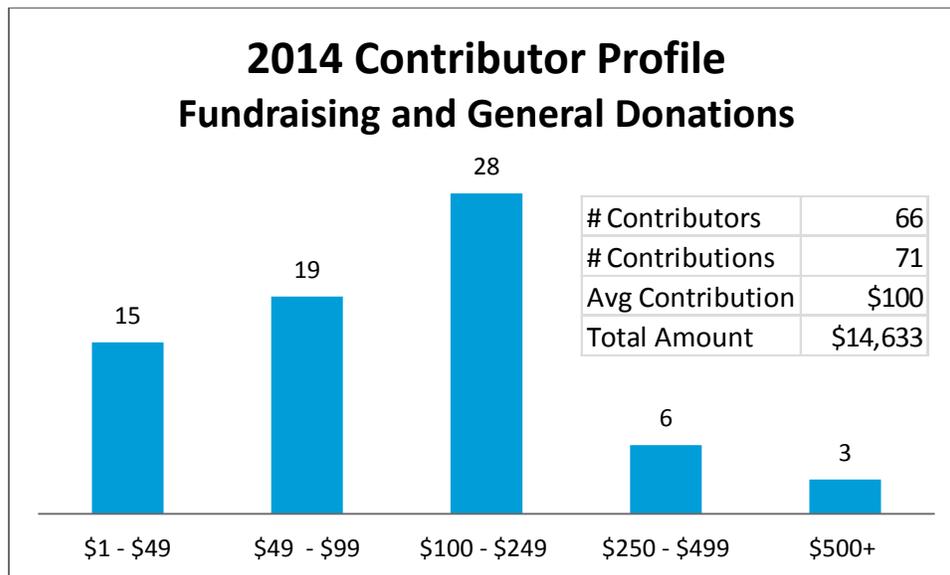
Additionally, at Christmas time, the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group donated gifts of coats, hats, gloves and toys to a family of seven through the Catholic Charities Sponsor-a-Family Program. We volunteered at the Visitation School Christmas Festival.

Multiple fundraising approaches yield strong results



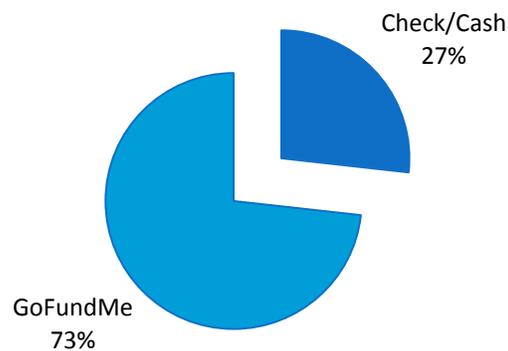
We found success in generating funds for the charity by hosting special events, fundraising for athletic competitions, targeted emails, commemorating special dates and providing volunteers to races.

Sixty-six individuals contributed to the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group in 2014.



The fundraising website, GoFundMe, is used for individuals who prefer to donate online. Close to 75% of our donations came through this website.

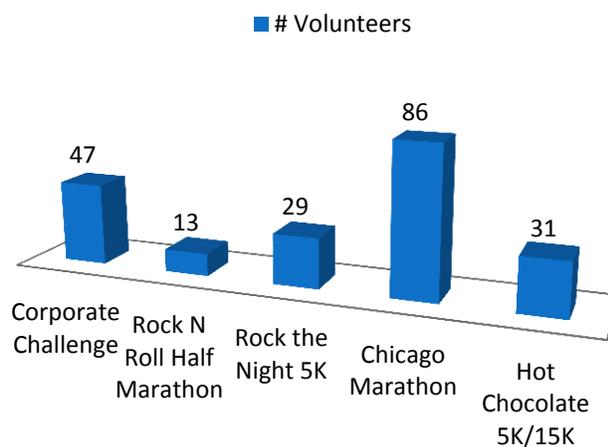
2014 Web Based vs Other Contributions



In 2014 we partnered with five race events by organizing volunteers to support various aspects of the race. In appreciation of our efforts, the race organizers provide a donation to our charity.

In these races, the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group teams managed start corrals, handed out cold sponges, and provided runner information to race participants and spectators. Our work helps ensure the safety and wellness of the race participants as well as gives our volunteers an opportunity for moderate activity and social interaction, all while helping our charity.

2014 Race Event Volunteers

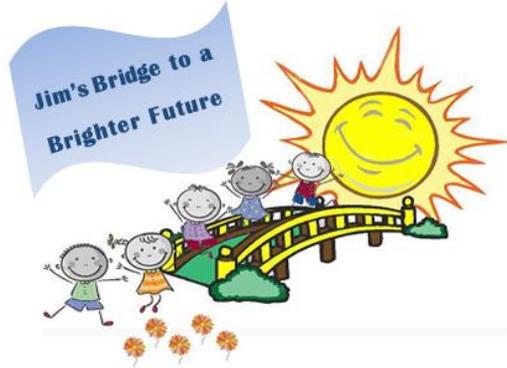


Created a Logo and Doing Business As Name that convey our mission

Director John Mikulski designed a logo that very effectively captures our mission to provide hope for needy grade school children in the Chicago area.

To reinforce our logo and provide a more common, recognizable term for our organization, the Board of Directors approved the Doing Business As name of “Jim’s Bridge to a Brighter Future”. Our Doing Business As name was approved by the State of Illinois on August 14, 2014.

James F. Mikulski Memorial Group



www.jfmmemorial.org

Our logo is prominently displayed on our website, business correspondence and business cards.

The James F Mikulski Memorial Group Website was launched as our Window to the World

Our website, www.jfmmemorial.org, houses information about the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group as well as news on our activities and upcoming events. The website was designed and is maintained by Director John Mikulski. The website links to GoFundMe as our selected web based donation management group. GoFundMe allows our donors to easily and securely make contributions to the Charity.

Our First Newsletter was published for Winter 2014-2015

The Charity was delighted to publish its first newsletter for Winter 2014-2015 which highlighted all of the school and race volunteer events that were held in 2014, and as well as told the story of the James F Mikulski Memorial Group. The newsletter was mailed to our donors, volunteers and other interested individuals. Approximately 250 people received a copy. It is posted on our website at http://www.jfmmemorial.org/Newletter-Vol_01.pdf To receive a hardcopy of the newsletter, please send an email to info@jfmmemorial.org

Meet our Board of Directors

We are so fortunate to have a Board of Directors formed of family and friends skilled in business and wellness professions. The Board and Officer positions were ratified on June 8, 2014.

There is frequent communication among the Board of Directors throughout the year, with at least one formal meeting per year. Information is exchanged regularly through shared technology set up for the Board of Directors.



Maureen Mikulski, President, has more than 35 years of experience in Information Technology and Business in the Chicago Area, with an advanced degree in Computer Science and Certification in Project Management. Maureen also serves on the Board of NU-Way Technologies, Inc.



Kathleen Mikulski, Vice President, has more than 10 years of experience working for non-profit organizations, with an advanced degree in Psychology



John Mikulski, Treasurer, has more than 35 years of experience in Information Technology and Business in the Chicago area, with advanced degree in Computer Science. John also serves on the Board of NU-Way Technologies, Inc



Kathleen Grady, Secretary, is a Registered Nurse with an advanced degree in Nursing and more than 30 years of experience as a volunteer or volunteer coordinator.



Hugh M. O'Neill, M.D., Sergeant at Arms, is a Family Practice Physician who has practiced medicine and managed his medical business for more than 30 years. Dr. O'Neill also serves on the Board of Family Practice Healthcare.

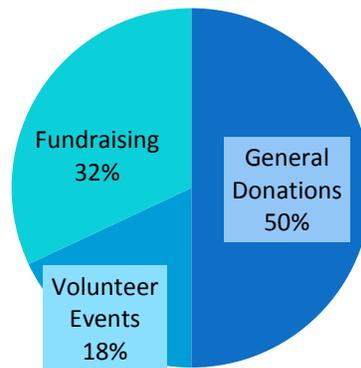
Financial Information

Revenue

The 2014 revenue for the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group is comprised of donations from individuals who learn about the charity through family and friends as well as from fundraising activities sponsored by our Board members. Additionally, the charity received almost 20% of its revenue by coordinating volunteers for race events.

2014 Revenue

General Donations	\$8,925
Volunteer Events	\$3,217
Fundraising	\$5,708
Total	\$17,850

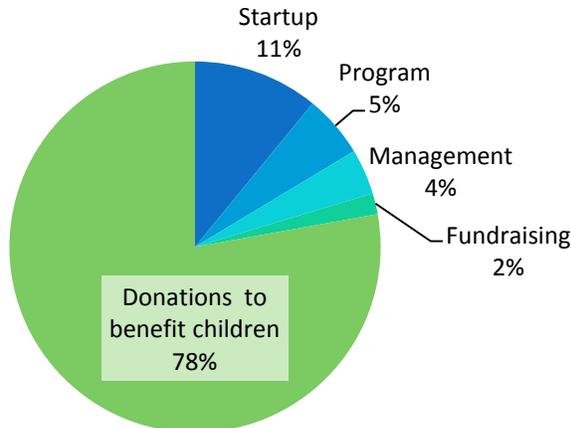


Expenditures

The goal of the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group is to benefit needy school children and, as such, the largest expenditure is devoted to donations to schools and related causes that will help less fortunate children. Over three quarters of our expenditures in 2014 went directly to benefit children.

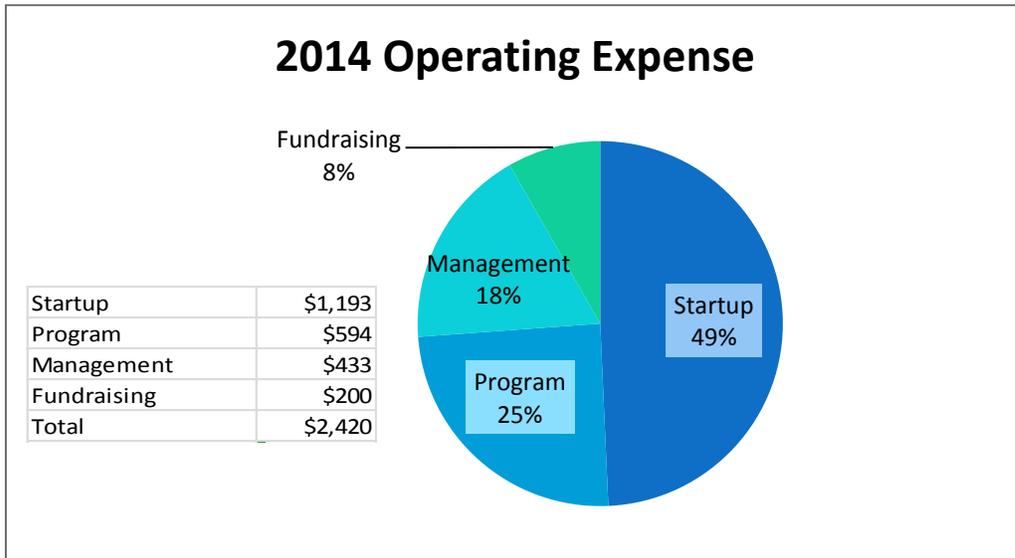
2014 Total Expenditures

Startup	\$1,193
Program	\$594
Management	\$433
Fundraising	\$200
Grants to benefit children	\$8,497
Total	\$10,917



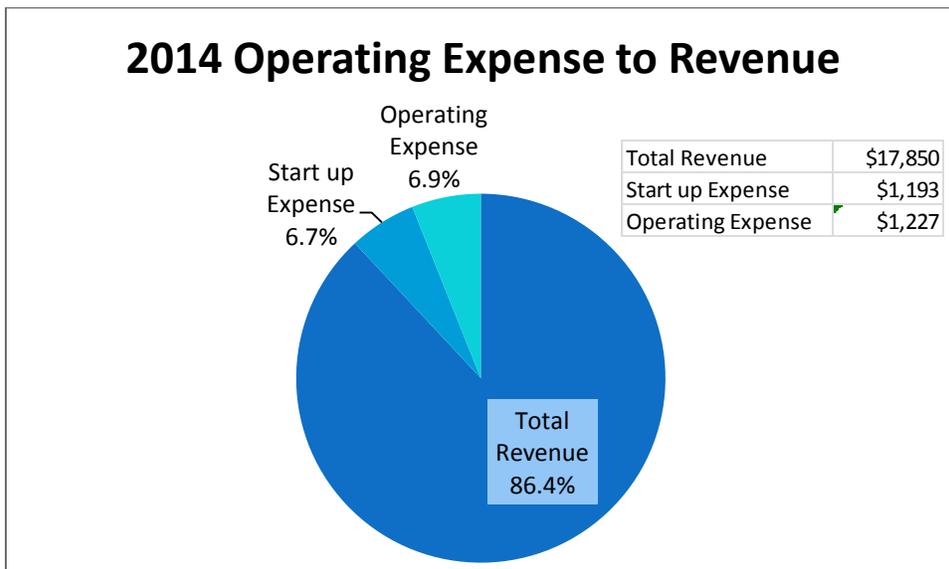
Expenses

Because 2014 was the inaugural year for the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group, the charity incurred a significant amount of expenses which have been categorized as “startup”. These include fees to establish the charity, to obtain IRS Tax Exempt status, to register with the State of Illinois and to acquire the Doing Business As name. Since these expenses represent one time costs, they have been separated from the expected ongoing operational and charity management expenses.

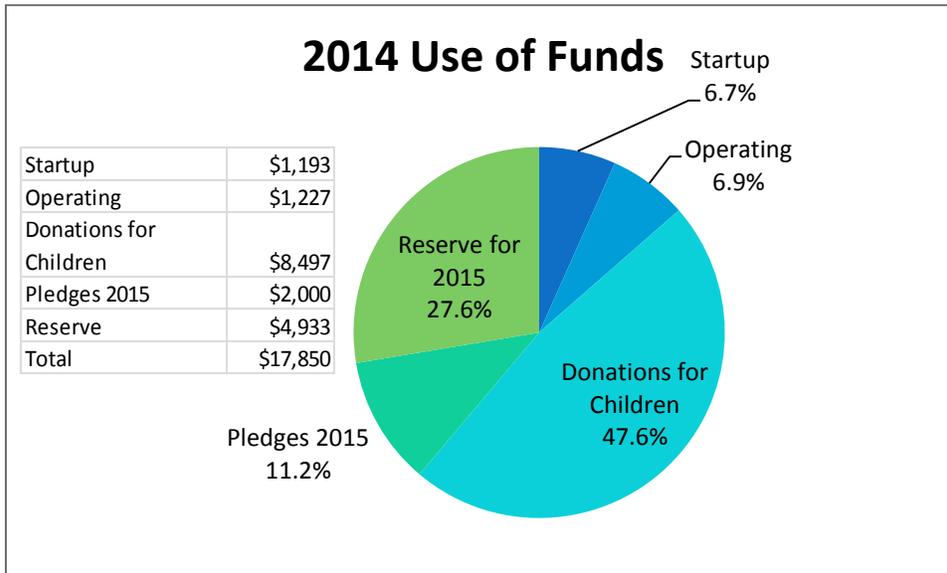


The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group manages all of its own fundraising. No outside or professional fundraising organizations are used. The one fundraising expense for 2014 represents appreciation awards for our volunteers.

Factoring out the startup costs, the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group Expense to Revenue ratio is at 6.9 %.



Overall our revenues have provided the means to support our sponsored schools and pledge support for their programs in early 2015 with sufficient reserves to further our cause into 2015.



Plans for 2015

The Children

Our priority in 2015 will be sustaining the work and good relationships that we have established at Visitation and St. Gall. It is wonderful to see the children enjoy the programs that we have been able to fund as well as to see them realize that we truly care about their education.

We are evaluating additional schools and programs to see where else we can make a difference in a child's life by helping with their education or supporting their growth through positive educational and wellness programs.

Fundraising

The Board of Directors will work to develop new and creative approaches to fundraising as well as maintain the fundraising which has been successful. Our challenge will be to spread the word about our mission and results to others who would like to donate or volunteer.

Coordinating volunteers as a source of revenue

We will continue race volunteering especially with the race organizers who now know us and respect the efforts of our volunteers. We will continue to seek out races that provide fun and rewarding experiences for our volunteers as well as a donation to Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future. We will recruit new volunteers and extend our gratitude to all of them, especially those who volunteer with us at every possible opportunity.

Expanding our horizons

For getting our message out to a wider audience, we will set up a Facebook page where we can quickly post news of upcoming events as well as display pictures of our activities that benefit the children, race volunteering and other fundraising events.

Financial

Close management of our expense and monitoring our revenue stream will always be a priority. We strive to keep our expenses as low as possible so that our donors know that their dollars will be spent to benefit the children that we support.

Support our Mission

Please consider helping our cause with a donation on our website at the James F Mikulski Memorial Group website <http://www.gofundme.com/JamesFMikulskiMemorial> or by mail at

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group
405 Shadow Creek Court
Palos Heights, IL 60463

