



# REFLECTIONS FROM JIM'S BRIDGE TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

James F. Mikulski Memorial Group

Volume 5 Issue 1

## Enhancing Education through Activities....

During the 2018-2019 school year, Jim's Bridge sponsored scholarships for students at Visitation as well as funding for school and after school programs.

These funds were used to provide transportation to field trips for all grades. Pre K – 1<sup>st</sup> went to the Pumpkin Farm. Grades 2-4 went to the Urban Grower Collective where they learned about community

gardens and how to harvest vegetables. Grades 5-8 went to a Chicago Wolves game.

Our funds were used for equipment for school sporting activities such as Karate, Girls in the Game, new basketballs and games for after school care.

We helped sponsor a special performance for the entire school in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.



## ....And Building Social Skills

Thanks to a successful year, we provided additional grants to all of the organizations we support. The Erie House grant was used for Breakfast with Santa (see page 3).

St. Gall will participate in a nationwide program called "Playworks" which helps kids stay active and build valuable social and emotional skills through play.

Visitation school plans to construct a "Peace Room" to provide a safe place where the students can de-stress, solve problems and build community

As these programs are put in place, we look forward to telling you more about them in future newsletters.

## Visiting with our Scholarship Recipients

It's always fun to visit our scholarship recipients at St. Gall. Many have been scholarship recipients from Jim's Bridge for several years. We have enjoyed watching them grow into wonderful young people. We gave our best wishes to those in the eighth grade who graduated to high school.

This year we welcomed two new students to the group.

During our visit, we talked with them about their summer adventures and what is coming up for them this year in school. We let them know that their success in school is important to their families, themselves and us!



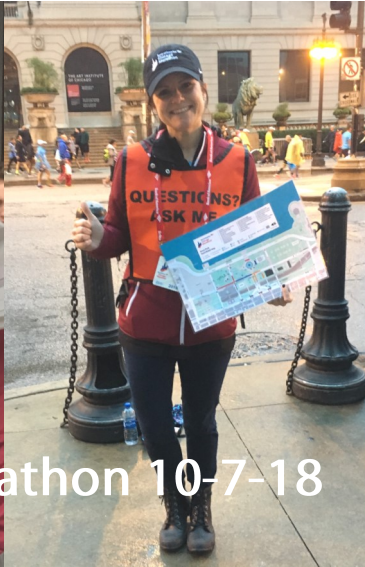


# Events We Supported as Volunteers

We supported three races over the fall and spring! The event organizers make a donation based on our number of volunteers. See more photos on our website and Facebook page.



Chicago Marathon 10-7-18



Hot Chocolate 15K/5K 11-4-18



Shamrock Shuffle Expo 3-23-19



Shamrock Shuffle Corral B 3-24-19

# The Organizations We Support



## Helping during the Holidays

### VISITATION SCHOOL

The Christmas Holidays are always a special time for Jim's Bridge. One of our favorite events is the Visitation Christmas Festival where we help the children at Vis select Christmas gifts for their loved ones.

The school auditorium was filled with items donated by many, including Jim's Bridge. It's always fun to watch as the children in the older grades partner with children in pre-K

and the primary grades to guide them through the Festival and help them manage their purchases.

Before leaving we enjoyed an impromptu concert from the Vis choir.

All proceeds from the Christmas Festival go directly to benefit the school.



### ERIE HOUSE

For the Erie Neighborhood House Holiday with Heart event we donated presents for several children and helped wrap gifts for more than 400 children to be handed out by Santa to at a breakfast the next day.

This year Jim's Bridge was proud to make a special donation to the Erie House which was used to purchase the food that was prepared for the Breakfast with Santa.



## \$avers is a Winner (Again)!

We kept our partnership with Savers, who donates to our charity based on the pounds of goods that we collect for them.

With two mini-drives in 2018 and our annual post-Holidays drive in Feb 2019 we collected 7,480 pounds of items – Close to 4 Tons! It's still a triple win – people can declutter, items are diverted from landfills and Jim's Bridge gets a donation!



## Sharing whenever we can

One of our supporters donated a treasure-trove of teacher materials to Jim's Bridge. We were delighted to share them with Visitation and another school—the West Park Academy of Fine Arts & Technology on Chicago's west side. Both were grateful to receive the donations. We were very pleased to be able to help them and expand our support to another school.





# Five Years of Benefiting Others

This year, 2019, marks the fifth anniversary of the founding of the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group/Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future. We are very proud of what we have accomplished during that time.

While it will never make up for the loss of Jim, we are pleased that we have been able to benefit children in his memory.

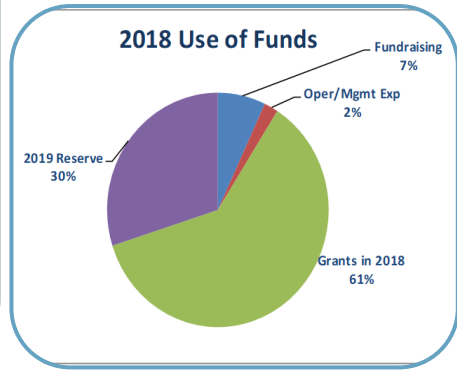
The chart highlights some of our accomplishments since 2014.

Our grants to schools and other organizations have steadily grown,

**Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future**  
**Five Year Anniversary Accomplishments**

- \$75,452** Total Funds Granted/Donated to help Children
- 20,612** Pounds of goods collected for Savers
- 1,385** Volunteers provided to Run/Walk/Tri events
- 353** Donations received
- 148** "Likes" on Facebook
- 35** Races Supported
- 33** Scholarships awarded

totaling over \$75,000, while we keep our operating expenses at 2% of revenue. For more information see our 2018 Annual Report at [www.jfmmemorial.org](http://www.jfmmemorial.org).



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future Presents

**2019 Fundraiser**

**SUNDAY AUG 11, 2019**

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**ZACHARY'S GRILL**

13415 RIDGELAND AVE  
PALOS HEIGHTS, IL

FEATURING A  
**SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLES!**

**Do you shop at Amazon?**

Amazon will donate 0.5% of every purchase that is made through Amazon Smile on behalf of the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group at no cost to you!

To participate, start at [www.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com), Select **James F. Mikulski Memorial Group Inc** and Then go shopping!



## Our Mission

October 2, 2018 marked five years since we lost our dear son, brother, husband, step-dad and friend to suicide, and we will probably never really understand why. Not a day goes by without remembering Jim, still loving him and wishing he was with us.

We knew from that day in 2013 that we wanted to do something positive as a tribute to him. We set up the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) charity to honor his life by benefiting children while emphasizing wellness and helping others. We are proud that our charity, with your help, has been able to accomplish this. Without our generous donors and wonderful volunteers it would not be possible. We continue to keep operating expenses well below 5% of revenue. Thank you.

Please consider a donation at [www.jfmmemorial.org](http://www.jfmmemorial.org) or to

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

## James F. Mikulski Memorial Group



[www.jfmmemorial.org](http://www.jfmmemorial.org)

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<http://www.facebook.com/JimsBridge/>

