

IMAGINE



EXCLUSIVE
SPARK TANK

JP'S INAUGURAL
PITCH COMPETITION

FIRST ISSUE

THE POWER OF
JP MOMS OVER 25 YEARS

THE JP ALUMNI
FELLOWSHIP

THREE YEARS IN, THE 12-MONTH
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM IS COMING INTO ITS OWN

INTERVIEW A JP ALUM AND HER ADULT SON DISCUSS THEIR JP YEARS

IMAGINE

ANNUAL REPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE JP COMMUNITY

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JP!

**FOR 25 YEARS,
THOUSANDS OF
POWERFUL STORIES
HAVE INTERTWINED
TO MAKE JP WHAT IT
IS TODAY.**



Happy birthday, Jeremiah Program!

You know, one of the things I really love about Jeremiah Program is that the idea that was birthed over 25 years ago — incredibly simple, incredibly elegant, and deeply relevant in 2023 — acknowledged and understood that families matter. All of a single mom's identities matter. It matters that she's a parent. It matters that she has hopes and dreams for her children. It matters that she has hopes and dreams for herself. And 25 years later, that's what we're doing at JP. We're centering moms

and families. We're centering their voices. We're creating a space for moms to be in conversation with the women and parents they've been, the women and parents they are, and more importantly, creating a space for them to reimagine the women and parents they desire to become.

JP turning 25 is really around 2,000-plus moms who are moving from this place of gratitude to agency, around reimagining what's possible for their families, what's possible for their community and, in some ways, what's possible for their country. Jeremiah Program turning 25 is really also about this acknowledgement that women are uniquely positioned to not only reimagine what's possible for their families but also to author solutions, to be able to talk about the structures — the systems, the public policy — that, with different insights and different stories, could be reframed in a way that enables and supports more families and supports more communities.

As we turn 25, I'm really proud that we have stuck to our five pillars: college access and career support; quality early childhood education; safe and affordable housing; empowerment and leadership training; and supportive community. What we're doing now is leveraging the insight, power, understanding, and feedback from moms to be able to strengthen those five pillars, to be able to reimagine how to make them reflective of this moment.

But the core of who we are is who we've been for the better part of 25 years, and that is really anchored in Michael O'Connell and the group of folks over the last 25 years who have showed up and showed out in this incredible way. Whether you were a Cook for Kids volunteer, an Empowerment and Leadership facilitator, or whether you provided holiday gifts or Christmas gifts for kiddos or served on Community Boards of Trustees or the National Governing Board of Directors, it has taken a constellation of players to be able to sit where we are today. Our moms do nothing alone, and neither does this organization.

We really are reflective of this wonderful community, this phenomenal group of people who understand that there is very little difference between a JP mom and any mom. What they're looking for is not a handout — they're looking for an opportunity. They're looking for tools and resources with an understanding that the structures weren't built with them in mind.

And so, in a lot of ways, our 25th anniversary is a big thank you. It's a big hug. It's a big affirmation.

And we're really just getting started. ✨

Chastity Lord, JP President and CEO

5 WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED WITH JP!

**WE DO NOTHING ALONE.
COMMUNITY SUSTAINS US ALL—
AND MOST CERTAINLY JP!
HERE'S HOW YOU CAN TAP IN.**



1. [Sign up for our newsletter](#). Each month, you'll receive a thought-provoking message directly from JP President and CEO Chastity Lord, along with updates on JP moms, staff, and campuses.
2. Join a JP board. Not only do we have our National Governing Board of Directors, but each of our campuses also has a local Community Board of Trustees. How would you like to serve? info@jeremiahprogram.org
3. Become a sponsor. Each of our nine campuses holds events throughout the year, not only to foster community among JP families but also to connect JP with the larger community. Our sponsors make this possible! info@jeremiahprogram.org
4. Volunteer. There are several ways you can volunteer with us!
 - [Sign up to volunteer](#) on a campus near you based on that campus's needs.
 - [Become a Career Volunteer Mentor](#), dedicating several weeks to guiding a JP mom professionally.
5. [Refer a mom](#). We spread the word about JP's offerings in a number of ways, but word of mouth remains a powerful avenue. If you know a mom who's ready to start or return to a postsecondary degree program, tell them about us!

Life, Love, and Community



ONE FAMILY'S JP JOURNEY

WHEN CHRISTINE SMITH JOINED JEREMIAH PROGRAM IN 2002 WITH HER TWO TODDLERS, CHINA AND BENARD, SHE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HER LIFE WOULD LOOK LIKE 20 YEARS LATER.

She just hoped that better was coming for her and her children — and it was. Once they joined the JP community, they found support in a new family.

Today, the 2006 JP Minneapolis grad is the equity director for the Penumbra Center for Racial Healing in Minneapolis, and she continues to give back to JP. A member of the inaugural class of JP Alumni Fellows in 2021, Christine also serves as a facilitator for Empowerment and Leadership, the three-month course every mom enters when they begin their JP journey.

China and Benard are now young adults who each devote their artistic talents and passions to creating work they love — China as a freelance artist and Benard as a musician and photographer.

Christine recently sat down with Benard to discuss their JP experiences and how their past has shaped their present. They even learned some new things about each other.

Note: This interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.



Christine: How would you describe your experience as a JP kid?

Benard: I would describe it as fun. Community. I think those are the words that I would use to describe it, but overall, it was just a great period of time in my childhood. I have a lot of fond memories to look back on at that point in time.

Christine: Speaking of, what's one of your favorite JP memories?

Benard: We got bikes one year — I don't know if it was from some type of fundraiser for Christmas or whatever — and me and China rode our bikes in the hallway, and all the other kids were with us. Running around, playing Hide-and-Go-Seek, and hiding in the computer lab. That was fun. There are a lot of great memories.

Christine: Nice! Looking back on it, how do you think our time at JP affected our family?

Benard: I think it affected us in a positive way. It gave you the help that you needed to focus on the things that you needed to do to propel yourself further. And I think that it embedded me with a sense of community and belonging, just growing up with the people that I grew up with and then becoming friends and like close family members after we left, too.

Christine: What's something you didn't understand as a child while we were there that you understand now?

Benard: I didn't really consider back then why it was only women, mothers with their children. But understanding that Jeremiah Program is a program designed to help single mothers and their children, I think I can appreciate it a lot more — understanding it better, versus just having experienced

it. Knowing that there are those types of resources out there, knowing that there are people who care about other people and that there are people out there doing something about that to provide support in the lack of a community.

Christine: Awesome. Those are great answers. You got any questions for me?

Benard: Yeah! What was your life like right before joining JP?

Christine: Right before we were in Jeremiah Program, I was homeless. I was renting from my mom — in a really cheap upper duplex from her — and then she decided to sell her house and move into an apartment. And we literally lived on an air mattress in her living room for probably about two months before we had to move. Her landlord said we had to move, and we didn't have anywhere else to go. But your grandma, your dad's mom, was like, "Well, you can rent a room here." Your dad had relapsed on drugs, and I didn't really want to be in that environment. But versus going and staying at some of the shelters, it seemed like the safest place for us to go. And we had already started the process to go to the Jeremiah Program, so I knew it was only a matter of six weeks, a month, or two months or so to finish Empowerment, and then I would move in.

Benard: Wow, that's amazing, just how far you came. How did you know JP was the right choice for you and for us?

Christine: I felt like I knew it was the right program when I was in the Empowerment program. I remember being in class, and I was questioning it. And the class was presenting this idea

"JP GAVE YOU THE HELP THAT YOU NEEDED TO FOCUS ON THE THINGS THAT YOU NEEDED TO DO TO PROPEL YOURSELF FURTHER. AND IT EMBEDDED ME WITH A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING."

— BENARD

that I was responsible for my destiny, and a light bulb went off. Consciously, I knew I was responsible for my destiny, but I *didn't know*. I didn't have the skills. I didn't maybe believe in myself enough. But in that moment, I remember this light bulb going off, and all of a sudden, I was like, "Oh, my God. I have the choice right now to change



the trajectory of my kids' life by staying in this program versus staying in a relationship that was toxic."

Benard: I never knew that. That's amazing. I'm actually really interested in this next answer, too: What's one of your most memorable JP experiences?

Christine: It's really hard to sum it up. I mean, there was so much community — from the staff to the women to the kids — it's just a blur of memories of the community, the safety. It was like our family. I mean, we had this huge family, this huge village that just wrapped around us. And after I left there, I see how valuable that is because being a single mom is kind of an isolating experience. You're working and you have your kids and stuff, but just in general, life can be kind of isolating. A lot of times, there just isn't so much community around, and in Jeremiah, there was just community everywhere.

Benard: What's a specific moment that you really appreciate that you can look back on?

Christine: I would say sitting in my apartment. This happened often, but one time I remember in particular,

I was looking out my window. You guys were in the room playing, and I really realized I was 100% safe, and I had never experienced that level of safety in my life before. So just from an emotional, verbal, physical standpoint, I was just 100% safe, and that was a really profound moment for me.

Benard: Wow. That's beautiful. What were your hopes for the future when we started Jeremiah Program, and how have they panned out?

Christine: Honestly, I had no idea what was to come. I did not know what life was like. I think that was the scariest part. I knew what life was like with your dad; I knew what that path was like, and that was familiar. It was clear, and I knew what to do and how to react, but I just thought maybe there was something better. And I just really had no idea what that was. I did not see myself where I am today. I'm grateful.

Benard: I hear that. What has led you to stay involved with JP over all these years?

Christine: I think it's the impact: safety, community, generosity, the mission. I feel fundamentally that my blessings

are what I can contribute, how I can serve, and what I can be a vessel for in this world. To be able to stay connected with the program that made such a big impact on me is super ... just overwhelmingly humbling. I feel very honored to continue to be a part of it.

Benard: That's fire.

Christine: Anything else you want to add?

Benard: I love you.

Christine: I love you, too.

Benard: This was a great chance to talk with you and hear those things. I never knew all of that, so it's kind of cool to hear. It's also nice to reminisce on fond memories at JP, too. I don't really think about it all the time, but when I do look back, it's always nice. So, this is nice.

Christine: Same. I think the only thing I would add is just the community that wrapped around Jeremiah outside of the Jeremiah Program is so important, too. You never know where a person is going to be in life. You never know what greatness is in the children that are in that program, what greatness is in the parents that are in that program, what they're going to be. This could be the next heart surgeon, the next person that cures cancer. You just never know, and so it's just powerful.

I feel like I've been able to impact a lot of people's lives in a good way in the work I've done. I feel like you and China have, just from your experiences. All that was poured into us makes us better, and then we want to pour that back out into the world.

Benard: That was a great addition. I don't think I could match that. 🌸



Coming Full Circle

A JP ALUM REFLECTS ON HER JP JOURNEY — FROM HER TIME AS A JP MOM TO ADVOCATING FOR MOMS AS A COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER.

*When Jeremiah Program alum **Nekey Oliver** graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in sociology in 2012, she planned to work in a field that helped youth. Today, the mother of three, inaugural JP Alumni Fellow, and JP Minneapolis-St. Paul community board member is the Director of Government Relations and Community Engagement for the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.*

Here, she looks back on her experience and appreciates how life has brought her back to JP. In many ways, she never left.

When I first joined Jeremiah Program, I was in dire need of a support system that my own family was unable to provide. Becoming a parent at a young age was unexpected and forced me to deviate from the path I had envisioned for myself. After being told family housing had a three-year waitlist, I learned about JP from a student in the University of MN's Student Parent Help Center. The program not only offered me housing and a safe space for both me and my child but also became a sanctuary where we felt valued and supported.

One of my biggest takeaways during my time at JP was learning the true power of community. I was introduced to organizations and individuals whom I may have never crossed paths with otherwise. For example, I was connected to the founder of Evereve, formerly known as Hot Mama, to begin a mentoring relationship. She is now an amazing friend who has taught me the importance of true kindness and that everyone has a lesson to teach. The women I had the privilege of meeting have become like a second family to me. In fact, I am now the godmother to one of their children. Even after leaving the program, my son often expresses how much he misses being there, which is a testament to JP's profound impact on both of us. These connections have further enriched my life and provided me with

numerous opportunities to continue growing both personally and professionally.

Today, I proudly hold the position of one of the youngest directors at a state agency, and I attribute a significant portion of my success to the opportunities and experiences JP afforded me. The program equipped me with the necessary tools, guidance, and unwavering support to excel in my career and become a respected leader in my field.

And now, my journey with JP has come full circle. In 2021, I got the extraordinary opportunity to serve on the JP Minneapolis-St. Paul Community Board of Trustees, a position I'm honored to still hold. This role allows me to contribute my voice and share my experiences as a mom and JP alum, inspiring and supporting other moms in the program. I'm proud to advocate for those who are often misunderstood but undoubtedly deserving of support.

When I think about it, the resources and support system JP provided were instrumental in helping me realize my dreams and the importance of taking a pause, reflecting, and appreciating every moment — whether good or bad. Each experience has shaped me and brought me to where I am today.

I am forever grateful for the profound impact JP continues to have on my life. The program has armed me with the tools to enhance who I am as an individual and create a better future not just for myself but for my family and children as well. The program instilled in me the belief that with the right support and determination, no dream is out of reach. ✨



“The resources and support system JP provided were instrumental in helping me realize my dreams.”



*CAMPUSES WITHOUT ATTACHED HOUSING ARE FORGING
THE FUTURE OF TWO-GENERATION WORK THROUGH
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS AND CREATIVE PROGRAMMING.*

a model *for* tomorrow



Jeremiah Program is built on the belief that access to five key pillars can disrupt poverty two generations at a time: career-track college access, quality early childhood education, empowerment and leadership training, supportive community, and safe and affordable housing.

But not every JP campus relies on the same model to provide these core pillars.

The Baltimore, Brooklyn, Boston, and Las Vegas campuses, for example, are informally referred to as “non-residential” campuses. Housing is secured through community partnerships rather than provided in a JP-owned apartment building. But the term “non-residential” falls short by implying something is missing.

“Our non-residential campus model isn’t just a variation of regular housing. It’s a dynamic approach with potential to reshape housing practices and foster positive outcomes,” says Bonita Broadnax, JP’s director of housing and operations.

“The non-residential campuses are exciting *because* they lack attached housing. It’s an avenue to explore public-private partnerships, creating a model for others to follow.”

A PROMISING AND EVOLVING MODEL

As Bonita and the leadership of all four non-residential campuses point out, the “community hub” model offers several key advantages.

Moms with children up to 10 years old are eligible, while the upper age in residential settings is 5.

Women who already have stable housing can get a jump start on pursuing their educations.

Women still seeking housing can tap into a city-wide network of options and access support as they transition into a safe, affordable home.

Because moms live in different neighborhoods, they act as unofficial ambassadors to the program in pockets of the community that may not know about JP.

And, as Las Vegas Executive Director Maria Tucker, Ph.D., put it, “The gift is in being laser-focused on higher education. We don’t have moms coming to us simply to get housing. It becomes really about college and going to college.”

These advantages aren’t just anecdotal. Expanding non-residential services became a strategic priority after a 2018 study of the Boston campus — conducted by partner institution Endicott College and funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation — found the model to be viable, scalable, and flexible.

As Alison Carter Marlow, executive director of JP Boston, said, “Now is the time to explore ... approaches and service delivery models that maintain our core mission while evolving to meet the changing needs of non-residential moms.”

“Our non-residential model is about identifying specific needs and partnering with those [organizations] excelling in those areas,” said VP of Second-Generation Programming Payal Seth. “It’s not just standing up a program; it’s about recognizing gaps and offering *relevant* programming.”

Brooklyn and Boston were JP’s first two non-residential campuses, Boston opening in 2016 and Brooklyn following in 2017. As part of a five-year goal to increase the number of moms JP serves by 170%, Baltimore and Las Vegas opened their doors in 2022.

As a new ED, Maria found that, even though local needs are major variables in her programming, she benefits from

being able to reference an existing blueprint and the experience of her non-residential colleagues.

“The collaborative relationships we have as educators across campuses, along with the infrastructure that JP has put in place, make us a more stable startup here locally,” she said. “It helps us be taken seriously on the ground.”

For example, Alison can advise her colleagues on creative ways to collaborate with local higher ed institutions.

“Our approach is about forging bonds with colleges, ensuring they understand the value of our moms,” Alison said. “We’re flipping recruitment, advocating for our moms already in college, and seeking partners in rewriting the narrative.”



Bonita sees this nimble approach as the future of two-generation work.

“With our non-residential model, we’re shaping a national impact — changing systems, working with public entities, and ensuring the success of single moms in housing,” she said. “With public-private partnerships, we have the chance to influence broader thinking about housing. Our approach could reshape how organizations provide for single mothers in need.”

UNIQUE CHALLENGES CALL FOR UNIQUE SOLUTIONS

By serving as community centers and hubs for resource coordination, the Baltimore, Brooklyn, Boston, and Las Vegas campuses create multiple avenues for growth and opportunity specific to the needs of the women they serve. While most single moms experiencing poverty face many of the same challenges, some are exacerbated by location.

For example, Las Vegas is a popular city for those seeking work in the hospitality industry. As a result, many families are transplants and may not have an established local support network.

Boston’s institutions are notoriously difficult to navigate, and families often encounter underfunded neighborhoods and struggling schools, among other disparities.

Baltimore has limited and unreliable public transportation options, and Brooklyn has a massive shortage of affordable childcare that’s open and available when single moms need it.

“NOW IS THE TIME TO EXPLORE APPROACHES AND SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS THAT MAINTAIN OUR CORE MISSION WHILE EVOLVING TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF NON-RESIDENTIAL MOMS.”

– ALISON CARTER MARLOW,
JP BOSTON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In all cases, moms may love their city but find the puzzle of researching and accessing necessary resources incompatible with single parenting.

Non-residential campuses can break the code.

“Our aim is to guide and champion moms through complex systems,” Payal says. “It’s about reinforcing their safety nets, making sure they’re not alone in navigating challenges.”

“It’s overwhelming. ‘Where are the resources? How do you connect me to housing? How do you connect me to rent-stabilized apartments?’” says Brooklyn Executive Director Courtney Crawford. “You don’t know where to go, and if you try to call the city, it makes it so hard. So, part of this program is saying, ‘We are your resources. We are going to get you connected to what you need.’ And we keep trying to perfect it.”

In addition to supporting moms in accessing resources, JP staff working on and with non-residential campuses are also becoming experts in how to help moms find and maintain successful landlord-tenant relationships.

FUN (AND LEARNING) IN THE SUMMER SUN

Summer can be a tricky time for single moms looking for safe and affordable opportunities for their kids. JP’s non-residential campuses don’t operate Child Development Centers, but we step up big time when it comes to making sure kids have a blast (safely) while school is out.

As part of our summer enrichment programming, JP invests \$1,250 in each child in each of our nine locations, paying for camps, classes, and other activities.

Some sign up for crafts and swimming at the YMCA. Others opt for hip-hop dance, martial arts, or robotics classes. And still others pursue tutoring to combat learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A few of the older kids even get behind the wheel for driver’s ed. Each family makes the decision that’s best for them, and JP is there to make it possible.

“Summer enrichment shouldn’t be a privilege,” said Payal Seth, JP’s VP of second-generation programming. “We’re democratizing access to quality programs, opening doors to experiences that were previously reserved for the fortunate few.”



“The creative aspect ... is exciting,” said Bonita, who has been working on a new curriculum for single moms navigating the housing market. “We’re partnering with mom-and-pop landlords, offering master leases for security, and fostering beneficial collaborations.”

A PLACE TO COME TOGETHER

Non-residential campuses may not operate apartment buildings, but they do have physical locations. These spaces serve as gathering spots for coaching, studying, Empowerment and Leadership sessions, and childcare. For coming together to forge connections as a community.

“I really would love our physical office to be a community hub,” says Danielle Staton, executive director at JP Baltimore, a new campus that is growing into its space and identity. “I want it to be a space where not just JP moms feel like they could be a part, but other moms in the Baltimore community, other single moms, other adjacent organizations.”

Chantel Berkeley, a JP mom from Baltimore, has found the campus to be not only welcoming but also a radical improvement to her life.

“I love that the whole program is about community and togetherness,” she said. “They schedule events for us to get to know each other, to celebrate each other, to encourage and support each other, and also for the children to engage with one another. That is such a good component of the program.”

Because moms do not live in the same location, fostering the famous JP sisterhood means going beyond occasional social hours. Building community is an intense and intentional aspect of the work. Sometimes the gatherings are in person and sometimes they are virtual, but they are all structured to add value to moms’ lives by teaching them new skills, creating space for laughter, and making sure no one feels they must walk their path alone.

“We’re cultivating connections that go beyond location,” said Payal. “Non-residential campuses embrace the essence of community.” ✨

A SPACE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

MICHAEL J. O'CONNELL IS THE FOUNDER OF JEREMIAH PROGRAM.

**HE WAS AN ACTIVE LEADER IN THE ORGANIZATION FROM 1993 UNTIL 2009,
IS THE NAMESAKE OF OUR LEGACY FUND, THE MICHAEL J. O'CONNELL SOCIETY,
AND REMAINS A VOCAL ADVOCATE AND SUPPORTER TO THIS DAY. THIS ESSAY WAS
ADAPTED FROM HIS RECORDED REMARKS IN HONOR OF JP'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY.**

In the fall of 1991, I became pastor of the Church of the Basilica of Saint Mary. As I was beginning that job, the pastor of the Episcopal Cathedral asked me if I would join a board called Students with Children. The church had a school, and they organized Students with Children because there was also a community college, two vocational-technology schools, and a university right in this neighborhood. The idea of Students with Children was that lower-income moms who wanted to go to college could leave their children in the program, go to one of these schools for free, and their kids would be safe.

A month after I came, 38 families had registered for the Students with Children center. By October, it was down to 25 families. November was down to about 12, and by December, it was down to six.

It was a real conundrum: We thought that we were providing a great amenity for these young women. What was the problem?



I was curious, so much so that I started to look into the reality of these women's lives. I didn't know anything about them. All I knew was they were lower-income women with kids who wanted to go to school.

What I found out was that there were dynamics in the families of these women that virtually forced them to leave school. They lived in a really complex world.

These women — highly intentioned, wanting to go to college, knowing how important it was for the well-being of their family — had 18 things that could go wrong in their life, any one of which could stop them dead in their tracks.

First of all, they had to deal with their income situation. Often, they had very unstable housing. The cars didn't work. The children got sick. There were all kinds of things that could stop a woman in the middle of her first semester if she didn't have the support system that she needed. That was the reality that became clear to me.

“

THE COMMUNITY ITSELF — I CALL IT THE SISTERHOOD — IS THE SECRET SAUCE.

”

So, then, I thought, “What if we could create the semblance of a college dorm that would be a safe, affordable, and nurturing space for the whole family — mom *and* kids?” And that’s how Jeremiah Program was born.

THE EVOLUTION

I looked across the street from the church, and there was a piece of property owned by the local power company, Northern States Power. Their philanthropy was trying to get safe, affordable housing for lower-income families, and I said, “Well, what if we build on your piece of property there?” And they essentially said, “Good idea!”

The first building was finished and ready for occupancy on New Year’s Eve 1998. The first six families moved in, six more families moved in about three months later, and then the final six came after that. In 2002, we added another wing, doubled the size, and put in a world-class early childhood program so a mom could get up in the morning, fix breakfast for the kids, put the kids in the early childhood program, go out, work, go to school, and mostly feel safe.

What we found out is that this community of women and kids became a great support for each other. A lot of these women came in here thinking they were the only ones that had all this bad luck, only to find out there were a lot of people in the same situation. That sisterhood was a powerful thing, and it’s still going on today.

Another piece of the puzzle was access. We live in Minneapolis, a fairly sophisticated city with all kinds of services. There are nonprofits in this city that probably deal with each one of the 18 things that could go wrong for women seeking an education. But what we found was that women in the program didn’t have time to go out and find those services, much less coordinate them. So part of the inspiration for the program became consolidating all these scattered, well-intentioned nonprofits into a college dorm.

Early on, we knew we had to offer ... fundamentals of homemaking, working with your children, and organizing yourself to go to school with your family.

The next thing they learned — and it really has proven to be a major part of success — is called Empowerment [and Leadership].

Empowerment is a very sophisticated process of learning. I call it spiritual Pilates. The woman comes into the program; often, fear is the wallpaper of her life. It’s not *whether* something’s going to go wrong — it’s *what* and *when* and *how much*. But all of a sudden, you learn what, arguably, might be one of the most important words in the English language: *No*.

And the way you learn *no* becomes the way in which you, more and more, accept the fact that *you* are a very important person yourself. You have all the skills, all the tools, to be successful in life, and a lot of them have to do with knowing where you have to say *no* and meaning it. And all these women reinforce each other in getting that. The community itself — I call it the sisterhood — is the secret sauce.

THE FUTURE

Now JP is in nine cities around the country. One of the dynamics that is beginning to happen in some places — but I think probably in all places, eventually — is a version of the program that doesn’t necessarily need the dormitory.

You can be in the sisterhood; you can learn the empowerment. ... There’s a whole economy of scale. How do you give it away and not have to house it? So that’s emerged out of the last five years as a way to double, if not triple, the number of people who can be involved.

I run into people from around the country, and I say, “Are there programs like this that consolidate services and teach empowerment?” They’re not many. And so I’m wondering: What’s the issue? Why can’t there be more to do this?

In the next 10, 15, 25 years, I think there’ll be a much greater awareness. I think the awareness is out there — it’s almost in the clouds — that there is a very, very important population of people in our midst who have great capacity to be able to raise their families in a very successful way. ✨

Spark The Opportunity to Dream TANK

*“Talent is everywhere,
but opportunity is not.”*

Dr. Maria Tucker, inaugural executive director of Jeremiah Program Las Vegas, made this powerful statement to a roomful of people who know that truth all too well. She was emceeing the closing event of the first in-person JP Summit; 300 people — 200 of them JP moms and alums — were gathered to celebrate the six finalists of Spark Tank, JP’s pitch competition inspired by the famous *Shark Tank* television series.

But this competition was different.

Spark Tank was designed to flip the script on a venture capital model that rarely makes space for people who embody the identities of JP moms.

“So much of the typical space for starting a business and raising money is not geared toward women, especially single mothers and BIPOC women,” said JP President and CEO Chastity Lord, who had the original



vision for the competition. Spark Tank opened up a space historically kept narrow and exclusive due to racism, sexism, classism, and their intersections.

“It is a chance for moms who were bold and vulnerable enough to put forth their ideas — whether an inkling that they’d been dreaming about or a business that they’ve already launched — to strengthen their dream through feedback and coaching to take it to the next level,” Chastity explained.

This desire to champion JP’s “mompreneurs” is rooted in a core JP belief: The disparities between women on the financial margins and their more affluent peers can only be dismantled by an aggressive investment in women closest to the challenges we are trying to solve.

Spark Tank is one such investment model. Given the opportunity, JP moms can parlay their immense talent and well-earned problem-solving expertise not only to create wealth for their families but also to make real, necessary change in their communities.

SPARK IGNITED

Of the 200 JP moms and alumni at the summit, 45 signed up for Spark Tank. They dedicated a day and a half to meeting

with volunteer coaches — JP staff, board members, and friends — who helped them refine their pitches and present their ideas as effectively as possible.

Shukurat Adamoh-Faniyan, one of the nine Spark Tank coaches and JP’s Chief of Campus Experience, saw herself as a “chief encouragement officer” whose role was to support candidates in communicating their visions.

“I really encouraged them to stand in and walk out the leadership that they already exhibited and the leadership it takes to actually build out or write out a business plan or even make the commitment to start a business,” she said. “Just reminding and affirming them, ‘You’re awesome. This is just an opportunity to get your idea funded.’”

Vernisha Crawford, another coach and director of JP’s Career Volunteer Mentor Program, felt it was her job to listen well and offer constructive feedback. She also knew it was important to connect with the mompreneurs in her group. As someone who has experienced what the participants were going through, establishing those relationships wasn’t hard.

“This program spoke to me personally as a seven-year entrepreneur and unmarried mom,” she said. “Motherhood can feel isolating, and so can entrepreneurship. Spark Tank



had the vision to bring moms with ideas together and give them opportunities to share these ideas with coaches like myself and receive funding.”

For participants, the feedback from their coaches was invaluable — and so was the feedback from other moms.

“It’s so amazing participating in Spark Tank and meeting fellow mompreneurs and networking and empowering all of us on our ideas,” said Amirah Watkins, a JP Minneapolis mom.

JP Boston alum Shanique Green also appreciated the networking experience. “Just seeing how different women come together to share their ideas, their thoughts, their business plans — some that are new, some that are doing it — is just a fantabulous network,” she shared.

That’s a key part of what Spark Tank was intended to do, Maria explained as the award ceremony opened: build the community of JP mompreneurs through feedback and entrepreneurial idea sharing.

A POWER SHIFT FROM THE TYPICAL PITCH COMPETITION

From the 45 Spark Tank participants, coaches selected six finalists, who presented their pitches to the entire gathering during the summit’s closing dinner. A panel of judges selected the first-, second-, and third-place winners, and the audience got to vote for a fan favorite, the winner of the Inspirational Entrepreneur Award.

The identities of the coaches and judges also helped distinguish Spark Tank from the typical pitch competition. All but two coaches and all but one judge were women of color — and that was intentional, said Jill Miller, who advises JP on special projects and organized the competition.

“Usually in these spaces, even if you’re creating a space where maybe you’re inviting underrepresented entrepreneurs, the power doesn’t shift,” she emphasized.

In this case, the judges were made up of people with intersecting, historically marginalized identities — identities that don’t often hold such decision-making seats. Spark Tank judges were more proximate to the issues and perspectives participants highlighted in their pitches, so moms didn’t have to overexplain or worry about the barriers that might come up in a traditional pitch setting. These judges got it.

Organizers were also pointed about shifting the typical judging rubric. “Many reports show that Black women are the most educated and start the most businesses but



receive the least funding,” said Vernisha, who not only coached but helped design the competition. That’s why the Spark Tank rubric underscored the participant’s “ability to receive constructive feedback and present her idea in a way that showcased her passion, personality, and identity,” she explained.

The winners showcased all three. JP Brooklyn mom Infiniti Johnson took home the top prize of \$10,000; JP Boston alum Alexa Paris Saint-Fort won both second place and the fan favorite award at \$5,000 and \$2,500, respectively; and JP Austin alum Erika Rosa won the third-place prize of \$2,500.

But the spirit in the room wasn’t about winning and losing — it was all about sisterhood. The power of community was so strong during the event that a friend in the wider JP community, Jamala S. McFadden, decided to offer a generous gift to each of the remaining finalists.

THE SPARK OF SISTERHOOD

Community is integral to the JP experience, and the Spark Tank process was no different. Before a single winner was announced, each finalist had the opportunity to share takeaways from the entire experience, and the JP sisterhood was at the heart of it.

JP Rochester-Southeast Minnesota mom Acacia Ward is the founder of Reach the Top MN, which provides basic needs and helps people in need of human services navigate complicated application processes. The collective power of JP mompreneurs really spoke to her.

“Through this whole thing, I have found so many moms and sisters that are just inspirational,” she reflected. “We all have our own little ideas, and ... we can all work together and collaborate and do this thing.”

Winter Holm, another JP Rochester mom, is the founder of Empowered Design and Events, an event-planning venture that gives families with limited time and resources the space to celebrate milestones and create lifelong memories. Having experienced the confidence blows that can come with starting a business, she felt buoyed by her fellow JP moms.

“I think that having other strong entrepreneurs who are working just as hard and being just as dedicated, juggling all the things in their life, really gives me that boost of appreciation for what I’m doing and all the work I’m putting in,” Winter said.

JP Minneapolis alum Anita Fischer took away a similar lesson. Her nonprofit, Outliers Faith Empowerment and Family Mediation, promotes mindful conflict resolution so that families maintain control of their own outcomes instead of being at the mercy of government intervention.

“I felt inspired as somebody who tried and failed to develop an international nonprofit,” she said of her Spark Tank experience. “I come here, and I look at my JP sister, and I’m like, ‘OK, I can get up and try again, and if she can do it, I can do it.’ If I can do something, you can do something. We all are in this together, no matter what we are going through.”

Even attendees who were simply witnessing Spark Tank pitches were moved by the sisterhood in the room and contributed to it with their applause and cheers. For Sheila Jones, Spark Tank was the cherry on top of the whole weekend. “It’s empowering to be around the energy that we felt last night in the room — just women wanting to see women succeeding,” she recalled. “The best part for me was ... seeing the reaction and the support that they gave each other when they won.”

“To be receiving an investment for this idea from JP is not only a blessing but also a testament that JP truly wants to see moms thrive.”

— ALEXA PARIS SAINT-FORT

The sisterhood of JP mompreneurs lasted longer than a weekend.

Shukurat and other coaches reach out to their groups of moms regularly to see how they’re doing as human beings and how their businesses are coming along. And the Spark Tank participants continue to support each other. Moms often share resources, such as grant opportunities, with their fellow entrepreneurs. They share updates about their children, too. They’re building a crucial network.

“We are also helping to build a safety net that they need to keep pushing forward and to actually position their children,” Shukurat explains, “because it will be their *children* who actually transcend poverty — they will both have the safety net of their parent and move forward.”

MORE THAN STARTING A BUSINESS — SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The sense of community extended beyond Jeremiah Program: Every pitch was centered on solving a problem. In fact, presenting a solution to a problem was built into the judging criteria. Spark Tank judge and Expectful founder Nathalie Walton, whose business focuses on wellness for pregnant and new mothers, noted that most JP mompreneurs brought a community lens to their business ideas.

“These women were empowered to solve a genuine problem and fund a dream that would uplift their entire communities,” she affirmed. “So many brilliant ideas were shared that would directly impact some of the 42 million Americans living in poverty. Talent is everywhere, and it’s absolutely

*"Spark Tank helped me to reclaim
my identity. I remembered that I am
passionate and that I can do hard things."*

— ERIKA ROSA





found in marginalized communities. These were some of the most resilient, intelligent, and inspiring individuals I have met.”

This is absolutely true of our first-ever Spark Tank winners.

First-place winner Infiniti Johnson opened her pitch with a story about “a little girl,” herself as a 5-year-old in Brooklyn, raised by a single mother who worked full time. Because her mother couldn’t afford childcare and had to work to provide for her family, Infiniti was regularly left home alone.

“Where I’m from, this happens a lot. It’s very normal, but no one is talking about it,” she explained. “So I want to be the change, and this is why I created Miss TiTi’s Play Group, which would be a 24-hour childcare.”

Alexa Paris Saint-Fort, winner of the second-place prize and the fan favorite award, cited preventable birth mortality rates, racist labor-and-delivery practices, and a personal birth story in her pitch. Her Spark Tank winnings will go toward making Manman Saj Birth Coaching and Doula Services mobile to best serve Bostonians who need it most.

“Your investment will help me to complete the doula certification process and ultimately allow me to work with Medicaid recipients, who would not be able to afford these services otherwise,” she asserted. “And most importantly, this investment would allow me to put Manman Saj on wheels to accommodate those who do not have transportation.”

Third-place winner and JP Austin alum Erika Rosa’s business, Fresh Start Juice Bar, also has dual personal and community roots *and* a dual purpose. The first aim is to address the issue of community access to healthy food. The second is to provide equal-opportunity employment for those who have been incarcerated or convicted of felonies.

“When I was 20 years old, I was convicted of a felony,” she remembered. “I sat in a county jail in a visitation room with someone from the state telling me that because of this moment in my life, this choice in my life, I would never be able to have a good job and I would never be able to do anything with my life.” Today, she looks forward to providing nutritious food for her community through her business.

JP moms are uniquely positioned to identify and craft solutions that can benefit entire communities. Spark Tank results aside, we are confident that our mompreneurs will do just that. They have the talent — they just need the opportunity.

For Infiniti, the experience has allowed her to expand her community and the impact she can make.

“Spark Tank gave me the opportunity to be heard by hundreds of people,” she reflected. “I didn’t expect to win, but I wanted my ideas to be heard so that people could realize the importance of what I do, so maybe a mom in Texas could start this for the moms in her area or even a mom in North Dakota or Boston.” 🌸



LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE IS A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT

Life happens. That reality is core to what JP does. Every JP mom had life happen during her educational, parenting, and future-planning journey and tapped JP for support to reset.

That was the case for **Alliyah Rosales**, who had to leave her associate degree program when her financial aid ran out during her final semester. Then the pandemic hit, and she welcomed her son, now 2 years old. While applying for a job in 2021, the hiring manager recommended she apply to JP, and she began her JP Fargo-Moorhead experience in February 2023. Now she's a student at North Dakota State University, majoring in finance with a minor in family financial planning, and she plans to become an entrepreneur.

When she got to speak with inaugural JP Alumni Fellow **LaSherion McDonald**, she took full advantage of the

opportunity to pick her brain as a mother, JP alum, and career professional.

LaSherion — a doula, family health educator, and mother of three — has returned to school for another degree since graduating from JP St. Paul in 2017. She welcomed the opportunity to speak with a new JP mom, even as she did so while tending to her youngest child, just 3 weeks old at the time.

During the conversation, the two women connected on stopping and restarting their college journeys, having family support, caring for small children, and learning to accept help while being resourceful and independent. They affirmed and encouraged each other — and lived out what it means to experience the JP sisterhood.

Note: This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Alliyah: I would love it if I'm able to stay connected with JP once I've graduated. Do you feel like you're still connected with the program?

LaSherion: Yes, I do feel like I'm still connected to the program, especially with opportunities like this to talk to you and doing the fellowship. And then this past spring, they invited current moms and alumni to go to Texas, and it was amazing. I feel like the Jeremiah Program is doing a good job at trying to keep alums connected to the program in some way, especially us who want to talk to current moms and who want to be something like a mentor.

I still talk to a few moms. One mom who was my neighbor is a really good friend of mine. So since I started with JP, they've been a part of my life.

Alliyah: What did you go to college for?

LaSherion: First, I started out with nursing. But I took a TEAS [Test of Essential Academic Skills] test, was three points away from passing, and then I missed my opportunity to retake it for the final time. So I switched my major to public health, and I loved it.

I'm doing public health now, and I'm definitely enjoying it. I'm a health educator. I work with families, predominantly Black families, and a lot of the time I work with our low-income families.

And I'm also going to school for nursing again, so I'm trying for a second time.

Alliyah: One thing I struggle with myself personally is: How do you make time to take care of yourself while also being a great mom and making sure you're doing well in your career?

LaSherion: That's a good question. That's something I'm still trying to get a hold on myself. I know it's a cliché, but it's so true: When you take care of yourself, you're able to be a better mom, a better co-worker, a better partner. It doesn't always have to be an hour-long bubble bath or going to get your nails done. Those things help, but just doing the

little things throughout the day to make sure that you're nurturing yourself — like making sure you're hydrated, making sure you're eating, sleeping. Take a little extra time to do something extra with your hair or your makeup, just something to give you that extra oomph so you just don't feel like you're your family's mule or your job's mule.

And then having balance. I don't feel like it's a destination; I feel like it's a journey. Finding that balance is just a long journey. You just do what you can throughout the day for yourself, for your job, and for your kids.



And then, when I'm in school — this doesn't work for some people — I have timesheets, where it has what you do every hour of the day. I was blocking time like, "During this time, I'm going to do this for work, do this for school, take a deep breath, do this for my kids."

And I need that when I'm in school and working because if I don't have that, I will just slip. It makes me feel like I've been productive, and in turn, it makes me feel good about myself. So that's what I do while I'm in school, but I'm taking a break now. It's a marathon, not a sprint.

Alliyah: What was one thing you wish you knew before either becoming a mom or even joining the program?

LaSherion: I'll say to not panic as much and overthink things. When I was at St. Kate's before I went to the Jeremiah Program, I was really struggling. My family would help out when they could, but I always just felt like it was just me and, "This is really, really hard." And I would start panicking and get depressed.

And then I met this lady who said she finished a nursing program with four kids. And I was like, "How did you do that?!" And she said, "I just felt like, along the way, little angels were set in my path to help me. It's just weird. Along my journey, random people do random things for me, and all that random kindness got me to where I am today." And I was thinking in my head, *Well, that ain't never gonna happen to me. Ain't nobody gonna help me. Nobody ever helped me. You're so lucky. I wish I was you.* I was just such a pessimist.

“I know it’s a cliché, but it’s so true: When you take care of yourself, you’re able to be a better mom, a better co-worker, a better partner.”

— LASHERION MCDONALD



And then it *did* happen to me. Being in Jeremiah Program helped me. The different mentors I had at my college helped me. My family being able to help me whenever they could — those random acts of kindness helped me. If I had spent less time being so pessimistic, I could’ve enjoyed my college experience a lot better and just saved myself a big headache. So I guess I wish I had a better attitude about things and just had faith that, “Hey, if this is the path I’m meant to be on, it’s all going to work in my favor.”

Not that I didn’t have a reason to be pessimistic, because when you’re a single mom living on welfare and trying to finish school, it’s easy to harden your heart because it’s so stressful. But just have more faith that, if it’s the right path, everything is going to work out. If it doesn’t, that’s OK. I guess it’s not my time right now, or it’s meant for me to go on a different path.

Alliyah: How has JP shaped your life today?

LaSherion: It’s shaped my life today because I feel like JP was definitely a big factor in helping me finish college — a huge factor. JP has helped me finish college and have a job where I’m no longer in poverty, thank God, because I was born in poverty and lived in poverty most of my early 20s. So, yes, JP has definitely helped get me and my kids out of poverty. They definitely kept their word when it came to that mission.

I’ll also say the support of JP helped me to have more confidence and helped me to realize how important it is — whether it’s a program or a mentor — just to have somebody who believes in you and who’s willing to advocate for you.

Alliyah: What advice would give to me and other moms who are new to JP?

LaSherion: I know it was always hard for me to ask for help. I always wanted to do everything by myself. I felt like if I did it by myself, for one, it would be done the way I wanted it to be done. And two, nobody could ever throw it in my face. But I had to leave that attitude so that I could get more help and resources to get to where I am today.

And a lot of times in our culture, everybody just feels like, “Hey, you gotta pull yourself up by your bootstraps. Do everything by *yourself, yourself, yourself*.” But that attitude can make you work harder than you need to and be more unhappy in the end.

So enjoy all the help. Utilize all the resources you can at Jeremiah Program and around you because that’s what it’s there for — to help you and your family get out of poverty and get to your destination. Use everything, ask questions, and take advantage of all the resources. Just enjoy your time there, focus on school, and focus on being a parent, the best parent you can be. ✨

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR, THE JEREMIAH PROGRAM SUMMIT IS A CRITICAL PIECE OF JP'S COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING LIFELONG CONNECTIONS.

If you page through the articles in this 25th-anniversary JP magazine, you will see one word pop out over and over again: *community*.

JP moms join the program for different reasons, but sisterhood and support are consistently named the most powerful benefits. So, in 2020, we decided to add a new opportunity for moms to connect and support each other, learn new skills in a group setting, and tell and listen to each other's stories. In the midst of a global pandemic, the JP Summit was born.

Three years later, the event has bloomed into a transformative in-person experience, but the philosophy behind it remains the same: We are stronger together.

**"SUMMIT WAS AN
OPPORTUNITY.
OUR JP MOMS
WELCOMED IT
AND SEIZED IT."**

**— ANEDRA KERR,
VP OF DEVELOPMENT**

IN THE BEGINNING

The first summit happened on a Saturday in March 2021, exactly one year after COVID-19 had shut the world down and draped a suffocating blanket of isolation over the families of JP. After a year of pivoting, innovating, and fighting to keep JP communities connected, JP leadership remained committed to formalizing an alumni network and building bridges among campuses, moms, graduates, and thought leaders.

The first summit was appropriately themed "Daring Powerfully."

Ethelind Kaba, who was a member of the first alumni fellowship cohort and is secretary of the JP National Governing Board, put it this



THE ENERGIZING POWER OF COMMUNITY STOLE THE SHOW ALL WEEKEND.

way: “If the last year has taught us anything, it’s that people closest to any issue have tremendous power in telling stories for real change. ... [The summit] feels like an extension of Jeremiah, but for a different phase.”

Although the gathering happened over Zoom, the energy in the virtual “room” was palpable as over 150 current moms and alumni participated in personal development workshops, listened to storytelling sessions, connected in the chat room, and listened to inspiring keynote speakers: activists and organizers Tarana Burke and Mónica Ramírez.

The 2022 gathering was also virtual. Organizers set the tone for the day by playing Alumni Fellow and singer Ashley DuBose’s soulful song “Be You,” a perfect anthem for the event’s theme: “More Than Enough.”

Reflecting a “by moms, for moms” ethos throughout, the second summit brought together voices from across campuses and graduation years to share “stories of self” — deep examinations of moms’ personal narratives. Attendees also explored opportunities for collective empowerment, heard from author and MSNBC anchor Alicia Menendez, and listened to an inspiring conversation between Alumni Fellow Ifrah Abdalla and activist and author Mia Birdsong.

IN PERSON, FINALLY

After waiting for three years, over 300 JP moms, staff, alumni, board members, and partners were finally able to gather face-to-face over a weekend in Austin in March of 2023.



*The summit was an opportunity
for JP moms and alumni to
bond in ways they couldn't
always accomplish virtually.*



Keynote speaker and Generation Hope founder Nicole Lynn Lewis signs copies of her memoir, Pregnant Girl: A Story of Teen Motherhood, College, and Creating a Better Future for Young Families.

Like the previous two summits, the organizers made it a priority to offer opportunities for self-development and to learn more about the alumni and how to best support the network. Taking advantage of the location, they also planned a tour of the JP Austin campus.

But the energizing power of community stole the show all weekend.

“It was just a melting pot of, ‘Oh my God, I finally get to meet you! I’ve heard your story. I read an article that someone wrote about you!’” said 2022 Alumni Fellow Stacy Abbott. “Just seeing them in person and remembering that time you cried together [virtually] and being able to hug them, meeting them brought everything full circle.”

2003 alum Portia Jackson agreed.

“We’ve seen some people a lot over the years, and some people we haven’t seen since we graduated,” she said. “So, just still having that connection and being able to have something that we all share is just really special.”

As with previous years, this year’s summit had a theme — “Empowered Moms Are the Future” — and learning tracks for the educational offerings: Financial Health; Mind, Body & Soul; and Storytelling. Moms got to attend workshops with titles like “Mindfulness for Me: Managing the Pressure of Motherhood Through Self-Care.”

The most exciting event of the summit was Spark Tank, a takeoff of the television show that offers seed money to entrepreneurs with promising ideas. Forty-five JP moms who have launched businesses or have them brewing in their imaginations took the stage to make their pitches; three walked away with investments to make their visions a reality.

This year’s keynote speakers, Nicole Lynn Lewis and Jennifer Morton, are both accomplished authors and public advocates for more inclusivity and thoughtfulness in how higher education systems treat low-income college students. Proximity to women like these speakers, who understand the path JP moms are currently traveling, was a highlight for Stacy.

READ ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE INNOVATIONS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL IDEAS ON DISPLAY DURING JP’S INAUGURAL SPARK TANK COMPETITION ON PAGE 14.



“Having one-on-one conversations with other women, empowered women, too — you never think about, ‘One day I’ll be interviewing an author and we’ll be catching up like we know each other,’” she reflected.

In addition to being able to learn and laugh together, moms also got an opportunity to relax. For many, it was a rare opportunity to step away from the rigors of parenthood for a weekend.

“We got a little bit of time to unwind. We roasted s’mores in a big fire pit. We ate great food. We congregated. We just had this magic, in this little moment. What’s more beautiful than that?” Stacy remarked. “I got a little bit of relaxation, and I still had this opportunity to grow financially by taking part in the classes. I met an author. I walked away with some type of knowledge. It really was everything.”

BUILDING THE ALUMNI NETWORK

In addition to being a nurturing and — for Spark Tank winners — life-changing event, this year’s summit helped solidify momentum and vision for how JP wants to structure the alumni fellowship and serve the larger alumni network.

As Vice President of Development Anedra Kerr commented, “There were many reasons to do the summit, one of which was to gather deep insight about our alumni — where they are, what they need, learn more about their families.”

“YOU NEVER THINK ABOUT, ONE DAY I’LL BE INTERVIEWING AN AUTHOR AND WE’LL BE CATCHING UP LIKE WE KNOW EACH OTHER.”

— STACY ABBOTT, 2022 JP ALUMNI FELLOW

To further this part of the mission, summit organizers engaged in an active outreach and planning campaign prior to the event to engage graduates and make sure they knew about the opportunity. They also launched new outreach activities during the summit to keep the participants energized and ready to remain engaged for years to come.

“Summit was an opportunity. Our JP moms welcomed it and seized it,” said Anedra. “They leaned into their agency. They embraced community and sisterhood. They honed their skills and talents and even did some self-reflection as part of their commitment to a lifetime of growth and service to themselves, their children, and their communities.” ❁



EVOLVING *the* JP ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP

*NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR, THE ALUMNI
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IS HITTING ITS STRIDE.*

Once a JP mom, always a JP mom.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many organizations scaled back their programming and hesitated to try anything new.

Jeremiah Program is not one of those organizations.

Not only did we pivot to expand services and support for families on our campuses across the country, but we also launched an entirely new initiative: The JP Alumni Fellowship.

Designed to expand the leadership tent, the fellowship is a selective, year-long program that actively enlists the talents and expertise of former JP moms, inviting them in as advisors and supporting them as agents of social, political, and economic change.

The program is based on this premise: No one is more qualified to speak about the needs of single mothers experiencing poverty — and how Jeremiah Program can best serve them — than JP moms.

As JP CEO and President Chastity Lord said about the launch, “Single mothers can serve as key bridge-builders between decision-makers and communities, designing solutions to the challenges they experience as individuals and helping scale those solutions to meet the needs of their families and broader communities.”

Now in its third year, the fellowship program has already grown and evolved based on feedback from the first two cohorts and on the changing constellation of factors impacting single-parent families.

THE FIRST TWO YEARS

The inaugural JP Alumni Fellowship class was selected in 2020 during a national crisis — but that didn’t stop the participants from showing up and co-creating the blueprint of what the program should look like and what issues they should tackle. As an organization, we had also been working to establish a robust alumni network to keep moms connected to JP and to each other, which offered a useful window into how we could best support graduates *and* lift up their talents and accomplishments.

As with any first-time endeavor, enthusiasm among the participants was high. But expectations for how much time alumni moms could reasonably commit were also high — and, at certain times, out of reach.

“A couple of a-ha’s we had over the first cohort were that [the fellowship] needed to be more streamlined, and it also needs to be something that would be resonant with alumni from 2002 and just as exciting for somebody from 2020,” said Sharin Park, director of parent programming. “That was the biggest learning: We had alumni over a 25-year history, and that means that we have moms having kiddos in college, and we also have moms that have infant babies.”

After consulting with the inaugural participants, our staff made adjustments to the fellowship criteria and clarified the scope. Members of the second fellowship cohort all participated in the same three tracks: relational organizing, thought leadership, and mentorship.

Relational organizing training prepared participants to leverage connections, dialogue, and empowerment as tools for mobilizing communities and facilitating social change.

Thought leadership took the form of an op-ed writing project, giving fellows a platform to communicate their person-

al experience with poverty and single parenthood and how it shaped their views on important policy matters.

Mentorship came at the request of year-one participants who wanted to give back to the organization by walking alongside current JP moms, offering perspective, support, and encouragement, as well as a model for what was possible in the future.

THE FUTURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Now in its third year, the JP Alumni Fellowship is coming into its own. In the fall of 2023, eight new fellows came on board, each with a vision and a commitment to building momentum, opportunity, and social capital for the alumni network *and* for the children of JP families as they grow up.

The group began their journey together in September with a kickoff in Brooklyn, relationship-building and exploring their personal stories in depth. From there, they will expand that exploration to the stories of their communities and the public policy changes they want to inspire — especially related to two-generation programming for families on the financial

margins. Not only will they develop their leadership with three more in-person gatherings over the next year, including a day on Capitol Hill, but they will learn alongside experts in the fields of economic mobility and public policy.

Because most of this new cohort are 10-20 years removed from their time on JP campuses and no longer have young children at home, they have more space — and a wealth of experience — to pour into advocacy for other moms and children who are going through what they’ve already been through.

“Our fellows are really leaders in their own respective career fields, but we know that the networking opportunity at hand is going to be this two-generation approach,” Sharin said. “What are the opportunities for middle school students to get into selective high schools? What are the internships that high school students can get? What is your first internship in college that allows you to get the first paying job? That is the aura of what we’re going for in the third fellowship.”

MEET THE 2023-2024 JP ALUMNI FELLOWS

PORTIA JACKSON, 2003



CURRENT POSITION:
Community Wealth Strategist

FELLOWSHIP GOAL:
Understand in detail how JP works and how it uplifts moms and supports families in different parts of the country

BEST ADVICE FOR JP MOMS: It gets better. Those kids will get older, you will get more patience. You will continue to grow for yourself, and your kids will continue to grow as well. You’re doing a great job.

FAVORITE QUOTE OR MOTTO: No matter where you go, there you are.

CHAKITA LEWIS, 2014



CURRENT POSITION OR INDUSTRY: County Supervisor, Aging and Disability

FELLOWSHIP GOAL:
Gain community leadership skills, help communities bring ideas to fruition, and bring a public health lens to my work with the fellowship

BEST ADVICE FOR JP MOMS: It is a long journey, ladies, but you got this.

There’s gonna be so much coming at you that you feel like you’re never going to get it done because you just can’t see that light at the tunnel. Focus on making it through the day and being honest about where you are and what barriers you’re facing. And if you do that — reach out to help when you need it, and take things a day at a time — you will accomplish that goal for yourself. Just take baby steps to get there.

FAVORITE QUOTE OR MOTTO: “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.”
– Marianne Williamson

TIFFANY MEEKS, 2001



CURRENT POSITION: Associate Director, Executive MBA Programs

FELLOWSHIP GOAL: Hone my personal and professional development, and apply my personal experience by getting deeply involved with the program

BEST ADVICE FOR JP MOMS: Focus on what you need to focus on while you're at Jeremiah, but you should also be thinking about life after Jeremiah. You have a lot of support from staff, and you're immersed in this community environment. When you don't have that after you leave the program, it can be a little challenging.

WHAT RELATIONSHIP HAS BENEFITED YOU MOST IN POST-JP LIFE? The relationship with myself is the most important. That's one relationship that a lot of us neglect, but when you understand and work on your relationship with yourself, you navigate relationships and connections with other people much better.

TYESHA MITCHELL, 2015



CURRENT POSITION: Community Liaison and Licensed Loan Signing Agent

FELLOWSHIP GOAL: Gaining expertise in policy and programming that affect single moms

BEST ADVICE FOR JP MOMS: Stay focused. Prioritize your goals, prioritize your family, and lean into your community.

FAVORITE QUOTE OR MOTTO: "The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails." – John Maxwell

BIANCA SCOTT, 2020



CURRENT POSITION: Project Manager

FELLOWSHIP GOAL: Self-development, exposure to people who have been successful, and the opportunity to model success for others

BEST ADVICE FOR JP MOMS: JP is an opportunity, and it's a temporary opportunity. Create a bubble for yourself. Focus on self-love. Focus on being a good mom. Focus on school. Use this time not only to finish your degree but to grow and develop as a person and as a mother, period.

FAVORITE QUOTE OR MOTTO: "What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?" – The Carters, "NICE"

AMANDA SMITH, 2009



CURRENT POSITION: Lawyer

FELLOWSHIP GOAL: Take on a leadership role, share my experience, and give and gain inspiration

BEST ADVICE FOR JP MOMS: Take advantage of all the resources that are available through the Jeremiah Program. From the housing, the daycare, the empowerment classes, and support in your schooling: there's a lot that they have to offer and don't be afraid to take advantage of it. Even though it's tough at the time, it's gonna be worth it.

FAVORITE QUOTE OR MOTTO: "A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." – Forest Witcraft

DANA SMITH, 2004



CURRENT POSITION: Senior Director of Marketing and Communications

FELLOWSHIP GOAL: Career discovery and providing mentorship to current moms

BEST ADVICE FOR JP MOMS: Make the most out of all the opportunities and resources that are out there to assist you. Just keep asking for help; everybody needs help. Don't feel like you need to go through it alone.

FAVORITE QUOTE OR MOTTO: "Life is like a camera. Focus on what's important. Capture the good times, develop from the negatives, and if things don't work out, take another shot." – Ziad K Abdelnour

MARY CLAIRE WENTE, 2012



CURRENT POSITION: Human Resources Management

FELLOWSHIP GOAL: Learn how Jeremiah Program responds to the changing needs of communities

BEST ADVICE FOR JP MOMS: Jump in with both feet and really embrace the opportunities that you have at hand and the resources that JP provides. Jeremiah Program has been doing this for 25 years. [They] have a really great idea of what works and what doesn't.

FAVORITE QUOTE OR MOTTO: Do things for the right reasons all the time. ✨

JP NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMUNITY BOARDS OF TRUSTEES 2023

NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD 2023

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Sterilization Products*

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Ascension Seton

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Van Vo
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Nevada GrantLab

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Las Vegas City Council

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Judy Braatz
Think Mutual Bank

Kenneth Brown
*Olmsted County Board
of Commissioners*

Tawonda Burks
ELOCINA

Amy Eich
Rochester Public Schools

Guy Finne
Mayo Clinic

Cassie Harrington
Foresight Bank

Kathleen Harrington
Community Leader

Kathryn Lombardo, M.D.
Olmsted Medical Center

Sheila Neidert
SGN Professional Training

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First Unitarian Universalist Church



2022 *ANNUAL* REPORT



 Jeremiah Program



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As I transition from my role as chair of the National Governing Board of Directors, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you who have contributed to our

success over the past year. Your support and generosity have made a real difference in the lives of JP families, and I thank you for your continued commitment to our organization.

It is nearly impossible to put into words the profound impact that the COVID-19 crisis has had on us all and certainly the most marginalized members of our society, which includes our JP families. I am proud to say that JP met those challenges head-on, and in 2022 we were able to make significant strides in service of JP mothers and children — in our existing seven cities and in two new ones.

Last year, safety remained a top priority as JP moms, staff, and volunteers figured out ways to carefully meet and rebuild a sense of community in person after doing it virtually for two years, even as JP teachers continued to educate children in person in our Child Development Centers. After closing their kitchens and then partnering with community volunteers to support our JP families, our residential campuses were able to reopen their kitchens and other community spaces where families could gather and fellowship.

We are so excited that over 200 JP moms and kids are extending on the powerful sisterhood we are building in our newest locations, Las Vegas and Baltimore.

None of this great work would be possible without the dedication and hard work of JP staff, families, volunteers, partners, and supporters.

Looking ahead to the future, we remain focused on our mission to disrupt the cycle of poverty two generations at a time. Together, we will continue progressing toward that reality. Thank you for doing this critical work with us.

Sandy Santana

NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD 2022

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Children's Rights

Aisha Barry, VICE CHAIR
Advanced Sterilization Products

Ethelind Kaba, SECRETARY
Ann Bancroft Foundation

Jeremy Wheaton, TREASURER
ECMC Group

Jeannine Balfour
Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies

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Goldman Sachs

Melissa Goodman
Ciresi Conlin LLP

Aaron Mann
Kindeva Drug Delivery

C. Nicole Mason
*President/CEO Emerta Institute for
Women's Policy Research*

Monique Miles
*Aspen Institute Forum
for Community Solutions*

Meredith Moore
Leverette Weekes & Company, Inc.

Mike Ruetz
Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies

Inés Sira
Danfoss

Kadia Tubman
Insider Inc.

Henry Wilde
Acelero Learning/Shine Early Learning

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Doisey Landry, *Community Volunteer**

Sue Hayes, *Community Volunteer*

John McMahon, *Ernst & Young*

Michael J. O'Connell, *Visionary Founder*

John D. Potter, *PricewaterhouseCoopers*

Susan Sands, *S&B Properties*

Richard Schmoker, *Schmoker Family Foundation**

Jeff Smith, *Ryan Companies US, Inc.*

Bill Svrluga, *Before Racism**

Kim Vanderwall, *Vanderwall Consulting*

Sandy Santana, *Children's Rights*

**Chair prior to 2009 expansion*

We believe that no mother should have to make the untenable choice between investing in herself and her children. Five core pillars comprise our holistic approach, which allows families to dream what is possible when they are able to bring all of their identities to bear in pursuit of their goals.

JP AUSTIN

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022

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Education Consultant

Anju Mahendroo, **VICE CHAIR**
Technology Consultant and Health Coach

Caitlin Brooke
Bright Health Care

Steven Christopher
Austin Community College

BiNi Coleman
212 Catalysts

Cristina Guajardo
*Guadalupe Neighborhood
Development Corporation*

Renee Hall
Community Leader

Rhonda Hall
University Federal Credit Union

Jenny Lindsey
Atlassian

Cassandra Mosley-Dunning
Ascension Seton

Deja Phillips
VRBO

Gretchen Preston
Ryan Companies

Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia
Austin Executive Director



JP AUSTIN IMPACT

935+

FAMILY COACHING SESSIONS

totaling more than 460 hours
of college-going and family
stability support

347

LIVES IMPACTED

a 40% increase over 2021

52

CHILDREN BENEFITED

from high-quality early
learning in our on-site Child
Development Center

38

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED

in one summer enrichment
opportunity or more —
everything from STEM camp
to Spanish immersion
to gymnastics classes

26

FAMILIES ACCESSED

safe, affordable housing
on JP Austin's campus

JP BALTIMORE

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022

Simone Gibson, Ph.D.
Morgan State University

Brittany Herring-DeVore, Ph.D.
Center for Urban Families

Angelique Jessup, Ph.D.
The Connectus Group

Tori Rose
U.S. Office of Personnel Management



Danielle Staton
Baltimore Executive Director

JP BALTIMORE IMPACT

2,178

FAMILY COACHING SESSIONS

Totaling more than
1,400 hours of future-focused
support and planning

248

LIVES IMPACTED

an 89% increase over 2020

47

CHILDREN BENEFITED

from high-quality early
learning in our on-site Child
Development Center

33

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED

in one summer enrichment
opportunity or more — everything
from STEM camp to Spanish
immersion to gymnastics classes

26

MOTHERS COMPLETED

our 12-week Empowerment
and Leadership course

JP BOSTON

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022

Janaial Robinson, **CHAIR**
Dress for Success Boston (formerly)

Barbara Cassidy, **VICE CHAIR**
State Street Global Advisors

Lenia Ascenso
Partners Capital

Matthew Cardosi
Robins Kaplan LLP

Lillian Diaz
Hermana Properties LLC

Pendery Haines
Harvard University

Cathy Konicki
NEPC

Jessica L. Lee
Full Frame Initiative

Andrew Seeder
Conservation Law Foundation

Jean Teillon
PowerSchool Group

Alison Carter Marlow
Boston Executive Director



JP BOSTON IMPACT

835+

MOMS ENGAGED

in family coaching sessions, totaling more than 365 hours of college-going and family stability support

286

LIVES IMPACTED

a 31% increase over 2021

40

MOMS RECEIVED

1:1 professional mentorship support through JP's Career Volunteer Mentor Program

15

CHILDREN BENEFITED

from professional tutoring, with families rating their experience a 5/5

JP BROOKLYN

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022

Matthew Runkle, **CHAIR**
Blackstone Group

Jessie Kelly
Fundraising Professional

Robert Evan Green, CFA
Farmstead Capital Management

Alex W. Nordholm
Bakala Capital

Ilene Fiszler Bieler
Reactions

Jazmine Polite
New York City Department of Education

S. Lemuria Alawade-El
Community Building

Gitanjali Faleiro
Greenhill & Co., LLC

Courtney Crawford
Brooklyn Executive Director



JP BROOKLYN IMPACT

2,200+

FAMILY COACHING SESSIONS

Totaling more than
365 hours of college-going and
family stability support

323

LIVES IMPACTED

a 56% increase over 2021

22

NEW MOTHERS

1:1 professional mentorship
support through JP's Career
Volunteer Mentor Program

42

CHILDREN BENEFITED

from professional tutoring,
with families rating their
experience a 5/5

JP FARGO- MOORHEAD

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022

Abigail Burgum, **CHAIR**
Community Leader

Angela Mathers, **VICE CHAIR**
Community Leader

Ashley Halvorson
Community Leader

James R. Maring
Serkland Law Firm

Laura Oster-Aaland
North Dakota State University

David Shultz
Shultz + Associates Architects

Jonathan Warrey
Marco

Carol Weber
Community Leader



JP FARGO-MOORHEAD IMPACT

942+

FAMILY COACHING SESSIONS

totaling more than 430 hours
of college-going and family
stability support

238

LIVES IMPACTED

a 56% increase over 2021

22

FAMILIES ACCESSED

safe, affordable housing on
JP Fargo-Moorhead's campus

36

CHILDREN BENEFITED

from high-quality early
learning in our on-site Child
Development Center

40

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED

in one summer enrichment oppor-
tunity or more — everything from
STEM camp to Spanish immersion
to gymnastics classes

Laetitia Mizero Hellerud
Fargo-Moorhead Executive Director

JP LAS VEGAS

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022

Gard Jameson, Ph.D, **CHAIR**
Compassionate Las Vegas

Nancy Brune, Ph.D.
Las Vegas City Council

Miles Dickson
Nevada GrantLab

Edith Fernandez, Ph.D.
Nevada State University



Maria Tucker
Las Vegas Executive Director

JP LAS VEGAS IMPACT

1,500+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED
through a holiday event co-sponsored
by Acelero and the Las Vegas
Metropolitan Police Department

55

LIVES ENGAGED
including 15 moms and kids
who participated in the first
JP Las Vegas cohort

38

NEW MOMS
for Spring 2023 Empowerment
& Leadership course

30+

**PROGRAM AND REFERRAL
PARTNERSHIPS**
initiated with Las Vegas providers
to identify JP families and stand
up two-generation resources
for moms and kids

JP MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022

Marjorie Mathison
Hance, **CHAIR**
St. Catherine University
(retired)

Heather Larson, **VICE CHAIR**
General Mills, Inc.
(retired)

MacKenzie Bilunas
Community Volunteer

Margie Bodas
Lommen Abdo, P.A.
(retired)

Trenda Boyum, Ed.D.
Rasmussen College
(retired)

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Sentry Bank

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Medtronic

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Ecolab

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Medtronic

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CarVal Investors

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U.S. Bank Foundation

David Saber
Park Financial Group, Inc.

Stacey Slaughter
Robins Kaplan LLP

Erin Wall
NewBound Venture Capital



JP MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL IMPACT

2,500+

FAMILY COACHING SESSIONS

Totaling more than
1,100 hours of future-focused
support and planning

657

LIVES IMPACTED

a 33% increase over 2021

49

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED

in supplemental summer
enrichment opportunities

66

CHILDREN BENEFITED

from high-quality early
learning in our on-site Child
Development Centers

24

MOMS RECEIVED

1:1 professional mentorship
support through JP's Career
Volunteer Mentor Program

JP ROCHESTER- SE MINNESOTA

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022

Kathryn Lombardo, M.D., **CHAIR**
Olmsted Medical Center

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St. Mary's University

Jeffery Boyd, Ed.D.
*Rochester Community and
Technical College*

Kenneth Brown
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners

Tawonda Burks
Mayo Clinic

Amy Eich
Rochester Public Schools

Guy Finne
Mayo Clinic

Cassie Harrington
Foresight Bank

Kathleen Harrington
Community Leader

Dionne Hart, M.D.
Zumbro Valley Medical Society

Kay Hocker
Minnesota Public Radio

Jerome Perry
Perry Law Firm

Leena Pradhan-Nabzdyk, Ph.D.
Canomiks, Inc.

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer
First Unitarian Universalist Church

Ally Hanten Ebert
Rochester-Southeast MN Executive Director



JP ROCHESTER-SE MN IMPACT

1,700+
FAMILY COACHING SESSIONS
*Totaling more than
1,000 hours of future-focused
support and planning*

69
CHILDREN BENEFITED
*from high-quality early
learning in our on-site Child
Development Center*

276
LIVES IMPACTED
a 31% increase over 2021

29
CHILDREN PARTICIPATED
*in one summer
enrichment opportunity or more —
everything from dance class to
horse camp to rock climbing*

GRANT FUNDERS 2022

3M Foundation
 American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation
 Ameriprise Financial
 Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation
 Anonymous (2)
 Archie D. & Bertha H. Walker Foundation
 Austin Community Foundation Women's Fund
 Bank of America Charitable Foundation
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota Caring Foundation
 BNSF Foundation
 C.H. Robinson Foundation
 Cabot Family Charitable Trust
 Cambridge Trust Charitable Foundation
 Capital One Foundation
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 CarVal Investors Foundation
 Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation
 Cass County Electric Cooperative Foundation
 Catholic Community Foundation
 Charter School Growth Fund
 City of Austin Ready Families Collaborative
 CLA Foundation
 The Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund
 Donald D. Hammill Foundation
 Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
 ECMC Foundation
 Ecolab, Inc.
 Edina Realty Foundation
 The Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation, Inc.
 Essentia Health
 F. R. Bigelow Foundation
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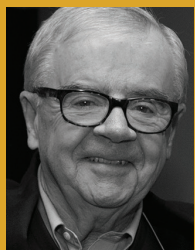
Fidelity Foundation
 First Lutheran Foundation
 Fondation CHANEL
 Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation
 General Motors
 Genevieve and Ward Orsinger Foundation
 Gilligan Foundation
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 Greater Twin Cities United Way
 The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation
 Hardenbergh Foundation
 The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
 The Harry E. & Eda L. Montandon Charitable Trust
 Hector Foundation
 HRK Foundation
 ICONIQ Capital
 J. Jill Compassion Fund
 James B. Linsmayer Foundation
 John A. Reisenbach Foundation
 JP Morgan Chase Foundation
 Judy Family Foundation
 Kini Fund
 Kinney Family Foundation
 The Kresge Foundation
 Life Science Cares
 Lola Wright Foundation
 The Louis Calder Foundation
 The Lowe Foundation
 Margaret Rivers Fund
 Mayo Clinic Community Contributions Program
 Metzger-Price Fund, Inc
 Midcontinent Foundation
 Minneapolis Area Realtors Foundation
 Mollie Baldwin Foley Charitable Trust
 The Moody Foundation
 Mortenson Family Foundation
 New Yorkers for Children

North Dakota Department of Human Services
 Otto Bremer Trust
 Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
 The Paul and Edith Babson Foundation
 Posey Family Foundation
 The Powell Foundation
 Prime Together Foundation
 RDO Equipment Co. and R.D. Offutt Company
 Results Foundation
 Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
 Rochester Area Foundation
 Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
 Sammons Financial Group
 Securian Financial Foundation
 Sooch Foundation
 Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
 Stardust
 State Street Foundation
 The Stern Family Charitable Foundation
 Target Foundation
 TD Charitable Foundation
 Texas Workforce Commission
 Three Rivers Community Action
 Tikkun Olam Foundation Inc.
 United Way for Greater Austin
 United Way of Cass-Clay
 United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley
 US Bancorp Foundation
 Walser Foundation
 WCA Foundation
 Wellington Management Foundation
 Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan Foundation
 William J. & Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation
 The Womack Family Foundation
 Xcel Energy Foundation

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Charter School Growth Fund
Dina Conzemius
The Gallop Family Foundation
Goldman Sachs
The Harry E. & Eda L. Montandon Charitable Trust
Cynthia and John Hart
ICONIQ Capital
J. Jill Compassion Fund
The Louis Calder Foundation
Gloria Perez and John Harens
RDO Equipment Co. and R.D. Offutt Company
Charlotte A. Smith
Stardust
State Street Foundation
The Stern Family Charitable Foundation
WCA Foundation
Kara and Jeremy Wheaton
William J. & Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation

**JP'S VISIONARY CIRCLE
RECOGNIZES INDIVIDUALS,
FAMILIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS
WHO HAVE GIVEN OVER \$100,000
CUMULATIVELY TO JP THROUGHOUT
THEIR LIFETIME. WE ARE GRATEFUL
TO THE 18 NEW MEMBERS WHO
JOINED THE VISIONARY CIRCLE IN
2022 AND TO THE 170 EXISTING
MEMBERS. THROUGHOUT OUR
HISTORY, VISIONARY CIRCLE
DONORS HAVE GIVEN MORE THAN
\$74 MILLION IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO OUR MISSION.**



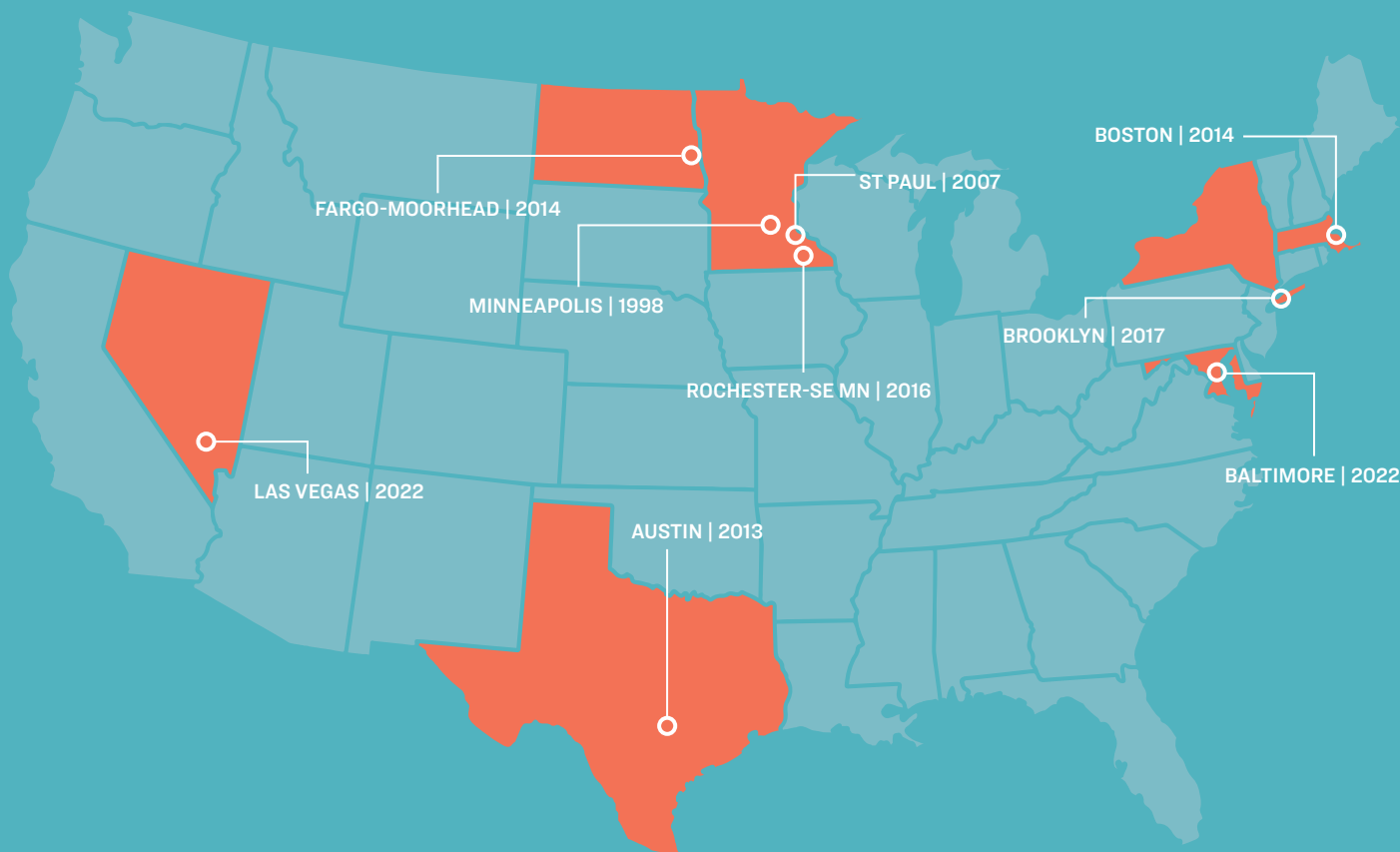
Michael J. O'Connell Society

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, wills, or trusts. JP thanks the 43 members who have made commitments to ensure the 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.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Net Assets 12/31/2021 | \$42,846,568 |
| Change in Net Assets Unrestricted | \$(2,325,340) |
| Change in Net Assets with Restrictions | \$1,760,951 |
| Net Assets 12/31/2022 | \$42,282,179 |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Operating Revenue \$21,433,176 vs. 2021 \$13,474,912 | Operating Expenses \$20,026,327 vs. 2021 \$16,014,167 | Operating Income \$1,406,849 vs. 2021 (\$2,539,255) |
| Total Assets \$53,054,206 vs. 2021 \$51,460,852 | Total Liabilities \$10,772,027 vs. 2021 \$8,614,284 | Net Assets \$42,282,179 vs. 2021 \$42,846,568 |



Jeremiah Program

OUR CAMPUSES

JP AUSTIN

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1510 Laurel Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403

JP BALTIMORE

1900 N. Howard Street, Suite 202
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JP FARGO -MOORHEAD

3104 Fiechtner Drive S.
Fargo, ND 58103

JP ST. PAUL

932 Concordia Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104

JP BOSTON

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