

Reflections from Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future



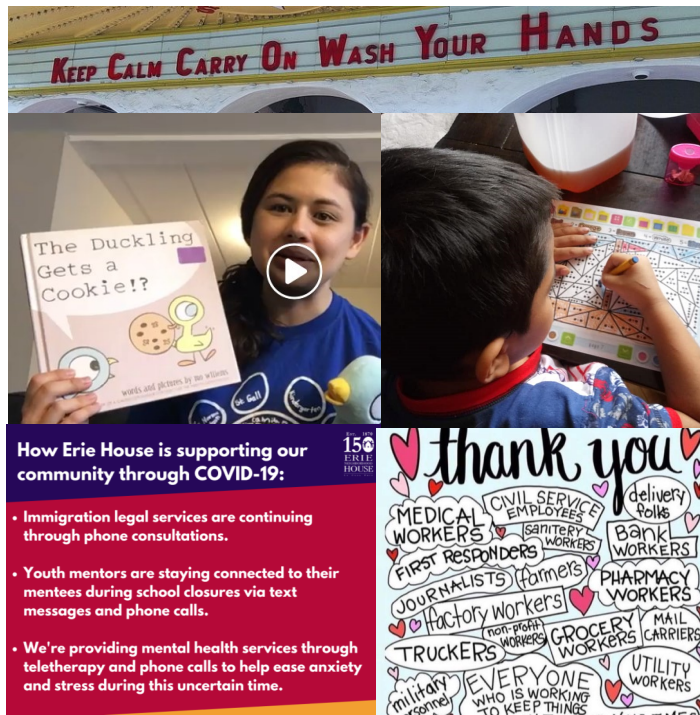
James F. Mikulski Memorial Group

Volume 6 Issue 1

Navigating "The New Normal"

These days, the COVID-19 pandemic has set the tone for our communities, our nation and the globe. So likewise, it sets the tone for this edition of our newsletter.

While we have good news to share including adding a new school, reporting on a financially successful 2019 and hosting our best ever Clothing Donation Drive, COVID-19 has impacted the organizations we support, the volunteering we will be able to do and the plans we have for the remainder of the year.



We have been in contact with the three schools and the Erie Neighborhood House. While all had to close their doors, they remain actively engaged with their students and communities through e-learning, special websites and social media.

Although we are disappointed that we will not be able to visit with them in the near term and that we have to pull back on our planned events, the health and safety of those organizations, our volunteers, our donors and all who support Jim's Bridge is the highest priority. Stay healthy everyone!

Welcoming the Academy of St. Benedict the African

We are delighted to introduce you to the Academy of St. Benedict the African (ASBA), a school that the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group will be supporting through scholarships and school programs.

ASBA is a pre-K to 8th grade school in the West Englewood area of Chicago. Originally part of St. Raphael parish, its

name and operation have evolved over time. It has served in the area since 1901. We visited the school in February and met with the administration, several teachers and many students. The students were delightful – eager to meet us, inquisitive and very enthusiastic.

For more information on ASBA, see their website at www.academystbenedict.org





Events We Support as Volunteers

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jim's Bridge has suspended volunteering at events until we can ensure a healthy and safe setting for our volunteers. The chart shows our planned events for 2020 and their current status. We will post on Facebook and notify through email when volunteering resumes.

Volunteering at races in 2020 has been suspended until further notice

Planned Event	Date	Status
BoA Shamrock Shuffle Expo	Saturday March 21, 2020	Cancelled
Chicago Spring Half Marathon & 10K	Sunday May 17, 2020	Cancelled
Wonder Woman 5K & 10K	Sunday June 21, 2020	Cancelled
Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon/10k	Sunday July 19, 2020	Unchanged, to date
J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge	Thursday August 27, 2020	New Date
cbdMD Chicago Triathlon	Sunday August 30, 2020	Unchanged, to date
BoA Chicago Marathon Expo	Saturday October 10, 2020	Unchanged, to date
BoA Chicago Marathon Info Team	Sunday October 11, 2020	Unchanged, to date
Allstate Hot Chocolate 5K/15K	Sunday November 8, 2020	Unchanged, to date

Races from the Autumn of 2019

We completed our 2019 volunteer events with two popular races – The Chicago Marathon and the Hot Chocolate 15K/5K/Walk. The event organizers make a donation based on our number of volunteers. See more photos on our website and Facebook page.



Chicago Marathon Expo
10/12/19



Chicago Marathon Race Day
10/12/19



Hot Chocolate 15K/5K/Walk
11/2/19



The Organizations We Sponsor



Holiday Giving

While Christmas seems so long ago, Jim's Bridge was there to help for several events.

For the fifth year, our charity donated toys and helped wrap gifts for the Erie House Holiday with Heart weekend. That weekend culminates with "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday where over 400

children are presented with their gifts by Santa. Once again, Jim's Bridge provided the funds for the food to make the breakfast.

Jim's Bridge also donated toys to the Visitation Christmas program and provided gifts for a family of six through the Catholic Charities "Sponsor a Family" program.



Support throughout the Year

In addition to eight school scholarships, we were able to provide special grants to the schools and Erie House.

As mentioned above, the grant was used at Erie House for the Breakfast with Santa.

At Visitation, the funds will be used to help complete its "Peace Room" and to create sensory kits for each classroom.

St. Gall will purchase materials for their new Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

ASBA has targeted their special funds to replace play equipment for the children in the Early Childhood Program.

Also for Visitation, Jim's Bridge provided funds for after school activities such as Girls in the Game and new tunics for the Praise Dancers. We sponsored an MLK Writer's Theatre workshop and transportation for field trips.



A Record Breaking Clothing Drive!

In February, we celebrated our most successful Clothing Donation Drive, delivering 6,636 pounds of goods to Savers.

That's well over 3 *Tons*, which surpassed our previous record in 2017 of 6,532 pounds! In the process, we exceeded both of the incentive goals offered by Savers, which

nically enhanced the donation we received from them.

As a way of thanking us, our scholarship students at Visitation helped load our minivan with books no longer being used by Vis.

Our thanks to everyone who donated goods and to all who volunteered to help us.

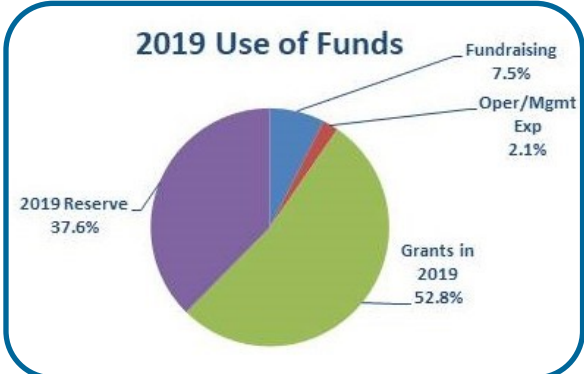




Moving Forward in 2020

While the COVID-19 pandemic has altered our plans in 2020, we want to recognize all that our charity accomplished in 2019.

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group had its most successful year in 2019. We enjoyed our largest fundraiser in August, raised the most donations by volunteering at races, exceeded our record with Savers clothing donations and realized the greatest amount of donations from individuals.



In the process, we have been able to keep our operating costs very low and build a reserve that will allow us to maintain our grant levels for the organizations we support, even if this year's results are lower due to the COVID-19 shutdowns.

Like everyone, we are anxious to move forward with our programs and scholarships in 2020, but health and safety comes first!

Our best wishes to everyone as we get through this together. Thank you to all who have supported Jim's Bridge through the years.

**Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future
Six Year Accomplishments**

\$103,280 Total Funds Granted to help Children
28,791 Pounds of goods collected for Savers
1,738 Volunteers provided to Run/Walk/Tri events
414 Donations Received
193 "Likes" on Facebook
44 Run/Walk/Tri events supported
41 Scholarships Awarded

PENCIL IN THE DATE!

**JIM'S BRIDGE
2020 FUNDRAISER
& GET TOGETHER**

Target: Sunday August 23, 2020

1pm – 4pm
Zachary's Grill
13415 S. Ridgeland Ave
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Attention Amazon Shoppers!

amazon smile You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of purchases made thru Amazon Smile for the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group at no cost to you!

Go to www.amazon.com

Select James F. Mikulski Memorial Group Inc

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 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

James F. Mikulski Memorial Group



www.jfmmemorial.org



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