



Reflections from Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future

James F. Mikulski Memorial Group

Volume 5 Issue 2

Preparing for the Future.....

Backpacks for "Back to School"

In August, volunteers from Jim's Bridge presented fully stocked backpacks to children at the Erie Neighborhood House Little Village "Back to School Fair".

We had fun watching the kids select their favorite color bag. Jim's Bridge was honored to fund the backpacks and supplies for the third year.



.....And Honoring the Past

Holocaust Museum Visit

The 6th and 7th grade students at St. Gall School had the benefit of a field trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, IL in May, sponsored by Jim's Bridge.

According to the Principal at St. Gall School, the experience was very powerful for the students.

They enjoyed the interactive nature of the museum and were especially amazed at how they could 'talk' to a 3-D hologram of a holocaust survivor.

We received many wonderful thank-you cards from the students.





Volunteering at Races

We supported six races over the Spring and Summer! The event organizers make a donation to our charity based on our number of volunteers. See more photos on our website and Facebook page.



Spring Half/10K 5-19-19



Corporate Challenge 5-23-19



Chicago Bears 5K 7-13-19



Rock N Roll Half/10K 7-21-19



Chicago Triathlon 8-25-19



Chicago Half/5K 9-28-19

The Organizations We Support



Celebrating the Students

VISITATION SCHOOL

The Visitation Academic Awards event in May is always enjoyable. This year, three students in each grade were recognized by their teachers as Most Improved, Shining Star and Awesome Attitude. The school choir performed rousing songs during the event. Jim's Bridge was proud to award scholarships to four students for the 2019-2020 school year.

For the fourth year, our charity was pleased to fund bus transportation for the Visitation students and their chaperones who attended the Norman B. Barr Summer Camp in Williams Bay, WI.

During our visit with the Principal of Visitation in September, we reviewed how funding from Jim's Bridge was used to support school activities and events in the first half of 2019.

We sponsored:

- "Girls in the Game", which helps girls build confidence thru sports and activities
- Digital Media Club, which introduced the students to iPads and iMovie
- A special performance of "Sounds of Soul" for African American History Month
- Equipment for Gym and Aftercare
- Materials for the 4th – 8th grade performance of "Cinderella"
- Support for the Feast of the Visitation Celebration and Carnival.

Jim's Bridge is proud to help with so many activities for the students at Vis.



ST. GALL SCHOOL

We had so much fun on Sept 19th when we visited with our four 2019-2020 scholarship winners and the Principal at St. Gall School.

We spent almost an hour talking about upcoming school activities, past field trips, Halloween costume ideas, their big plans for making movies, writing books, and each person's

favorite candy and scary movie. It was school picture day so everyone looked their very best!

The students loved selecting a special item from a bag of toys donated to Jim's Bridge which we delivered to the school that day.

We look forward to meeting the students again later in the school year!





Great Times at the Annual Fundraiser!

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, Jim's Bridge held its largest and most successful annual fundraiser at Zachary's Grill in Palos Heights. Over 110 people joined us!

Everyone was treated to an amazing "Half Way to Mardi Gras" buffet and enjoyed music by "Whiskey and Harmony".

As always, people had fun with the raffles, the silent auction and just catching up. The big hit of the day was the addition of "Spin the Wheel" for a chance to win prizes.

Our thanks to all who attended, as well as those who helped make the event so successful by

working on the preparations, donating prizes, or helping us manage the event. A special thanks to those who made a donation to the charity in honor of the fundraiser.



Jim's Bridge in the News

The 9/26/19 "Regional News" contained a front page article titled "Fundraiser Honors Memory of Palos Heights Suicide Victim"

The 9/27/19 "Chicago Athlete Magazine" featured Jim's Bridge in the article "Give Back to the Running Community by Volunteering"

Both are on our website at <http://www.jfmmemorial.org/itn.html>

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
 Select James F. Mikulski Memorial Group Inc and
 Then go shopping!



Our Mission

October 2, 2019 marked six 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.

Please consider a donation at www.jfmmemorial.org or to

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

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www.jfmmemorial.org



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