



Jeremiah Program



OUR MISSION

Disrupt the cycle of poverty for single mothers and their children two generations at a time.

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Jeremiah Program envisions a world where single moms do not have to make the untenable choice between investing in themselves and investing in their children.

FIVE PILLARS OF DISRUPTING POVERTY

Career-track College Education for JP Moms

Quality Early Childhood Education for JP Kids

Safe and Affordable Housing

Empowerment, Life Skills and Family Coaching

Supportive Community

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

2020 challenged many of our assumptions about the world. Similarly, at Jeremiah Program, we were equally humbled by the events of this year and reminded of the importance of individual and collective generosity.

This report offers many details about how we pivoted during the COVID-19 pandemic and embraced the opportunity to evolve. But those details cannot capture the true reason JP not only survived but met the moment in 2020.

The truth is women are world makers and single mothers are miracle workers. Even when faced with the intersecting challenges of racism, misogyny, limited economic opportunity and now a global pandemic, single mothers continue to shatter glass ceilings and design solutions to some of the most pressing challenges we face as a country.

Those challenges grew in scope and number this year, but JP families met them head-on with the wisdom of their experience and the depth and complexity of their power. As Austin mother Alyssa said about the pandemic, “I feel capable of navigating it because I know that I’ve been through something similar, if not worse.”

More communities of poverty have been created than we’ve seen in our lifetime, and while many JP moms are witnessing this fact, they are also being reminded that they hold within them the knowledge and experience to create sustainable solutions.

For all these reasons, this year we committed to improving from the inside out and reflecting on our approach and the narratives we rely on when speaking publicly about Jeremiah Program.

The first shift is that we have committed to *expanding the leadership tent*. With the right investments, women historically have demonstrated the power to strengthen, iterate and scale solutions and ideas for their families and communities. That’s why we invested in leadership training, relational organizing training, career navigation

and other key economic mobility levers specifically for single moms experiencing poverty. Expanding our definition of leadership lays the foundation for a broader social movement. It also elevates and diversifies the voices of women in critical policy-making conversations, giving the largest stakeholders in communities of color—women (who are often single mothers)—the mic and the pen to author policy and agendas.

The second shift is that we must *view poverty as a social justice issue*, not exclusively a function of economics. We heard many declarations this year about injustices the COVID-19 pandemic “revealed,” including wage gaps and infrastructures failing the most marginalized in our society. For our moms, nothing was revealed. We already knew that mothers, especially young BIPOC single mothers, would bear the brunt of the childcare crisis. 1.7 million single mother college students already have no access to affordable, high-quality childcare—one of the most important variables influencing a child’s school readiness. More than ever, we must take the opportunity to point out that unequal access to basic needs and life-saving services is an indictment of our current social systems—not just our markets.

Finally, we know that single moms are great moms and the architects of their families’ futures. All JP activities are rooted in the fact that single moms are already successful. Our moms are imperfect like the rest of us, but they don’t need interventions or training on how to be a great parent. We encourage women to dissect, understand and reject stereotypical narratives masqueraded as truths about themselves as single mothers before they even join our program. It is possible to shift the national narrative around single-parent families by elevating stories and providing proof points of what is possible to demystify the journey.

As you will see in this report, we’re not just paying lip service to these shifts. Our commitment runs through many of the stories captured here about how JP responded to the urgency of 2020 while remaining forward-thinking and taking action that will sustainably improve the program. The pandemic is ongoing; the road to a better world will be a long one. We will continue to meet the changing demands while deepening our impact. As experts in the realities of living in poverty, JP moms will lead alongside us every step of the way as we map our way forward.

Thank you. We’re in this together.



Chastity





ADDRESSING A NATIONAL NEED SINCE 1998, DISRUPTING POVERTY TWO GENERATIONS AT A TIME

Social justice and gender equity are at the heart of Jeremiah Program’s mission to disrupt generational poverty. Generational poverty is the result of resources being strategically denied to BIPOC people and systemic disenfranchisement from equal educational and economic opportunity. Redlining and housing segregation—and the educational inequity and disparate health outcomes they produce—undergird American society’s oppressive, stigmatizing narratives about who deserves to thrive.

These systems cut single moms off from the resources needed to break the cycle of generational poverty. Nearly half (49 percent) of all single moms in the United States with children under age five are living in poverty, compared to just 9 percent of married couples with children the same age (American Community Survey, 2019: 5-Year Estimates).

We are living in a moment that demands urgency from us all, and Jeremiah Program is committed to meeting the moment. When recruitment began last fall, JP received nearly 400 applications—six times the number of applications received in 2019. We served over 900 moms and kids in 2020, a 21 percent increase from the year before, and the highest enrollment in JP’s history. We are proud to share that nearly 200 moms completed JP’s empowerment course, and 545 children benefited from educational opportunities like summer camps, tutoring and virtual learning.

In 2021, we plan to do even more. That looks like serving more than 1,000 moms and kids, as well as being at 100 percent occupancy in our residential buildings.

The numbers only tell part of the story. We are planning to expand the JP 2Gen model to new locations and launching a new recruitment strategy founded on the message that single moms are already great moms and inviting them to become JP moms too.

We’re familiar with the inequities single mothers face in this country, and we know the obstacles they must overcome. But we know that JP moms have all the skills they need to meet any hurdle, and we’ll be there supporting them along the way.

FARGO-MOORHEAD



“The Jeremiah Program has truly been a bright light in the lives of my son and I. This experience has made such a positive impact on so many areas of our lives! The program has given us the seeds to really grow and develop a plan for a great life, for which I am so very grateful.” —McKenzy

MINNEAPOLIS



“The Jeremiah Program is an amazing opportunity for single mothers and their children. Being a part of this community has helped me grow as an individual, and is constantly empowering me as a mother and student. I am so appreciative for the support that the staff and community have offered me. I am now excited for what the future has to offer my daughter and me. I am so thankful to be a part of this program.” —Emma Jo

ST PAUL



“Ever since I became involved in the Jeremiah Program, it has made me realize that I am able to get my career and life on track with support financially and emotionally. I am constantly reminded that I am able to do this even when I want to give up. I have also met some wonderful mothers along my journey who support me too. My daughter also has been supported in my journey. She has many friends at the Child Development Center, which makes it easy for play dates because the mothers are in the same apartment complex. The teachers at the Child Development Center help my daughter in her journey of learning new things in her everyday life.” —Jessica

ROCHESTER-SE MN



“JP staff were there for me in every possible way by identifying and prioritizing my needs, connecting me to the resources, and encouraging me to stay strong to get through the issue and barriers. I personally need someone who can get on my level and foresee the clearer, more positive path in the chaos, as I open up and speak about what bothers me. My coach has been able to do that for me.” —Sydney

AUSTIN



“Being at JP, I’ve gained a toolbox of skills. One of those skills is believing and being confident in myself, because at one point obtaining this degree was a lofty goal, and now here we are! There’s no limits!” —Cristina

BOSTON



“My first year with Jeremiah I reached my lowest point. I didn’t have much hope for my future. Working with my coach I was reminded how strong I was, which helped me to snap out of it. I’m inspired to be my daughter’s inspiration. With the encouragement from my coaches I worked hard to acquire a job, an apartment and maintained a 3.9 GPA in my academics. There’s no other way but up from here. I now understand how truly blessed I am.” —Tiffany

BROOKLYN



“It was important for me to attend college for many reasons. First, I wanted to have a job that I loved instead of jobs where I was miserable. I wanted to get into healthcare to help people. Even though I had to take a break due to being a single mom, my goal is to get back into school, finish my degree and go on to pursue my master’s degree.” —Venisha

Jeremiah Program is a vibrant and proven national nonprofit organization that offers one of the country’s leading two-generation (2Gen) strategies for dismantling systemic barriers that have led to an epidemic of poverty among single mothers and their children. Founded in Minneapolis in 1998, JP has expanded programming to seven campuses across the nation.



MOTHERS' STORIES

JEREMIAH PROGRAM MOMS AND KIDS FLOURISH WITHIN OUR PROVEN MODEL OF REDEFINING WHAT IS POSSIBLE

Single mothers seeking to pursue a college education to disrupt the cycle of poverty face an uphill climb as they navigate a system that wasn't designed with them in mind. A gauntlet of barriers lies between them and the goals of college graduation and quality early childhood education for their children. Running a household while working a job that keeps them at the poverty line while finding time to study and seek out affordable childcare—all while parenting under the scrutiny and stigma of being a single mom—is their daily reality.

This year, the gauntlet of barriers included unemployment, heightened medical risk, loss of childcare and prolonged isolation.

But the mothers of JP do not define their stories based solely on the obstacles they face and overcome and—despite the grim realities of 2020—this year was no exception. Our moms and children continued weekly coaching sessions to vent and strategize on how to mitigate these barriers and redefine and reframe what is possible. This report summarizes only a few of the remarkable stories JP bore witness to and helped shape in 2020.

JEREMIAH PROGRAM NATIONAL IMPACT

900+

LIVES IMPACTED

Impacted more than 900 mothers and children with our innovative two-generation model for the path out of poverty

400

NEW APPLICATIONS

Received more than 400 new mom applications, a 600% increase from 2019

545

CHILDREN

Served 545 children with new educational summer camps, tutoring, remote learning opportunities or quality child care.

**JEREMIAH PROGRAM
NATIONAL IMPACT**

268

LAPTOPS & TABLETS

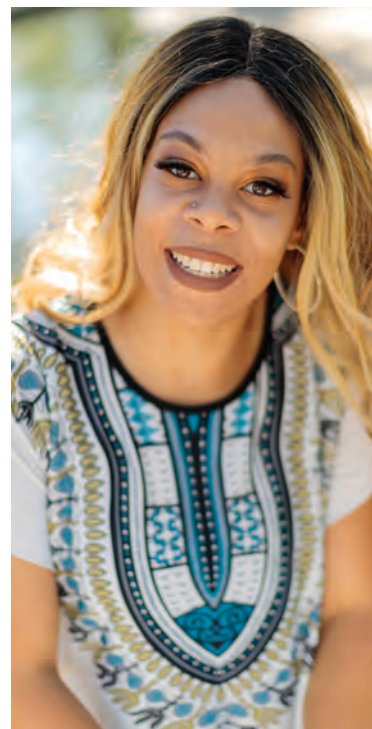
*distributed to support families’
shift to remote learning*

Every JP mom stayed connected to their goal of completing career-track education this year, attending college virtually when their campuses shut down due to health risks—and yes, taking a break when they needed one. But, of course, it wasn’t only higher education facilities that closed. Ninety percent of our moms have children who also attended school remotely. Combined with the temporary closure of many child-care facilities, this meant there were no parenting or study breaks for most of 2020.

Despite these risks and challenges, 24 JP mothers graduated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of them was Jazmin from St. Paul, who never wavered from her plan, even taking credits toward her master’s degree before finishing her bachelor’s degree in accounting. In addition to being highly motivated and organized, Jazmin relied on her coach to help her make it to the finish line. “Just knowing that I have someone to turn to, to talk to, that is going to pull out resources for me and try to accommodate and make my life a little easier was what helped me through this final term,” she says.

Another was Deila from Boston. She completed her degree in business administration with the support of her JP coach, who helped her stay on track while she and her children attended school from home. “Coaching supported me, motivated me,” she says. “We were able to create a schedule for the kids. [It was] a resource for my kids, a resource for many other things. It was really helpful.”





“Jeremiah Program staff communicated to me that they understood my situation. The staff supported and were there for me in every possible way by identifying and prioritizing my needs, connecting me to the resources, and encouraging me to stay strong to get through the issue and barriers. I personally need someone who can get on my level and foresee the clearer, more positive path in the chaos, as I open up and speak about what bothers me. My coach has been able to do that for me.” —Sydney

Shannen from Austin completed nursing school despite losing her childcare while parenting a one-year-old. Even though her graduation wasn't the celebration she had imagined, it was still special. “Jeremiah Program had a photographer come out and take pictures of us,” she recalls about her graduation experience. “They got us like a cap and gown and everything because we didn't have one for the community college here because there was no such ceremony. That was really sweet.”

Although the graduating moms were not able to attend traditional ceremonies, Jeremiah Program made sure they felt celebrated. The campuses hosted powerful, personalized events that acknowledged the past, present and future of each graduate and their children. Other mothers joined in, as well as community board members, volunteers, partners, friends, families, and former and current JP staff members and alumni.



This year, many JP moms reported that the sisterhood they've found in the program was a huge benefit during this time of stress and isolation. That sisterhood grew and formalized during 2020.

In the midst of a pandemic, we reached out to our alumni and invited them into the conversation about how JP should move forward. As a result, the JP Alumni Fellowship program was born. The goal of the program is to bring women who were previously involved in JP into the leadership tent.

Christine Smith is an alum who joined the fellowship program this year. While she has maintained regular contact with Jeremiah Program since leaving in 2006, being a fellow, she says, allows her to contribute expertise she felt was missing when she was going through the program.

"The alumni are a huge untapped resource," says Smith, who has a master's degree in family life education and works for the Minnesota Department of Health. "Some of us are moving into national leadership roles. We can really provide some good insight into helping build a program, making it more robust, finding opportunities where there have been barriers."

Thirteen fellows were selected for the first cohort. They received training in relational leadership and were asked to weigh in on how JP can support expanding education access, workforce development, and youth advocacy throughout the campuses and beyond. They also set the agenda for next year. One of their primary goals was hosting the first-ever JP Alumni Summit planned for early 2021, which was attended live by 150 current JP moms and alumni and featured conversations with Tarana Burke and Mónica Ramirez.

**JEREMIAH PROGRAM
NATIONAL IMPACT**

13

ALUMNI FELLOWS

*selected to strengthen JP's
advocacy for single mothers.*





**JEREMIAH PROGRAM
NATIONAL IMPACT**

24

**MOMS GRADUATED
- CONGRATULATIONS!**

Each level of education after high school reduces a single mom's likelihood of living in poverty by one third



Alumni fellow Anita had this to say about how she hopes this new national network will benefit moms.

“My vision is to be able to have other women learn from my mistakes and successes,” she says. “I want them to be able to grow beyond how they’ve grown within Jeremiah. Even after leaving Jeremiah, I want them to be able to overcome any obstacle, no matter what they’ve faced.”

While these are just a few of the hundreds of remarkable stories that unfolded in 2020.

During a year when simply surviving was a miracle, the women of JP took massive steps forward with the support of tireless staff members who remained committed to their wellbeing despite juggling various hardships. The story of JP in 2020 can be summarized as an example of the triumphant power of community and mutual care.

It also revealed what we already know: Our moms arrive at JP strong and powerful because they are no strangers to hardship. In the words of mom Alyssa, “I have set up a nest to brace for things like—not quite like this, but for difficult circumstances. I’ve encountered things like spotty employment, low income or gaps in income, or lack of childcare, or school closures and things like that. That’s why I’m here at Jeremiah Program.”

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



It would be a massive understatement to say 2020 was a year of challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted our routines, disrupted the fallacy of the American Dream and reminded us what is truly important. For Jeremiah Program moms, the pandemic required many hard pivots as they worked to stay on track with their personal goals while managing their responsibilities as mothers, caregivers and college students.

However, if there's one thing the pandemic reminded us, it's how powerful we are when we all come together.

We're proud of what Jeremiah Program moms and staff were able to navigate and achieve in 2020. Because of our collective hard work, we served 21 percent more JP families during the COVID-19 pandemic than in the previous year. Two hundred sixty-eight laptops were provided so moms could remain engaged in their career-track education programs. Our early childhood staff mobilized to offer private tutoring and backup childcare opportunities and create portable virtual lessons and learning resources moms could utilize with their kids while at home studying.

As I look back on this year, I feel incredible gratitude toward JP staff and our donors. What we were able to achieve for JP families simply would not have been possible without the hard work of JP staff and the immense generosity of our donors. Many JP staff continued their work from home, juggling their personal demands as caretakers while coaching and supporting moms remotely. However, like many frontline workers, our JP teachers didn't have this option. They left the safety of their homes daily to provide a stable and positive learning environment for our little ones. Our teachers walked toward the risk and uncertainty of the pandemic because they understand how critical consistency and quality are

to the lives of our families. In turn, our donors responded to our call for support, making the effort to give abundantly during an urgent and unpredictable time.

In the best of times, single mothers face intersecting obstacles as they work to care for their families and overcome their circumstances. JP's programming ensures families have access to the resources every family needs to disrupt the cycle of poverty: opportunity to pursue a career-track education at a local post-secondary institution; exceptional early learning experiences for children; career development support and mentoring; a supportive community and stabilized housing. The interplay of 2Gen support helps to create the conditions for mothers and children to unapologetically center all of their identities, bringing them into necessary conversations and empowering them as leaders.

As we all know, the pandemic is not yet over and the demand for JP is not decreasing. Our moms and their children are facing uncertainty and the potential to experience a deeper level of poverty than ever before. Our commitment to them must remain as unwavering as they are. After all, there is no one who has experienced poverty who isn't resilient, who hasn't demonstrated discipline and who hasn't demonstrated deep optimism.

The road to full pandemic recovery will be long and remains unpredictable, but JP's commitments remain steadfast. We will continue to come together to meet whatever challenges arise in 2021, just as we did in 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sandy Santana', written in a cursive style.

Sandy Santana

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Net Assets 12/31/2019	\$35,108,237
Change in Net Assets Unrestricted	\$222,878
Change in Net Assets with Restrictions	\$(247,823)
Capital Contribution	\$8,065,198
Net Assets 12/31/2020	\$43,148,490

Operating Revenue \$12,159,286 vs. 2019 \$11,173,692	Operating Expenses \$ 12,987,614 vs. 2019 \$11,484,206	Non-Operating Income \$803,383 vs. 2019 \$2,470,329
Total Assets \$51,443,341 vs. 2019 \$44,367,370	Total Liabilities \$8,294,851 vs. 2019 \$9,259,133	Net Assets \$43,148,490 vs. 2019 \$ 35,108,237

JP SITS AT THIS INCREDIBLE NEXUS OF THE PANDEMIC AND EVERYTHING WE ARE NAVIGATING AS A COUNTRY.

100%

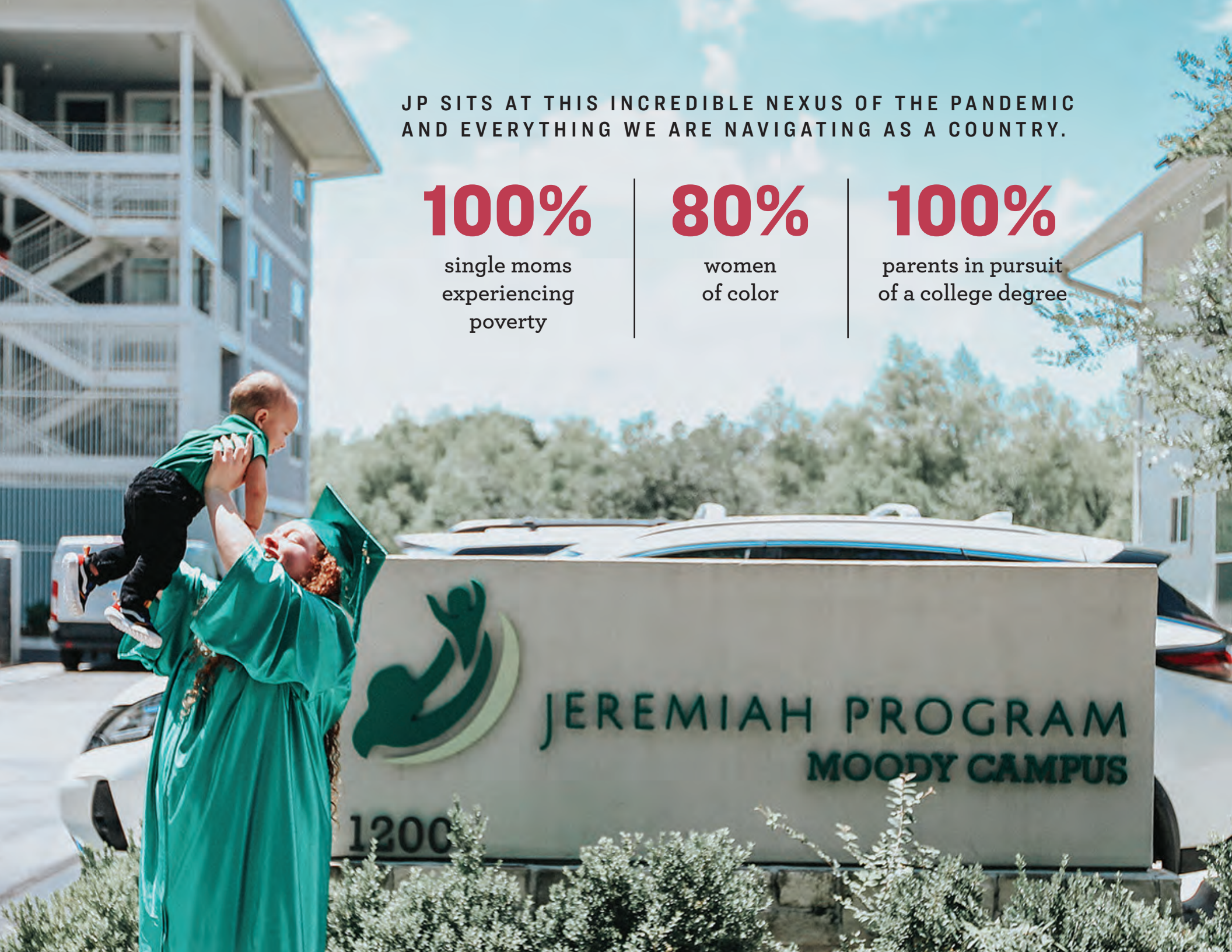
single moms
experiencing
poverty

80%

women
of color

100%

parents in pursuit
of a college degree





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JP is grateful to the new members of our Visionary Circle and to the 174 individuals, families and organizations that gave over \$100,000 cumulatively to JP in 2020. Throughout our history, Visionary Circle donors have given more than \$66,000,000 in financial support to our mission.



Michael J. O'Connell Society

Named for our visionary founder, the Michael J. O'Connell Society recognizes individuals who pledge to make a gift to JP through their estate plans, will, or trust. JP thanks the 42 members who have made a commitment to ensure the long-term success of our work for generations to come. For more information about planned gifts, please visit www.jeremiahprogramlegacy.org or contact us at 651-332-5020.



*Congratulations to our JP families and team!
2020 was a terrific year for our moms and children.*



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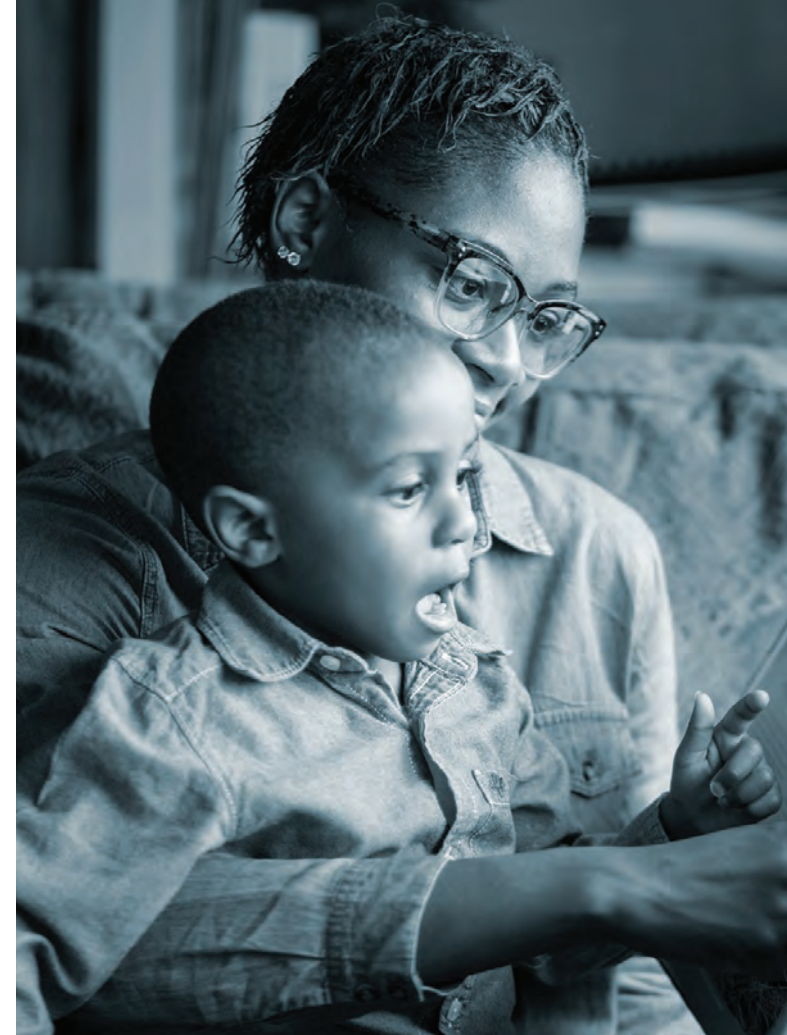
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Paramark Real Estate Services
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 6
Results Foundation
Schaap Family Foundation
Sterling State Bank
Winona State University





Jeremiah Program envisions a world where single mothers and their children prosper.

