

Reflections from Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future



James F. Mikulski Memorial Group

Volume 8 Issue 2

Connecting and Making a Difference

At Jim's Bridge, our primary mission is to make a positive difference in a child's life. We take it a step beyond the scholarship and school programs we fund by creating a connection and building a relationship with the children and organizations we support. In this issue, we recap our visits to ASBA, Visitation, St. Gall and Erie House, and the time we spent with the children there. We also highlight our successful fundraiser where leaders from each organization spoke about the difference Jim's Bridge has made for them. Another feature of Jim's Bridge is that people can help in many ways. In addition to individual donations, you can also contribute by participating in fundraising activities such as volunteering with us at races, contributing to our clothing drives and even when you shop at Amazon. In whatever form, we appreciate your support.

A New Backpack with a Splash

On August 18th, we had a lot of fun handing out fully stocked backpacks at the Erie Neighborhood House "Back to School Bash & Splash".

The children enjoyed the water/splash activities, yummy food and beautiful weather. They stopped in the Erie House to say hello to us, choose their favorite backpack

and then head back to the Bash for more fun!

Jim's Bridge sponsored the backpacks and supplies which were given to the children at the Erie House and in the Little Village and West Town communities. Special thanks to Josh, Becca, Cristina and Jessica for their hospitality!



What Weighs Over 3 Tons and Helps Jim's Bridge?

The answer is the Jim's Bridge Summer Clothing Drive! This summer we were astonished and very grateful for the overwhelming response we received for the drive - delivering an amazing total of **7,024 pounds** of goods to Savers Thrift Stores.

That is the most we have ever collected in one drive!

Jim's Bridge received a nice donation from Savers for what we collected on their behalf.

Our thanks to everyone who contributed to the drive and to those who helped us deliver everything to Savers





Volunteering at Race Events

Volunteering at races is a fun and rewarding way to help raise funds for Jim's Bridge! The race organizers make a donation to Jim's Bridge based on the number of volunteers we recruit for the event. Here are some of the races where Jim's Bridge volunteered in 2022.



Spring 1/2-10K 5-22-22



Corp Challenge 6-9-22



CARA Trail Chase 8-21-22



Chicago Triathlon 8-29-22



CARA Ready to Run 9-18-22



Chicago Marathon 10-9-22

Jim's Bridge in Action



Visitation School

On the afternoon of Oct 27th, we met with the Principal and our scholarship students at Visitation.

The students read us scary stories they personally wrote for Halloween. Two students walked us through research projects they just completed.

They were excited to tell us about a recent school trip to a Chicago Wolves game. We compared places we have

traveled, what they would like to be when they grow up and favorite subjects in school.

We even talked about what Vis was like "in the old days".

Jim's Bridge sponsored supplies for the Vis Chess Club, Dance Club, and the "Craft It Up" Club, as well as bus transportation for field trips and equipment for their all School Field Day!



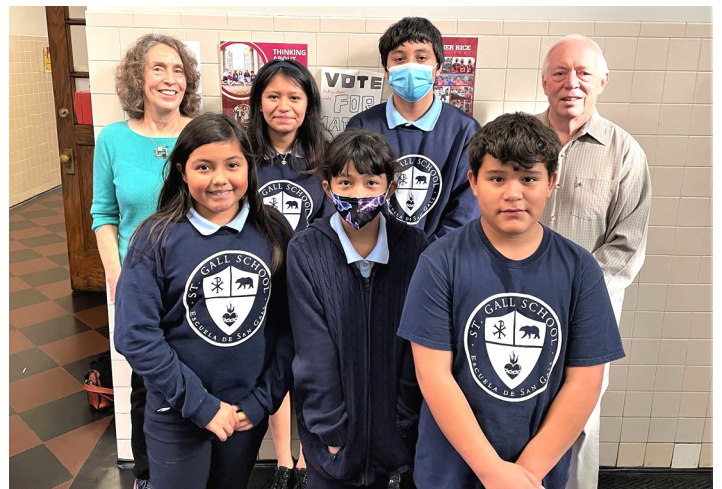
St. Gall School

Earlier on the morning of Oct 27th, we went to St. Gall School where we met with the Principal and our five scholarship students.

We learned about the school plans for Halloween with a party on Friday and Trunk or Treat on Monday!

The students told us about their classes and the upcoming Science Fair.

It was really exciting to hear about the Student Council Election planned for the very next day and to hear that one of our students is running for President! Way to go!



Academy of St. Benedict the African

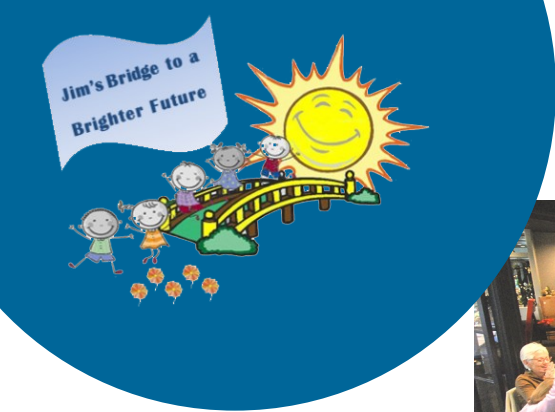
It was great to visit ASBA on October 25th and reconnect with our scholarship students to see how much they have grown and hear how they are doing.

We all enjoyed watching Principal Farrand's new little aquarium and hear about the success of the vegetable garden we saw last May.

We were very proud to learn that our older scholarship students were nominated for the new ASBA Leadership Council for Grades 3-8.

We joined the students in their library and talked about reading books, favorite sports and future plans. We look forward to the next visit.





Fun Times and Kind Words

We were delighted that nearly one hundred people joined us at Zachary's Grill on September 25th for the Jim's Bridge 2022 Fundraiser & Get Together.

The games of Spin the Wheel, Split the Pot, Pick Your Prize Raffle and the Silent Auction generated a lot of happy winners again.

The four "Food Around the World" heavy hor d'oeuvre stations were absolutely delicious and the live music was enjoyable.



This year we were honored that leaders from each of the organizations we support spoke for a few minutes about the positive difference that Jim's Bridge has made for the children and families they serve.

They each brought a personal perspective and a few anecdotes about how Jim's Bridge has helped. Our thanks to Principal Jennifer Farrand (ASBA), Sr Jean (Vis), Caitlin Lee (St. Gall) and Cristina De La Rosa, (Erie House) for your kind words.

A special shout out to the team at Zachary's Grill who always make the event such a hit! Thank you to all who attended or donated.

Jim's Bridge Clothing Drive



Jim's Bridge will once again hold a post holiday clothing drive in partnership with Savers. We will be accepting donations from **now until Friday February 3, 2023.**

That gives you plenty of time to clean out your closets and get your donations to us. More to come on Facebook and in email.

Attention Amazon Shoppers!

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

Go to www.smile.amazon.com



Select James F. Mikulski Memorial Group Inc

Then Go Shopping!!!



Our Mission

October 2, 2022 marked nine 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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