

James F. Mikulski Memorial Group



www.jfmmemorial.org

Annual Report 2018

James F Mikulski Memorial Group Inc.
February, 2019
info@jfmmemorial.org

Executive Summary

We are pleased that 2018 was another growth year for the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group. We held a successful Fundraiser in July, sponsored three clothing drives in partnership with Savers and experienced a generous increase in donations.

In the time since the James F. Mikulski Memorial group was established in 2014, we have awarded thirty-three scholarships, provided funding for numerous school programs including basketball tournaments, field trip, reading, athletic, and anti-bully programs, backpacks for new kindergarteners and more. This year we were also proud to fund transportation to summer camp for children at Vis and the Holiday Breakfast with Santa at the Erie House.



We plan to deepen and expand our funding of educational, artistic and athletic opportunities for less fortunate children, thanks to the support of our many donors and volunteers.

Our operating and management expense to revenue ratio remains very low at 2%.

All of this has enabled us to sustain our mission to establish a legacy of giving and sharing in memory of our son, James Mikulski, by helping children in the Chicago area and doing it in a way that promotes wellness and service to others.

To our donors, volunteers, family and friends, thank you for helping make this possible. We look forward to furthering our mission in 2019.

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, stepfather, son, brother, family member and friend who passed away suddenly on October 2, 2013.

This charity was created to honor Jim's life by giving back in a way that will directly benefit less fortunate children in the Chicago area. The organization accomplishes its mission by providing scholarships and support for academic and after school activities. This is made possible through fundraising and volunteer activities that promote wellness, service and the opportunity to support the education of school aged children. The organization is entirely run by volunteers. The grants awarded by the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group are directed to grade schools and institutions that support young children 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 Organization

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group is an IRS Tax Exempt 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, EIN 46-4519616. It was incorporated in the State of Illinois as a charitable organization on January 13, 2014. It has a five member Board of Directors.

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 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.

The charity has an Assumed Name of Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future.

Accomplishments for 2018

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group was successful in meeting its goals for 2018

- Help children in need in the Chicago Area
- Enhance fundraising
- Coordinate volunteer groups as a source of revenue
- Get the word out about our organization
- Keep operating expenses low through strong financial management

Help Children in Need in the Chicago Area

Once again, the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group was proud to enhance its support for the children at Visitation School, St. Gall School and the Erie Neighborhood House. For Visitation, our charity increased its scholarship funding and sponsored the construction of a “Peace Room” where children learn to work out conflicts and differences in a methodical, peaceful manner. For the third year we funded the transportation for the Visitation students and their chaperones, who were nominated for a week long summer camp in Wisconsin.

At St. Gall, we were delighted to increase our scholarship funding. We also awarded a special donation which will be directed to a new program called “Playworks”, which helps kids stay active and build valuable social and emotional skills through play.



Between Visitation and St Gall School, we funded six scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year.

At the Erie Neighborhood House we once again funded backpacks filled with school supplies for children returning to school in September 2018, handed out at the Erie Neighborhood Wellness Fair.

We continued to volunteer at the Visitation Christmas Bazaar as well as supported the Catholic Charities “Sponsor a Family” and the Erie Neighborhood House “Holiday with Heart” events. At the Erie House Holiday with Heart, we helped fund the “Breakfast with Santa” for 450 children and their parents.

One of our supporters donated a treasure-trove of school books and teacher materials to Jim’s Bridge which we were delighted to share with Visitation and another school (new for Jim’s Bridge) the West Park Academy of Fine Arts & Technology on Chicago’s west side. They were grateful to receive the donations and we were very pleased to be able to help them and expand our support to a new location.

Enhance Fundraising

With the successful addition of Savers Fundrides in 2017, we kept this tradition going and held one large drive and two ‘mini-drives’ in 2018. Jim’s Bridge



receives a donation from Savers based on the number of pounds of goods we collect. We amassed a total of 7485 pounds (almost 4 Tons) of soft goods, hard goods and books which were given to Savers and resulted in nice donations to the charity.

With the success of our Spring fundraiser the last

two years, we were pleased to host the third annual fundraiser for Jim's Bridge to a Brighter future, this time on July 29, 2018.

Close to eighty people attended the fundraiser that day to relax, listen to music, meet with friends and bid on one or more of the many silent auction and raffle items. We were very happy with the results and look forward to hosting future fundraisers

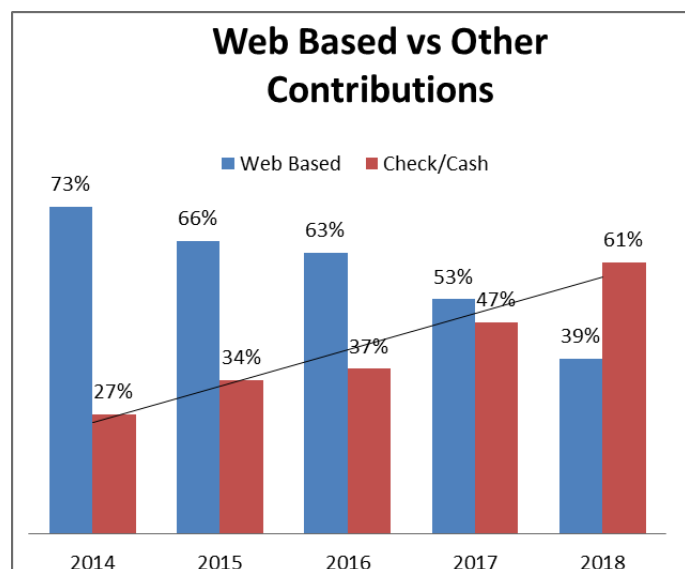
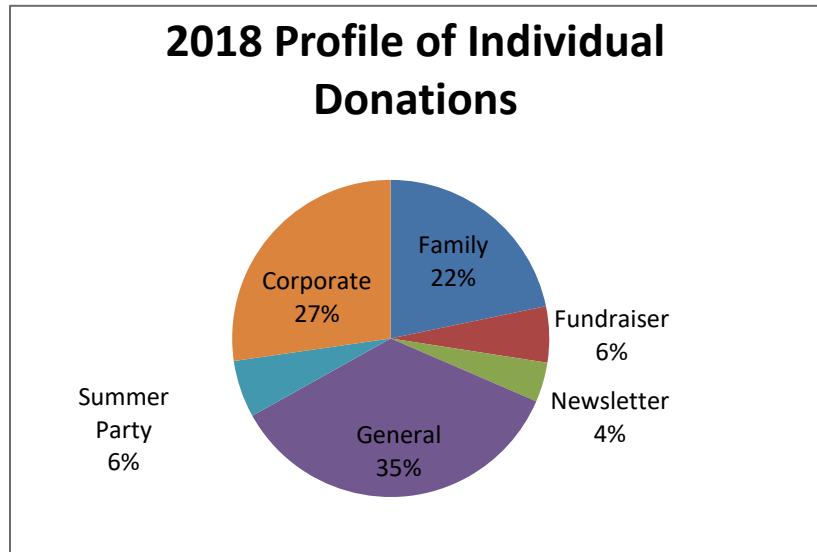
We are very grateful for the continuing trend in business/corporate donations. A number of our supporters have solicited donations from their place of employment or nominated our charity for grants from corporate programs sponsored by their employer.

The Annual Summer Party and the two editions of our newsletter continue to be successful in generating donations.

We also partnered with Amazon to participate in their Amazon Smile Charitable organization program. While this only generated a nominal amount of funds in 2017, we are beginning to see the quarterly amount that we receive. We will continue to promote this in our newsletter and at the fundraiser.

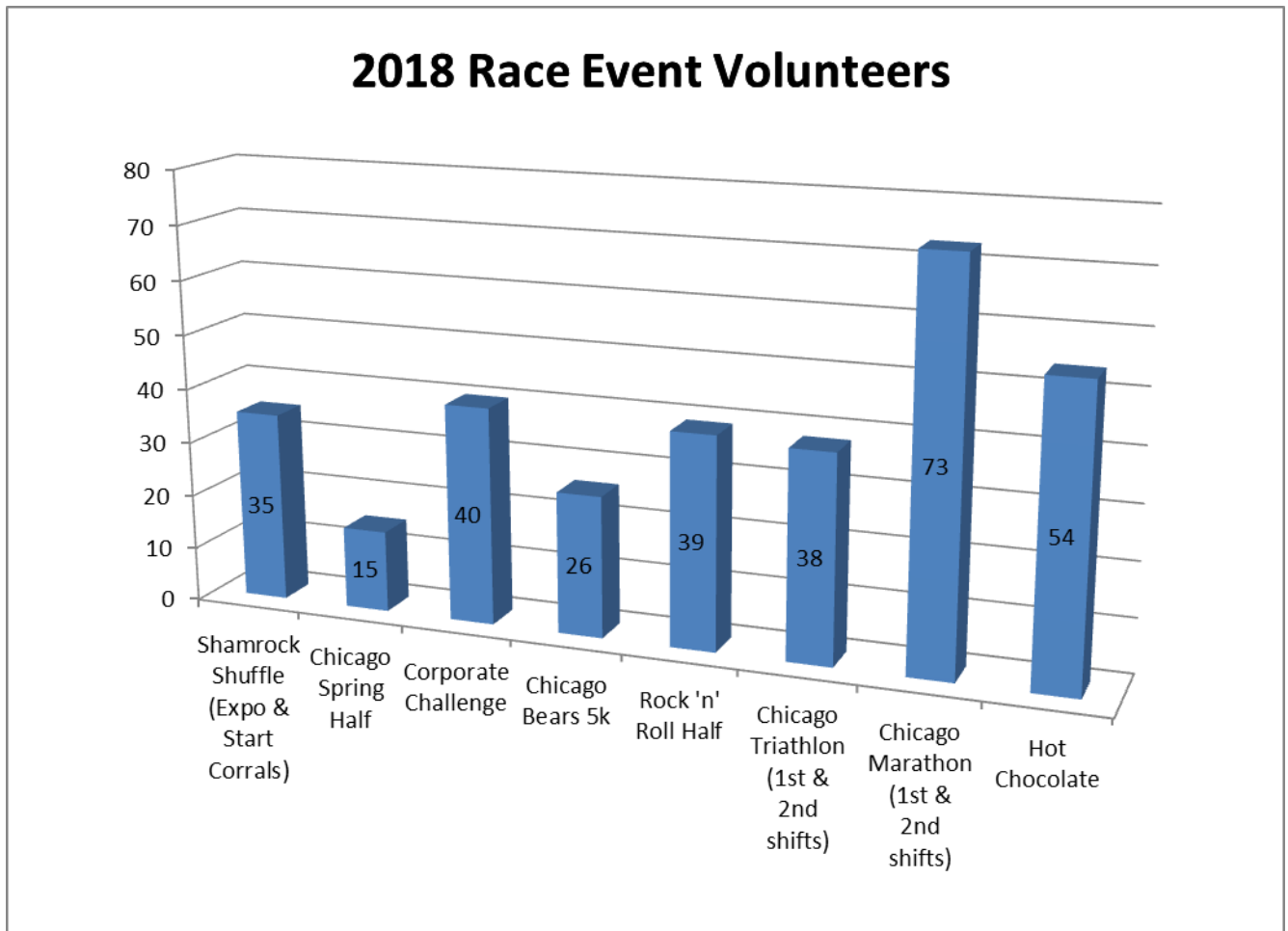
In 2018 the clear majority of donations that we received were in cash/check, minimizing the fees incurred for web based donations.

We have expanded the use of Facebook for donations as well, initiating Facebook donations for those who could not attend our annual Fundraiser in person and on #GivingTuesday.



Coordinate Volunteer Groups as a Source of Revenue

We supported eight race events in 2018. The Get Lucky race was removed from the list, due to the time of year (early March has very cold weather) and our experience with it in prior years.



We are pleased that the number of race volunteers remained steady even with one less race from 2017. We are delighted that we have been able to negotiate higher donation levels for our volunteers since the race organizers recognize the quality and dependability of the volunteers from Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future.

Year to Year Comparison for Races	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Number of Race Events	8	9	7	6	5
Total Number of Volunteers	320	322	269	268	206
Donations Received from Races	\$5,320.00	\$5,925.00	\$4,475.00	\$4,631.50	\$3,217.50

Soliciting volunteers for races remains a great way to promote our charity and get people involved. We keep our name and our good works in front of people on a regular basis, and it offers the opportunity to directly help.

Get the Word Out About our Organization

The Jim’s Bridge Facebook page, the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group website, and our semi-annual newsletter are the primary ways that we communicate about the work our charity has done as well as upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Our Facebook “Likes” continue to steadily rise with 143 “Likes”. The Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/JimsBridge/>



Publicizing our \$ Savers Donation Drives and the 2018 Fundraiser also raised awareness of the charity. The Yankee Runners website, a local running group, has linked to the Jim’s Bridge website as a volunteer organization.

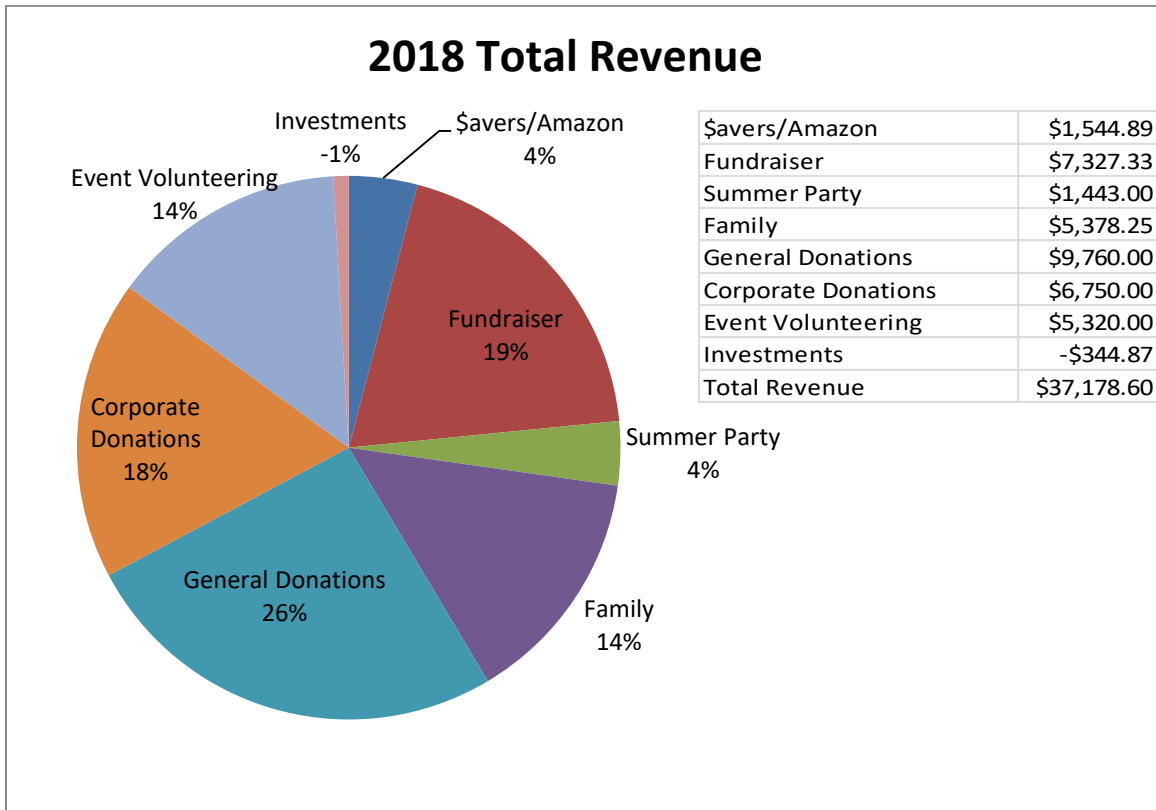
We will continue to identify new ways to promote our charity to let people know about our mission and ways to contribute.

Our website is in the process of getting an updated “new look”, which should be in place by mid-year 2019.

Keep Operating Costs Low – Financial Analysis

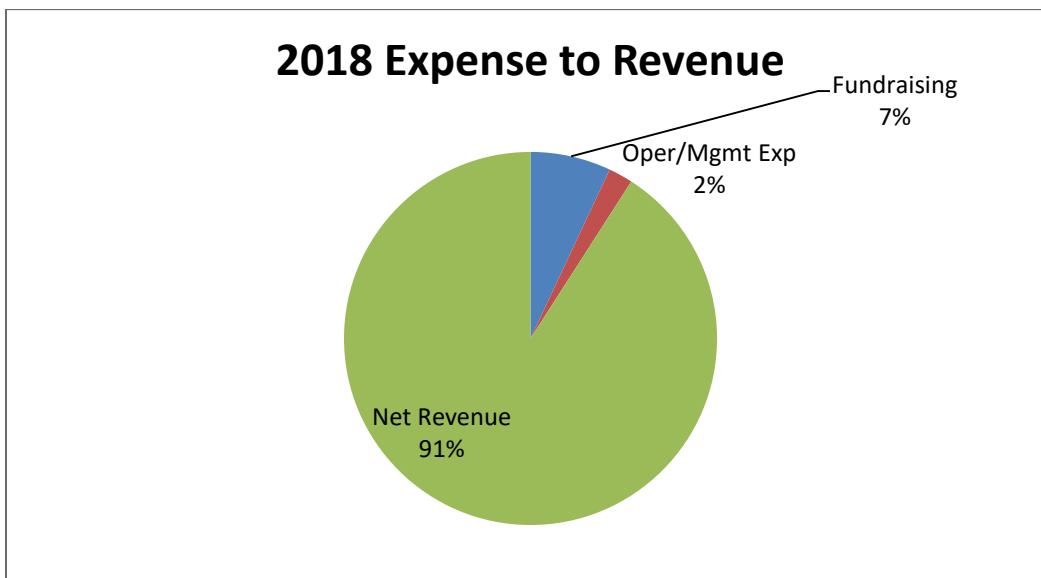
Revenue

We are very pleased that our revenue has grown at an impressive rate in 2018, reflecting the results of our fundraising, volunteering at race events and corporate donations. We also have diversified revenue sources than in prior years.



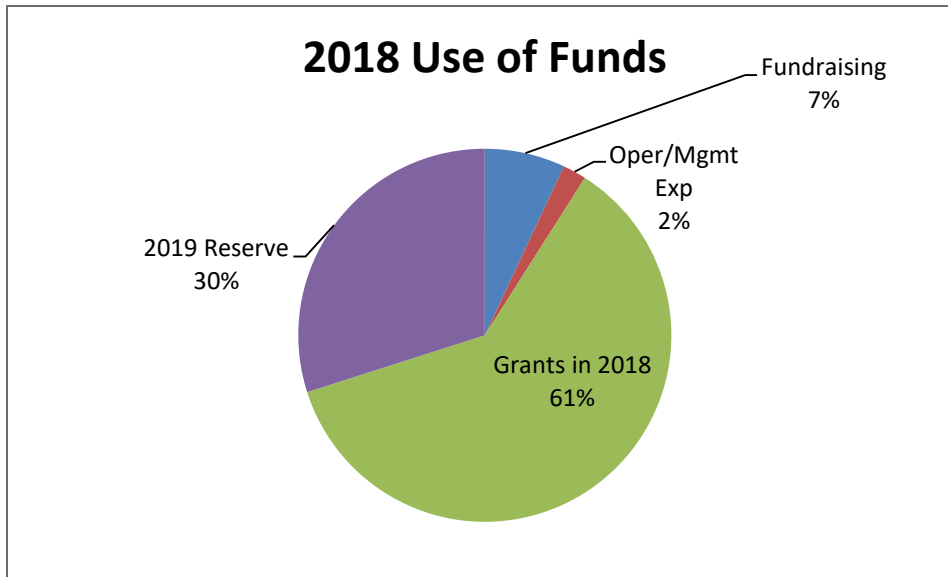
Expenses

Overall expenses reduced slightly in 2018 vs 2017. The main contributors were seeing more donations through check/cash vs web based donations and as well as maintaining a base of supplies that we could reuse for the Annual Fundraiser. We are very pleased that our operating and management expense remain at 2% of revenue.



As always, our charity manages all of its own fundraising. No outside or professional fundraising organizations are used.

Yearly Comparison	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Revenues	\$37,178.60	\$32,472.13	\$23,542.96	\$16,152.43	\$17,850.00
Expenses	\$3,352.50	\$3,580.34	\$3,931.22	\$1,364.23	\$2,420.00
Grants for Children	\$22,696.73	\$17,820.40	\$15,501.61	\$10,936.23	\$8,497.08
Opex to Revenue	2.0%	2.4%	4.5%	6.6%	5.8%
Opex	\$758.46	\$783.16	\$1,047.95	\$1,064.23	\$1,027.00



As a result of our successful Annual Fundraiser, increased donations, and lower operating/management expense, we were able to provide more in grants to schools and community organizations in 2018, continuing the trend of granting more each year.

Our Board of Directors

We are fortunate to have a Board of Directors comprised of family and friends skilled in business and wellness professions. There is frequent communication among the Board of Directors throughout the year, with two formal meetings per year.



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.



Kathleen Diaz, Vice President, has more than 10 years of experience working for non-profit organizations and the wellness field, with an advanced degree in Psychology.



John Mikulski, Treasurer, is retired after having acquired more than 35 years of experience in Information Technology and Business in the Chicago area, with an advanced degree in Computer Science.



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.

Plans for 2019

Supporting the Children

In addition to sustaining the work and good relationships that we have established at Visitation, St. Gall and the Erie Neighborhood House, we hope to deepen our support for them and include another school or organization that supports children in less fortunate Chicagoland areas.

Fundraising

We are happy with the addition of Facebook, \$avers and Amazon Smile as new sources of fundraising. We regularly seek new fundraising sources and promote opportunities for corporate gift matching or sharing.

Coordinating volunteers as a source of revenue

We will continue to provide volunteers for race events, especially with the race organizers who know us and appreciate the efforts of our volunteers. We will focus on races that provide healthy, 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 nearly every possible opportunity. Each year, we provide gift cards to Panera Bread or Starbucks to those who volunteer with us at the most races. We also have an 'open raffle' of Panera Bread or Starbucks gift cards to our other volunteers.

Getting the word out about our organization

We will continue to publish our semi-annual newsletter and promote the charity through Facebook. The Fundraiser and Donation Drive also expanded our reach to those who may not

have known about the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group/Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future. We will actively seek other opportunities to let people know about our work.

Keeping our Operating Expenses low through strong financial management

Close management of our expenses and monitoring our revenue stream will always be a priority. We will actively identify ways 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.

Ways You Can Help Support Our Mission

Please consider helping our cause with a donation on our website at the James F Mikulski Memorial Group website <http://www.jfmmemorial.org/donatePP.html> , on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/JimsBridge/> or by mail at

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

If you would like to volunteer with us or if you would like to be included on our distribution list, please send an email to info@jfmmemorial.org



From the Erie House Peace Mural
1347 W. Erie, Chicago, IL
Sponsored by James F. Mikulski Memorial Group
Dedicated August 2015