

Reflections from Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future



James F. Mikulski Memorial Group

Volume 7 Issue 2

Experiencing a Nice Come Back

Although we remain cautious, 2021 thus far has been a year of 'coming back' for Jim's Bridge. We hosted a successful fundraiser, experienced a resurgence in volunteer opportunities and, most of all, we could once again visit with the children we support. This newsletter covers all of these events and sets the stage for our Holiday Toy Drive and Post Holiday Clothing Drive. We look forward to carrying this momentum into 2022.



Backpacks Readied for a New School Year

Jim's Bridge was delighted to renew its tradition of funding and distributing fully supplied backpacks to the children at the Erie House for the new school year.

On August 17th, we visited the Erie House to help hand

out the backpacks to the children in the Expanded Learning Program.

The children were each able to choose the backpack they liked the best and then we all enjoyed ice cream treats!



Clothing Drive Success

On Saturday July 24th, Jim's Bridge set another record for the amount of soft goods we collected in partnership with Savers Thrift Stores.

With a small truck and a caravan of cars, our team of volunteers delivered 461 bags/boxes, weighing in at 5,169 pounds – more than 2 ½ tons! Savers provided a donation to Jim's Bridge for all that we collected on their behalf.

Our next drive begins after Thanksgiving and goes until

the end of January (see flyer for details).

Holiday Toy Drive

In 2020, we held the first Holiday Toy Drive for Jim's Bridge. It was very popular, with over 300 toys collected. As a result we presented Visitation, St. Gall's and ASBA each with 100 new toys, much to their delight.

This year we are reviving the toy drive and would love to do even better. We have three drop off spots (see flyer).

If you would like to ship a toy please send it to:

Jim's Bridge c/o Mikulski
405 Shadow Creek Court
Palos Heights, IL 60463



Volunteering at Race Events

As in-person race events gradually return, Jim's Bridge has been able to recruit volunteers for several events, each with its own COVID precautions. Not only is it rewarding to volunteer, but it is also a fundraising activity for Jim's Bridge! The race organizers will make a donation to Jim's Bridge based on the number of volunteers we recruit for the event.



CARA Spring Trail Chase 10K May 22 and May 23



CARA Summer Trail Chase 5K Aug 17th



CARA Ready 2 Run Sept 19



Chicago Triathlon Aug 29



Chicago Marathon Oct 10



Visiting the Students Once Again



Visitation School

It was a pleasure to meet with our five scholarship students at Visitation.

This year we have two new scholarship students and three returning from last year.

We played a quick 'get to know you' game, chatted about our favorite foods and talked about their favorite subjects at school.

It was great to see them and to get to know them better.

In addition to the five scholarships for Visitation, Jim's Bridge provided funding during the year which was used for their "Science on the Go" Program and for Social-Emotional Learning books for the younger grades.



St. Gall School

We had a delightful time visiting with our scholarship students at St. Gall School.

This year we have two new scholarship students and two returning from last year (one was visiting possible high schools so we missed seeing her).

The students were so engaging, telling us about their Halloween plans, their pets, games they enjoy and their favorite classes in school.

We can't wait to visit with them again later in the school year.



Academy of St. Benedict the African (ASBA)

We had a wonderful time meeting with our scholarship students, the Principal and the President at ASBA.

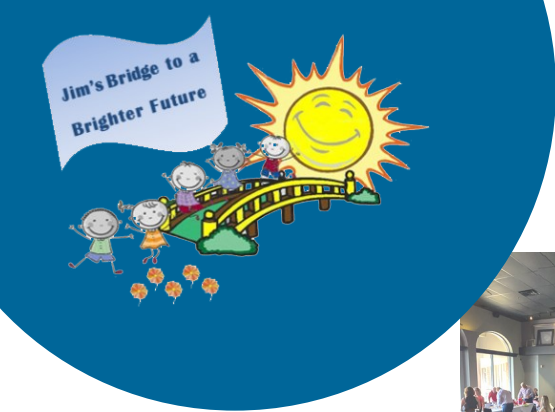
Both students received our scholarships last year as well.

The students told us about their recent field trip to the zoo, family dog stories and, of

course, their favorite classes. It was especially nice to go outside for a photo and watch them play a quick round of jump rope.

We are looking forward to meeting with them again in the school year.





Fundraiser & Get Together Returns

After having to cancel our annual Fundraiser and Get Together in 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns, we were cautiously optimistic about reviving it in 2021.

Our Board of Directors put together a great plan which paved the way for the Jim's Bridge Fundraiser on Sept 12, 2021.

Close to 100 people joined us on that warm, sunny afternoon at Zachary's Grill, with delicious food, live music, fun games and excellent prizes.



Split the Pot and Bag Toss Challenge joined our list of activities with Spin the Wheel, a silent auction and raffles. This gave everyone plenty of action to enjoy.

We are grateful to all who contributed to it by attending, donating or assisting at the event.

Plus a special thank you shout out to Zachary Kubiak for donating the food for the event.

It was our most successful fundraiser ever! Thank you!



Our Mission

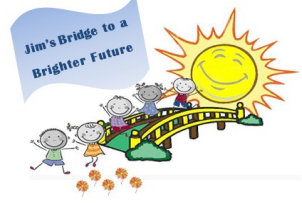
October 2, 2021 marked eight years since we lost our dear son, brother, husband, step-dad and friend to suicide, and we will probably never understand why. Not a day goes by without remembering Jim, still loving him and wishing he was with us.

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, a tax exempt 501(c)(3) charity EIN 46-4519616, 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 10% 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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