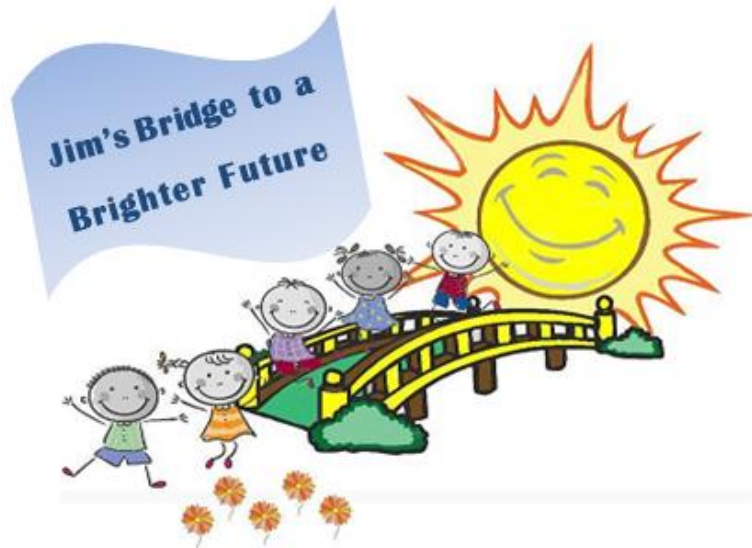


James F. Mikulski Memorial Group



www.jfmmemorial.org

Annual Report 2022

James F Mikulski Memorial Group Inc.
January, 2023
info@jfmmemorial.org

Executive Summary

2022 was a strong year for the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group/Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future. We held our most successful Summer Fundraiser and Get Together, had our largest ever clothing drive and saw an increase in the number of races we could support with volunteers. And, best of all, we were able to increase our grants to the schools and the Erie House once again.

We continued our regular schedule of visiting with our three scholarship schools, as well as contributing to programs to support the schools. With Erie Neighborhood House, we were back to providing fully stocked backpacks for the children and helped sponsor the Holiday with Heart Program.

Our revenue to expense ratio has stayed well below 10%, which is seen as a benchmark for non-profits.

As we enter our tenth year as a charitable organization supporting the education of children, wellness and service to others, we are proud of all that we have accomplished. We look forward to continuing our mission to make a difference in children's lives, as a tribute to the memory of our son Jim.

Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future Accomplishments Since Established in 2014

\$202,251	Total Funds Granted to help Children
51,912	Pounds of goods collected for Savers
2,099	Volunteers provided to Run/Walk events
687	Donations Received
262	"Likes" on Facebook
83	Scholarships Awarded
65	Volunteer events supported

Best regards,

Maureen and John Mikulski

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....1

Mission.....3

About the Organization.....3

Accomplishments for 20224

Help Children in Need in the Chicago Area4

Enhance Fundraising5

Coordinate Volunteer Groups as a Source of Revenue.....5

Get the Word Out About our Organization.....6

Keep Operating Costs Low – Financial Analysis.....6

Our Board of Directors8

Plans for 2023.....9



Visitation Catholic School



St. Gall School



The Erie Neighborhood House



Academy of St. Benedict the African

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 by suicide on October 2, 2013.

This charity was created to honor Jim's life by giving back in a way that will directly benefit underserved 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 assistance 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 which was renewed at the end of 2019 for the next five year period.

Accomplishments for 2022

The trend of activities getting back to pre-COVID times continued in 2022. We are optimistic that 2023 will be back to pre-COVID levels for almost everything.

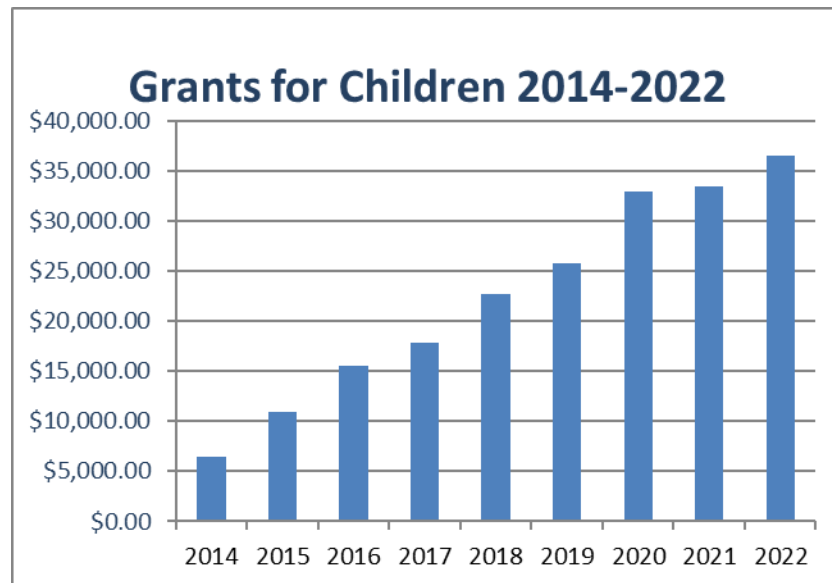
Help Children in Need in the Chicago Area

In 2022, we were able to increase our grant levels to the schools and the Erie Neighborhood House.

A total of seventeen scholarships were awarded across the three schools. For the Erie Neighborhood House, we continued our tradition of funding and distributing fully stocked backpacks to the Erie House children as they prepared for a new school year. This year, backpacks were also given to the children in the Little Village and West Town communities.

During the year, we were able to visit with our scholarship students at Visitation, St. Gall's and The Academy of St. Benedict the African (ASBA). It was wonderful to be able to spend time talking with them and getting to know them better.

The Board of Directors agreed to replace the Holiday Toy Drive in 2022 with grants to the schools to be used for something 'special' for the children at Christmas time. Visitation used the funds to sponsor cookie decorating and hot chocolate with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. ASBA purchased toys/activities for their extended day program. And St. Gall's targeted the grant for gift cards for all students to a book fair so each child will be able to obtain one or more books of their choosing.



Enhance Fundraising

The 2022 Jim’s Bridge Annual Fundraiser and Get Together was the most successful to date. Close to 100 people joined us at Zachary’s Grill on a beautiful late summer Sunday afternoon. Many supporters who were unable to attend the event were very generous with donations for the fundraiser. As something new for the event, we invited the Principal or past Principal of the schools, as well as the Executive Director of the Erie Neighborhood House to say a few words about the impact that Jim’s Bridge has made for the children in their organizations. We received many positive comments from the attendees.



We had our most successful clothing drive in August. In fact, the response was so overwhelming, that we had to make two deliveries. Over 7,000 pound of goods in total was collected. We also had a clothing drive in February with over 3,000 pounds delivered at that time. Savers provides a donation to our charity based on the number of pounds of goods we deliver to them.

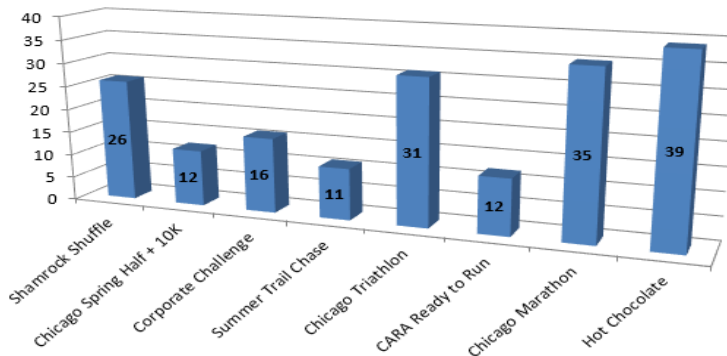
Jim’s Bridge benefitted from Facebook Birthday Fundraisers, which not only provides revenue, but introduces new donors to our charity.

Coordinate Volunteer Groups as a Source of Revenue

Volunteering at races as a source of fundraising is close to pre-COVID levels. In 2022, Jim’s Bridge supported eight racing events. Our Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) “Blue Partner” status provides Jim’s Bridge with \$20 per hour per BCBS employee who volunteers with us, up to \$2000 per year. In 2022, as well as 2021, we reached the maximum level with BCBS volunteers. This award arrives the following year, so the donations below reflect the 2021 Blue Partner donation.

Year to Year Comparison for Races	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Number of Volunteer Events	8	7	3	9	8	9	7	6	5
Total Number of Volunteers	182	163	34	353	320	322	269	268	206
Donations Received from Races	\$5,330.00	\$3,835.00	\$1,520.00	\$6,362.50	\$5,320.00	\$5,925.00	\$4,475.00	\$4,631.50	\$3,217.50

2022 Event Volunteers



Get the Word Out About our Organization

The Jim’s Bridge Facebook page, the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group website, email, Instagram and our semi-annual newsletter remain the primary ways that we communicate about the work our charity has performed as well as announce upcoming activities. Additionally, we keep the ‘At a Glance’ Tri-Fold summary up to date and use it as a nice way to introduce people to our charity.

Our Facebook “Likes” continue to steadily rise with 262 “Likes”. The Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/JimsBridge/>

The charity has become well known through activities such as volunteering at races, Facebook Birthday Fundraisers and the Savers Clothing Donation Drives. This helps to attract new contributors for Jim’s Bridge.

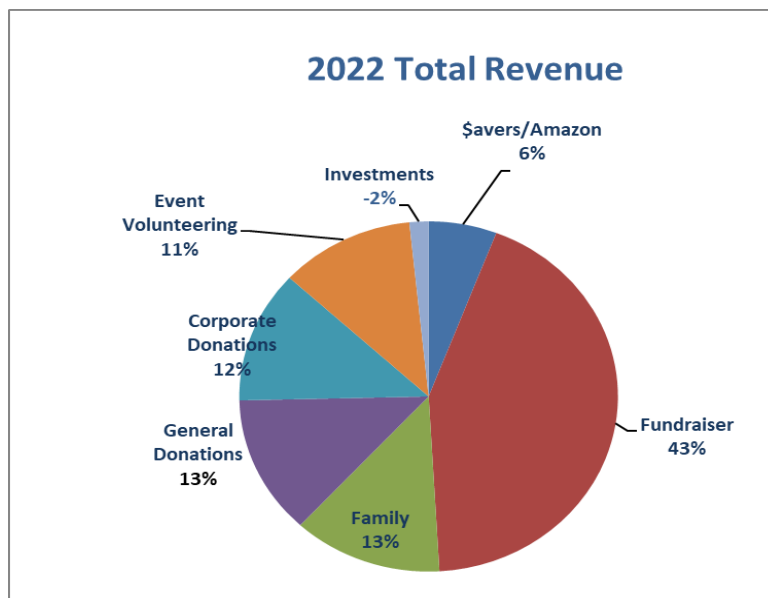
We are happy that we have great support from local businesses including Zachary’s Grill and Running for Kicks, as well as the “Yankee Runners” running group. Many Yankee Runners join us as volunteers, contribute generously to our clothing drives and enjoy our annual fundraiser.

In May, 2022, Jim’s Bridge was honored by the Yankee Runners when they designated Jim’s Bridge as one of two charities to split their prize money from winning the “Attack the Track” competition, a local running event put on for charity.

Keep Operating Costs Low – Financial Analysis

Revenue and Expenses

Our overall revenue was up notably from 2021. The largest driver in the 2022 revenue was the annual Fundraiser. Donations outside of the fundraiser also accounted for a large part of our revenue. In 2022, we had a record high of 108 donations. We were happy to see that 25% of the donations were from new donors, with 75% repeat donors.

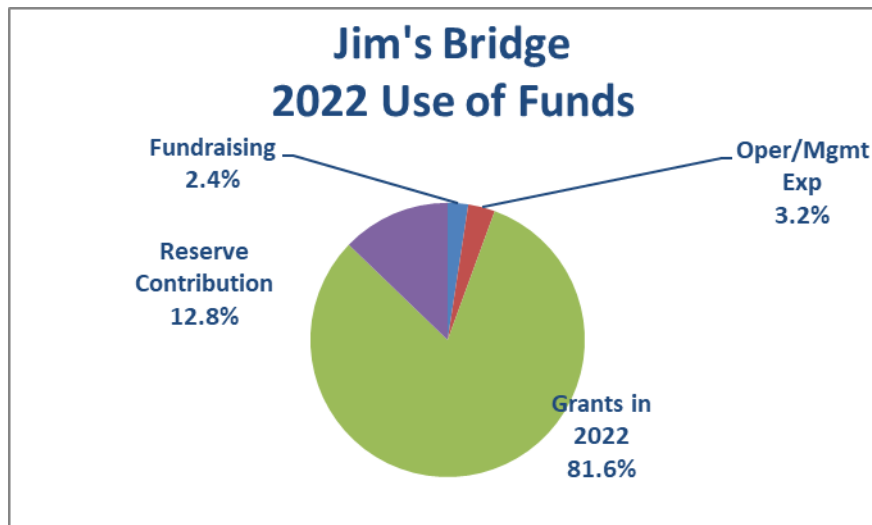


Our expenses were higher than 2021, mostly driven by the discounted three-year renewal offer from our website provider. We helped keep fundraiser expenses low by making use of supplies we already had in stock. Our expense to revenue ratio is at 5.6%, including our fundraising cost. Looking only at operations and management expense, it is at 3.2%.

Our reserve stands at \$69,049.79, which is more than enough to cover an equal number of grants in 2023 as we awarded in 2022.

Comparison (Last 7 years)	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Revenues	\$44,766.83	\$38,862.09	\$36,805.51	\$48,914.13	\$37,178.60	\$32,472.13	\$23,712.68
Total Expenses	\$2,497.89	\$1,995.86	\$1,583.98	\$4,685.80	\$3,352.50	\$3,580.34	\$3,931.22
Grants for Children	\$36,540.41	\$33,423.43	\$33,008.98	\$25,827.83	\$22,696.73	\$17,820.40	\$15,501.61
Total Expense to Revenue	5.6%	5.1%	4.3%	9.6%	9.0%	11.0%	16.6%
Opex to Revenue	3.2%	2.8%	4.2%	2.1%	2.0%	2.4%	4.4%
Opex	\$1,416.36	\$1,077.69	\$1,529.52	\$1,035.98	\$758.46	\$783.16	1,047.95
Reserve Contribution	\$5,728.53	\$3,442.80	\$2,212.55	\$18,400.50	\$11,129.37	\$11,071.39	\$4,279.85

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



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 40 years of experience in Information Technology, Project Management 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 15 years of combined experience working for non-profit organizations and in 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 retired Registered Nurse with an advanced degree in Nursing and more than 30 years of experience as a volunteer or volunteer coordinator.



Zachary Kubiak, Sergeant at Arms, is an entrepreneur with a very popular restaurant in Palos Heights. This restaurant, Zachary's Grill, is the location of our Annual Fundraiser and Get Together.

Plans for 2023

Supporting the Children

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group will sustain, and hopefully increase, its level of support for the children at Visitation, St. Gall, the Academy of St. Benedict the African and the Erie Neighborhood House in 2023. We will visit the schools and meet with our scholarship recipients at times throughout the school year. When possible, we will attend programs and activities at the schools and at the Erie Neighborhood House.

Fundraising

We plan to hold our Annual Fundraiser in 2023 as another fun afternoon of meeting with friends, making new friends, enjoying delicious food and having a chance to win great prizes. The Board of Directors will meet in the first quarter to discuss possible dates.

We will continue to hold semi-annual Savers clothing drives. As in 2022, we will be reliant on individual and corporate donations. We will actively look for additional ways to raise funds for the charity. The Savers Clothing Drives and volunteering at races have been good ways of attracting new supporters of Jim's Bridge.

We learned recently that, unfortunately, Amazon Smile will be shutting down after the first quarter of 2023. Amazon did suggest some other opportunities to partner with them as a charitable organization, which we will investigate. We will actively seek other ways to raise funds for Jim's Bridge.

Coordinating volunteers as a source of revenue

We anticipate that volunteering at races as a source of revenue will return to Pre-Covid levels in 2023. We will look for opportunities to expand the number of events supported.

We stay in contact with the race organizers that we have worked with in prior years, including Lifetime Fitness, Ventures Endurance (formerly RAM Racing), CARA and Chicago Events Management. Based on our relationships with those groups, we are able to receive high levels of per volunteer donations from them.

Getting the word out about our organization

We will continue to publish our semi-annual newsletter and promote the charity through email, Facebook and Instagram. The annual fundraiser, volunteering and the Savers clothing drives have 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 promote our work and grow the organization.

Keeping our Operating Expenses low through strong financial management

Efficient management of expenses and monitoring our revenue stream will always be a priority. We will actively identify ways to keep our expenses as low as possible, ensuring our donors know their dollars will be spent to benefit the children that we support. We are pleased that we have maintained expense/revenue ratio well below 10%.

Ways You Can Help Support Our Mission

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

James F. Mikulski Memorial Group
405 Shadow Creek Court
Palos Heights, IL 60463
EIN 46-4519616

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