

Jeremiah Program

VOL 3 | SUMMER 2025
A MAGAZINE FOR THE JP COMMUNITY

IMAGINE

EXCLUSIVE

JP'S INAUGURAL LEGACY AWARD

JP ALUMNI KIDS
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

ADDRESSING COMPLEX *SOCIAL ISSUES*

SPARK TANK WINNERS LEAD WITH HEALING,
CONNECTION, AND INCLUSION

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN
A CONVERSATION WITH JP'S FOUNDER



Leave a Legacy That Lasts Generations

Join the Michael J. O'Connell Society

We believe a Jeremiah Program mom dreams in threes: for herself, her children, and her community. In essence, the investments she pours into herself and her children leave a legacy that lasts generations.

Your support can also leave a legacy that lasts generations.

Individuals who pledge to make a gift to JP through their estate plans, wills, or trusts ensure the success of our work for generations to come. They also become part of the Michael J. O'Connell Society, named for our visionary founder.



Commit to JP's longevity today:
jeremiahprogramlegacy.org

Jeremiah Program

DISRUPTING POVERTY
TWO GENERATIONS AT A TIME

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JP's first-ever Legacy Award winners (L-R): second-place winner Leilani Benson, first-place winner Elijah Moen, and third-place winner Tyzjaun Sims



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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. jeremiahprogram.org/newslettersignup
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. jeremiahprogram.org/volunteer
 - Become a Career Volunteer Mentor, dedicating several weeks to guiding a JP mom professionally. jeremiahprogram.org/cvmp
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! jeremiahprogram.org/refer-a-mom

DOUBLING DOWN ON JP'S WORK

OVER THE NEXT
FEW YEARS,
JEREMIAH
PROGRAM IS
MAKING A BIG BET
TO IMPACT EVEN
MORE FAMILIES.

I am deeply optimistic about Jeremiah Program's growing impact over the next few years. Yes, there is a lot of uncertainty, but we remain committed to continuing the work we've been doing — in a way that brings more intentionality, efficacy, and integrity to data-supported outcomes. After 27 years, our direct service work — our five pillars — remains central to our mission.

But we're asking ourselves key questions: How do we strengthen the quality of JP experiences for families and those who are transitioning out of our core program? How can we leverage our work to support *all* lower-income single moms and families in our nine JP communities?

Through our increased investment in JP alumni and their children, JP will actively serve nearly 30% more families in 2025 alone. We are meeting the needs in our communities, but we're doing it thoughtfully. In essence, we're doubling down on our core programming and alumni family engagement for even more impact.

Deepening our alumni program is a major part of this effort. We're proud that 66% of our alumni are actively engaged with JP, but we understand that our alumni are still on their economic mobility journeys. They are in motion, and we are building a structured year-round program that centers and leverages their individual and collective power.

Our new plan ensures that we learn insights from our alumni to strengthen our core programming *and* implement their insights while understanding the barriers and challenges as they move through the various stages of economic mobility.

For instance, what are their insights into affordable housing, early childhood, K-12 education, and career opportunities in their communities? We are looking forward to learning from and applying those understandings in very deliberate ways.

We also want to focus on how we can be strategic partners in our nine communities and beyond. This all goes back to our core programming. A JP





mom is with us for four to six years, and our alumni generally stay in those nine communities after graduation. How do we make sure we're sharing our learning and applying it in ways that benefit not only current and alumni JP families but also every other family that mirrors those identities in that community? This might sound aspirational, and it is, but I want you to understand that we're doubling down here because we've already seen some initial wins, even where we haven't been as thoughtful and strategic.

Recently, five college and university leaders from institutions across North Dakota and western Minnesota gathered at a dinner in Fargo that included a JP mom and alum sharing their experiences as student parents. These presidents and administrators are choosing to interrogate how their schools can support student parents on the financial margins and advance their goals around matriculation, persistence, and graduation. That level of investment not only benefits our current JP families and alumni; it actually shifts the conditions for every other student parent at those institutions. That's an example of what we mean when we talk about community impact.

Another big challenge we're helping JP families navigate is summer child care and the cost of camps. It's about more than summer fun — it's about coming up with money for an expense that's not part of your core budget. It's about heading off learning loss during the summer. It's not just a nice-to-have. That's why we appreciate our incredible community partners holding camps in each of our locations, providing scholarships and opportunities for families on the financial margins.

Because ensuring that children have great summer opportunities can be such a bear for families to navigate, imagine if we could work with our communities to build a common app of sorts. Imagine applying on one app, and it goes out to all the summer camps and enrichment programs. That shifts the conditions for our current moms and alumni but also every other family that shares their experience.

Doubling down on our core programming in really strategic ways and pushing in chips on our alumni investment will deepen our impact. At the same time, we're going to do it in such a way that we shift the conditions for folks who are proximate to JP *and* for families we may never meet in that community.

Chastity Lord, JP President and CEO

NO ONE THRIVES ALONE

A JP ALUMNI FELLOW
SHARES HOW COMMUNITY
TURNED SURVIVAL INTO JOY
— AND WHY SHE'S PAYING IT
FORWARD.





CRISTINA GUAJARDO HAS BUILT A LIFE rooted in connection and giving back. A 2021 graduate of JP Austin, a 2024-2025 JP Alumni Fellow, and a current member of the JP Austin Community Board of Trustees, Cristina is also a program specialist at the Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation (GNDC). There, she helps to protect affordable housing for families with deep ties to Austin's East Side, an area suffering high displacement rates due to gentrification.

In this conversation, Cristina spoke with us about how her journey from isolation to community has shaped her life as a mother, professional, and advocate.

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

How did the idea of community become so important to you?

When I began my journey with Jeremiah, I didn't have a community. I was in a new city — no friends, no family, no job. I felt so alone, and I didn't want my son, Antonio, to feel that same isolation. I just wanted support. But when I moved into the JP campus, I found so much more than I was looking for. I found a community that cared.

Shortly after I moved in, I became an ambassador for JP, speaking to visitors and donors about the program. Meeting people who wanted to help — even though they didn't know us — gave me so much hope. It made me realize this city could be a true home for us.

What was it like being an ambassador for Jeremiah Program?

As an ambassador, I shared my story with donors and volunteers and at events like Amplify Austin [the city's annual nonprofit giving initiative]. At first, I did it because few others wanted to. But over time, I realized how important it was to give visibility to JP.

Telling my story made the support real for people. It showed them how their contributions change lives. Even today, I still talk about JP every chance I get. I guess I'll be a forever ambassador!

How did you end up working at GNDC?

GNDC partnered with Jeremiah Program to provide affordable housing when the Austin campus was built. After I graduated, I struggled to find housing — it was the middle of COVID, and waitlists were closed everywhere.

When I talked to GNDC, they didn't have housing available right away, but they offered me a job. Later, I was able to purchase a home through their program. Now, I answer calls from people looking for housing. I remember how desperate I felt, so I meet every call with empathy.

You weren't originally planning to stay in Austin. How has your relationship to the city changed?

Honestly, I resented Austin at first. When I became a single mom, I wanted to go back to Minnesota, where I had a strong community. Or at least San Antonio, where my family is. But because of legal restrictions tied to my custody arrangement, I wasn't allowed to move. I felt stuck.

Over time, I realized God had placed me exactly where I needed to be. Amazing, loving people kept showing up in our lives. I believe they were sent to show me that good people are everywhere. I now see Austin as our home, and I feel called to pour into this community the way it poured into me.

What do you love most about your community today?

Working and volunteering with nonprofits lets me see a beautiful side of Austin — the people who are doing the hard work behind the scenes. They acknowledge the gaps and work to fill them, especially to keep the city accessible for everyone.

GNDC, where I work now, focuses on preserving affordable housing on the East Side. It's about helping long-time residents stay and thrive. Thanks to GNDC and JP, my son



“Working and volunteering with nonprofits lets me see a beautiful side of Austin — the people who are doing the hard work behind the scenes.”

and I have been able to plant real roots here. This city feels like an extension of our home.

JP, GNDC, and United Way are three of the many organizations that contributed to my son's and my success. When United Way was launching its two-gen initiative and needed to highlight local families, Jeremiah Program connected me to them. It didn't end there, though. They continued to offer me leadership opportunities, opportunities to get involved in the community. That's how I ended up on their board.

That's the beauty of Austin behind the scenes: Nobody knows that this organization values the lived experience of the people it helps. It uses that experience to empower them to advocate for policies that can change the system.

You've spoken so beautifully about community. How do you think the world would change if everyone saw themselves as part of a collective, the way you do?

Now more than ever, we need to focus on our immediate communities. When the world feels overwhelming, we have to come back to what we can control — our homes, our connections to our neighbors.

It's like the ripple effect: Small actions create bigger waves. If we all started in our homes and expanded outward, our collective impact would be huge. Hope is contagious. It's life-giving. And it starts small.

What lessons do you hope your son, Antonio, is learning from you?

I want Antonio to see the city as an extension of his home. He already loves our house, and that's a dream come true for me. We just planted a slow-growing oak tree in our yard. I may never see it at its full height, but he will — and maybe his children will, too.

My hope for our home is that it gives my son a deep sense of belonging, a place where he knows he is rooted, loved, and part of something greater. I want him to grow up knowing that home and community are real gifts we must always treasure, nurture, protect, and pass on.

What do you hope other women, especially other moms, take away from your story?

I hope they feel empowered to find their own strength. When I share the obstacles I faced, it's not to make people feel sorry for me. It's to show that if I could do it, they can too.

It's important to share the whole story — the hard parts and the victories. Success isn't about luck. It's about sacrifice, perseverance, and community. When we share our stories honestly, we give others permission to believe in their own possibilities.

At the end of the day, the ride is smoother and more joyful when we bring others along with us. That's the real gift of community. 🌸



BUILT BY MOMS, **FOR MOMS**

HOW JP ALUMNI ARE ADVOCATING FOR PUBLIC POLICY TO CREATE A NEW FUTURE

One thing anyone familiar with Jeremiah Program knows: JP moms are problem solvers. They are expert multitaskers on an economic mobility journey who make decisions and craft solutions daily for their families — from deciding which bedtime stories to read to balancing their household budgets to managing their educational pursuits while caring for young children.

That's why one of JP's guiding principles is that women experiencing poverty are the right people to design and scale solutions that meet the needs of their communities. This principle has never been more evident than in the voices and vision of the 2024–2025 JP Alumni Fellows: moms who are advocating for public policy that reflects what single mothers and their children truly need to thrive.

“I hope that we as a fellowship can impact the way single mothers are treated in all walks of life,” said Kylie Schultz, a member of the 2024–2025 fellowship cohort. “We want mothers to be treated better in healthcare and have healthier outcomes, receive proper nutrition, affordable child care and housing, and educational supports.”

That vision has resulted in JP's newly reimagined public policy pillars — five focus areas that define the systems-level

advocacy work JP will champion in the years ahead. These pillars are more than talking points. They're rooted in real lives, real challenges, and real solutions born from the lived experiences of single moms.

REIMAGINING THE SYSTEM FROM THE INSIDE

The process of updating these pillars began with listening.

Over several months, JP Alumni Fellows held conversations with other alumni, current JP moms, and public policy committee members from across the country. The question at the heart of these discussions was simple but transformative: What systems have helped you, and what systems have held you back?

“The process we undertook was not merely procedural; it was deeply impactful,” reflected Ebony Williams, another 2024–2025 Alumni Fellow. “It shed light on the unique challenges faced by single mothers.”

Over and over, the same topics came up: housing, child care, mental health. It didn't matter where a mom lived; these issues cut across every JP city.



The 2024-2025 JP Alumni Fellows met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill to share their lived experience as single mothers living on the financial margins. They also discussed JP's public policy pillars that will support single-parent families across the U.S.

The fellows took those responses and mapped them to policy categories, comparing current systems to the gaps families reported falling through. They examined feedback from previous JP public policy cohorts and reviewed data from surveys of moms and community reports.

The result? Five interconnected pillars that will guide JP's advocacy work:

- Affordable & Stable Housing
- Affordable & High-Quality Child Care
- Supporting Student Parent Success
- Mental Health & Women's Health
- Food Security & Nutrition

Each pillar supports the goals of economic mobility and stability. Together, they form a foundation for long-term independence — not just for individual moms but for entire families and communities.

IT'S ALL CONNECTED: FROM DIRECT SERVICE TO SYSTEMS CHANGE

JP has long been known for taking a holistic approach to programming, offering moms and their children safe housing, career-track education support, quality early childhood education, empowerment and leadership training, and a strong community. But programming can only go so far.

“Too often, we ask single mothers to climb a ladder with broken rungs,” said Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia, who serves as JP's VP of alumni and public policy and works alongside the fellows. “We realized that our programmatic pillars — housing, education, community — only work when the policy environment supports them.”

That insight led to a breakthrough: JP's public policy pillars wouldn't sit beside our core programmatic work — they would serve as its foundation.

BUILDING A FUTURE WHERE FAMILIES THRIVE

One of the most powerful aspects of the updated public policy pillars is who built them — and why.

“A big part of this work is advocacy, not only as a fellowship but as individuals,” Kylie said about her cohort's work on the pillars. “We hope to inspire other mothers to advocate for themselves.”

The 2024–2025 Alumni Fellows represent a diverse group of women across JP cities, from Minneapolis to Boston to Austin. Some joined JP while pregnant, others while working full-time and attending school at night. Some experienced the program during the COVID pandemic, others in the program's early years in the 2000s. But they all share one thing: firsthand knowledge of navigating systems not built for them.

“By highlighting the critical importance of ensuring that single mothers have the rights and resources they need,” Ebony explained, “we can work together to dismantle the barriers that hinder their progress.”

The updated public policy pillars point to what’s possible when moms take the lead — together.

Cohort member Stasia Saunders felt pride in collaborating with other alumni on such forward-looking work.

“It is an honor to reconnect and come to the table with a group of strong, compassionate, and intelligent women who continue championing for the greater good,” she said. “I hope our work helps serve as a reminder of how crucial it is to invest in the well-being of families and communities and inspires others to do the same.”

This group of moms is serious about the impact of their work on other moms and families, but they’re also focused on policymakers, whose daily work shapes whether families are helped or held back by systems.

“It is my hope that our efforts will resonate profoundly not only with the incredible mothers who benefit from the Jeremiah Program but also with lawmakers and decision-makers,” Ebony asserted. “Ultimately, this initiative is about fostering an environment where these resilient women can thrive, and I believe that our work will pave the way for meaningful change in public policy that recognizes and supports the needs of single mothers everywhere.” ✨

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN JP’S PROGRAMMATIC AND PUBLIC POLICY PILLARS

Career-Track College Education > Supporting Student Parent Success

Our programming helps moms matriculate, persist, and graduate, but public policy determines whether they can afford tuition, access on-campus child care, or receive flexible supports as student parents. Advocating for student-parent success strengthens every college and career milestone.

Quality Early Childhood Education > Affordable & High-Quality Child Care

We deliver high-quality early learning and development experiences — but we also know our families live in child care deserts, face excessive wait times for financial assistance, and confront overwhelming monthly costs. Public policy that improves accessibility, streamlines assistance programs, and increases compensation for providers ensures our moms have real, reliable options.

Safe & Affordable Housing > Affordable & Stable Housing

Stable housing is a basic need; it’s also a springboard for education, employment, and leadership. Our program offers access to housing or housing supports

— but our public policy pillar advocates for local and federal systems prioritizing affordability, eviction prevention, and supportive housing options for single-mom families.

Empowerment & Leadership > Mental Health & Women’s Health

Our Empowerment & Leadership programming builds confidence and skills — but public policy determines whether a mom can access comprehensive healthcare that supports her physical and emotional well-being. This includes increased access to mental health services, preventive care, ongoing care, support for common women’s health conditions, and maternal health support.

Supportive Community > Food Security & Nutrition

Food insecurity is one of the most significant social determinants of health, contributing to many chronic health conditions. Without access to nutritious food, families can’t focus on learning, leading, or growing. Public policies that strengthen programs like SNAP, WIC, and school meals help us foster the supportive, thriving environments families deserve.



HOW ONE VISION SPARKED A *MOVEMENT*

**A CONVERSATION WITH
JEREMIAH PROGRAM FOUNDER MICHAEL O'CONNELL**

Over 30 years ago, when Michael O'Connell first felt stirrings of the idea that would become Jeremiah Program, he never could have imagined that it would grow into a national organization serving thousands of families.

He witnessed the success of the seeds he planted when he attended the 2025 JP Summit Weekend in Minnesota — his first JP Summit experience. “There were over 400 people, and about 350 of them were in the program or graduates,” he reflected. “I had never seen, much less experienced, so many graduates, and I just have to tell you it was overwhelming.”

Michael also makes it a point to recognize JP as a community endeavor. “As the vision developed,” he explained, “volunteers from churches, synagogues, businesses, corporations, foundations, schools, government, and neighborhoods became involved and supported a vision that would benefit the entire community.”

Michael recently sat down with JP staff and shared some of his favorite JP memories. He also discussed what excites him about the program's present and future.

What do you remember about the initial vision for Jeremiah Program?

The idea started in the fall of 1991, and I had just become pastor of the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. That first week, maybe the second week in September, the idea started to creep into my brain. It was not until New Year's Eve 1997 that the first six families moved in.

I will never forget that I had the privilege to escort Penny and her 3-year-old son Avery to their apartment in the original 18-unit building.

We walked into this brand-new, two-bedroom corner apartment that overlooked two interstate highways; you could see out of two sides. Avery went in, ran to the window, and climbed up on a little chair. He looked back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, and yelled over his shoulder, “Mom! Look at all the trucks!”

That may sound kind of corny but it confirmed for me that we were onto something.

What circumstances led to the vision for JP?

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, located across Loring Park from the Basilica, invited me to join the board of a program called Students with Children. The program provided day care during the week for mothers who attended the community college or technical college that was close by.

Women enrolled their children in the day care program when school began that fall, but a high percentage of them had to drop out. The majority of them never even made it through the first semester: Of the 30 original families that started in September, only six families remained in December.

To find out why they dropped out, we put together focus groups of women who had children and went to the community or technical college. We had a nice dinner for them and their kids, looked after their kids, and said to them, "Dream about what a program to help you complete your academic goals would look like. What would be in it?"

It's amazing how each of the groups was relatively the same in terms of what they had to say. The main issue was safety: "Could our lives be safer to help us stay in the program?" That was a biggie.

I asked them, "What could go wrong that would stop your pursuit of your academic program?" Some of their responses were safety, access to transportation, the health of the mom, the health of the child, unhealthy relationships, and lack of support. Any one of these realities and many others stopped them in their tracks. What we learned from those focus groups was key to the vision that became Jeremiah Program.

The women had no support group around them, and they dropped out of school for a myriad of reasons. We began to think about those day-to-day realities, those inevitable things that could happen and yank them right out of the program. We had to figure out what was necessary to care for the children in a safe environment, handle illness, or fix a car. What would it take to remove the barriers to their success? It was an aha moment.

What's another favorite story from JP's early days?

We finally figured out that we had to create the equivalent of a dorm. That was key. Why? Well, that's where a woman will be safe, especially if she can manage it well, get everything she needs, and have her child receive early

"Two generations are going to go through and be successful in the world because they had the opportunity of a great education."

childhood education. So we now knew that we needed a safe and secure place for women and their children to live and be successful.

In 1993, as the JP vision was evolving, the roof of the Basilica was being restored. There was a crane with a bucket to bring workers to the top. Jim Howard, the CEO of Northern States Power — now it's Xcel Energy — came for breakfast one morning, and he was telling me that his company really wanted to get behind affordable housing. And I said, "That's great!"

The bucket was going up and down outside the window, and Jim said he worked for a power company when he was in college. I asked him if he wanted to take a ride. He said he did, so we rode the bucket up 150 feet to the cross at the top. The wind was blowing, and Jim had his arm over the arm of the cross to steady the bucket so we wouldn't blow away.

I said, "Jim, you see that parking lot down there? You own it." He said, "What do you mean I own it?" I said, "Northern States Power owns it, but you don't use it anymore. The Basilica uses it on Sundays for parking. I want to thank you for that."

Then I said, "You and I have been talking about this Jeremiah idea. That is where the 'dorm' needs to be — in that parking lot." Jim, with his arm over the cross, said, "But I'm a Presbyterian!" And I said, "That's OK. It'll still work."

And a month later, we had a half-million-dollar piece of property.

As JP's founder, what is your reaction to the new JP Legacy Award? How do you see it connecting to your original vision for the program?

The vision for Jeremiah Program was always to benefit two generations. The necessity for an education to provide



opportunity was the key to enjoying an independent life. From the beginning, the moms understood that graduating from high school or having a GED was not enough. They knew that continuing your education was the mechanism to get on the path to success.

Their children have really seen and understood how important education is to their own future by watching their mothers succeed. The children understand the importance of post-secondary education, and for many, it's really important to have a scholarship to achieve that goal. They are motivated to apply for the Legacy Award to enable them to pursue the education they want for themselves.

This completes the original vision of Jeremiah to provide a future full of hope, two generations at a time. Two generations are going to go through and be successful in the world because they had the opportunity of a great education.

What hopes do you have for Jeremiah Program's future?

Well, it's always puzzled me that, as far as I know, what we're trying to do is still a one-off. There are no other two-generation programs like this for a specific group of people like high school graduates, who know they need to have post-secondary education.

So my hope for the future is that we keep growing in a smart way. That's important. I have great respect for the people at the national level who are guiding JP into the

future. What I understand is that, yes, it is successful in nine places around the country, but JP's leaders are going to be thoughtful about further expansion. In other words, being very careful. And so that's what my hope is, that it will keep expanding.

Another hope would be that others will figure out models of it, ways to do the same thing in a different way — because if you take any of these women who have graduated from high school and want to go to college or post-secondary, you have winners. A mom who has chosen that path has the capacity and the agency to succeed. She arrives that way. Once she discovers that, with the sisterhood's support for her and her child, she can visualize her own success, and it's a winner.

Is there anything else you want to say about Jeremiah Program — past, present, or future — from your perspective as founder?

My faith has taught me that something that seemed to be impossible could be possible. You can wake up one morning and say, "Well, where did this come from?" The answer is, "It doesn't matter." It comes from God. I was in the right place at the right time and was able to gather many people who shared the vision in theory. Only through commitment, tenacity, perseverance, and tremendous generosity were we able to work together to bring the vision to reality. 🌸

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

From Foundation *to* Future





JEREMIAH PROGRAM'S NEW LEGACY AWARD AFFIRMS WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN FAMILIES EXPERIENCE TWO GENERATIONS OF SUPPORT.

IN SPRING 2025, Jeremiah Program proudly launched an inaugural milestone initiative: the JP Legacy Award.

Designed to honor and uplift the children of JP alumni, the award recognizes young leaders between the ages of 13 and 25 who are actively making an impact in their communities. Winners receive investments in college savings accounts. This award is more than a scholarship, though; it is a testament to the power of JP's two-generation approach in action — a reminder that when you support a mother in building a foundation for her family, she can transform the future for her children as well.

This year, three outstanding students received inaugural Legacy Awards to support their educational and leadership journeys. Their stories reflect the ambition, tenacity, and dedication to the collective that define the JP community.

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

The Legacy Award is open to children of JP graduates who have completed their degrees through the program and remain engaged with the alumni community. Each awardee receives financial support through a 529 account or state-sponsored savings plan to help advance their education, training, or community-based initiatives. The top recipient receives \$10,000, followed by \$5,000 for second place and \$2,500 for third.

But the Legacy Award is about more than financial assistance. It honors the lived experiences of JP families, celebrates the ripple effect of their hard work, and reinforces JP's belief that the next generation deserves every opportunity to thrive.

"These [young people] are JP alumni that are building their own legacies, and this is what it's all about," says Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia, JP's VP of alumni and public policy. "It's about changing the narrative. It's about letting the world know what's possible when we invest in families."



FIRST PLACE ELIJAH – THE ADVOCATE

ELIJAH'S STORY with the Jeremiah Program began when he was just 2 years old. During a time of profound transition, he moved into JP's Minneapolis campus with his mother, JP alum Rhea Moen. A newly minted high school graduate, Elijah excels in the classroom, in athletics, and as a community leader.

A tri-sport athlete and wrestling team captain, Elijah is known for his skill, sportsmanship, and genuine care for other students. When a classmate with autism went out for wrestling, Elijah offered support and encouragement that helped the young athlete feel more confident on the team. A heartfelt public post from the student's mother describes Elijah as "one of the most AMAZING humans" and a person who "will forever be part of the woven fabric that makes up my family."

Elijah's impact isn't limited to sports. After multiple gun-related incidents at his high school, Elijah became a vocal advocate for safety and equity. He addressed a packed

community forum with hundreds in attendance, later participating in policy discussions with district leaders that led to tangible reforms. His ability to speak the truth with clarity and compassion not only made an impression — it made his school safer.

As a student leader, Elijah also helped implement "Black Girl Magic Day," a student-led initiative now celebrated throughout his district. He continues to support youth empowerment and racial equity efforts across the Twin Cities, including volunteering with Achieving Dreams, a nonprofit that helps raise funds for academic and athletic opportunities.

Elijah plans to study biomedical engineering with a focus on prosthetics, a field that combines innovation with purpose. He has already been accepted to multiple colleges and looks forward to bringing his passion for justice and service to the next chapter of his life.

SECOND PLACE

LEILANI – THE CHANGEMAKER

FROM THE MOMENT she entered the world, Leilani has understood the value of both service and resilience. Her mother, JP Alumni Fellow Tiffany Benson, modeled advocacy and purpose, from parenting through hardship to preserving community landmarks like the Harriet Tubman House in Boston. Leilani grew up learning how to use her voice and take action.

As a student and activist, Leilani has already left her mark. Understanding the complexities of growing up without a father, she founded a peer support group for children with incarcerated parents. She channels her lived experience into leadership, ensuring other young people don't feel alone in their struggles.

Leilani is also an athlete, mentor, and advocate. She excels in basketball, volleyball, and track while encouraging her

teammates. Off the court, she volunteers, organizes food drives, and mentors younger students and athletes. Her compassion is matched by a deep commitment to justice. Inspired by her experiences with bullying and marginalization, Leilani plans to pursue a career in law to advocate for underserved communities.

Her involvement in Soul Sisters, a club focused on empowering young women of color, has further strengthened her voice. There, she organizes events, facilitates dialogue, and uplifts her peers — creating space for others to be heard and valued.

“Leilani doesn't just give back,” her mother writes. “She builds others up, ensuring the cycle of service continues.”





THIRD PLACE TYZJAUN “TY” – THE BUILDER

AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT who just finished his freshman year with a nearly perfect GPA, Tyzjaun Sims is already showing what it means to be a thoughtful, service-minded leader. Known to family, friends, and teachers as “Ty,” he brings his whole heart to everything he does — from football to tutoring to entrepreneurship.

A multi-sport athlete who plays both flag and tackle football, Ty values teamwork and discipline. But his impact extends beyond the field. At school, he regularly tutors peers in math and other subjects, aiming not only to improve grades but also to make learning feel empowering and accessible. “My goal is that people are happy to come to school,” he says.

Ty’s mother, JP Alumni Fellow Lavasha Smith, describes him as a natural entrepreneur and team builder. In his

Minneapolis-area middle school, he helped establish and lead the “Kindness Store,” a project where students used earned “kindness tickets” to buy snacks and gifts — a joyful way to promote empathy and school spirit. He also served as CEO of a Junior Achievement business called the Snack Shack, which won awards for best product and highest sales. His leadership helped spark ingenuity and confidence in his peers.

Ty’s aspirations include continuing to support others through public speaking, mentorship, and creative leadership. He sees potential in everyone and works to bring people together in uplifting and inspiring ways. Lavasha couldn’t be prouder of his determination, empathy, and commitment to making a difference.



A LEGACY THAT'S JUST BEGINNING

THE INAUGURAL LEGACY AWARD marks a new chapter in JP's mission to disrupt poverty two generations at a time. These three awardees are living proof that when mothers have the resources to pursue education and stability, their children are free to dream bigger, lead boldly, and create lasting change.

From Leilani's advocacy to Elijah's community leadership to Ty's school-based impact, each student reflects a different expression of the JP legacy — one grounded in an unwavering belief in what's possible.

As JP continues to expand its alumni network and deepen its two-generation model, the Legacy Award is a powerful and exciting symbol of what families can achieve when equipped with real choices. And this is only the beginning. ✨

During the 2025 JP Summit Weekend, alumni moms Tiffany Benson, Lavasha Smith, and Rhea Moen gathered in conversation about the Legacy Award, the pride of seeing their children excel, and building lives — and futures — based on a two-generation commitment to education, community, and personal success.

A photograph of four women standing on a stage, each holding a glass award. They are dressed in formal attire. The background is a pinkish-red screen with the text 'THE POWER' and 'Program' visible. A teal banner is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

Wellness Takes Center Stage

*Spark Tank Winners Lead
with Healing, Connection,
and Inclusion*



“These incredible women have noticed needs in their lives and our society and are coming up with creative solutions. It was truly empowering and invigorating to witness the determination of these women, who I know will make an impact in this world.”

— CHRISTINA NGUYEN, CHEF/OWNER OF HOLA AREPA & HAI HAI AND SPARK TANK JUDGE

DURING JEREMIAH PROGRAM’S 2025 Summit Weekend, 10 visionary JP moms and alumni redefined entrepreneurship. For these moms, building a business is about more than making money; it’s a path to collective healing and community care.

The fifth annual Summit Weekend, held in Minneapolis in March, brought nearly 900 moms, alumni, staff, and supporters together in person and online to celebrate a movement rooted in possibility. The event’s theme, “The Power of Collective Dreaming,” spoke to the experience of sharing a sacred space *and* the excitement of one of the weekend’s signature events: the Spark Tank competition.

Now in its third year, Spark Tank (JP’s pitch competition inspired by the television show *Shark Tank*) offers JP moms and alumni a platform to present their business ideas to a panel of judges and a supportive audience. This year, the competition spotlighted ventures centered on wellness, reflecting a collective desire to foster healing, connection, and inclusion within communities. From 77 applicants, 10 semi-finalists received coaching and feedback. Three walked away with money to invest in their visions.

A COLLECTIVE EMPHASIS ON WELLNESS

The common thread of wellness among this year’s Spark Tank participants was defined not only as individual health but also as a collective, community-driven endeavor. Each venture addresses systemic challenges that impact marginalized populations, offering solutions that promote healing and collective welfare.

JP President and CEO Chastity Lord highlighted the significance of this focus.

“These women are not just building businesses; they’re creating ecosystems of care,” she said. “Their work exemplifies the power of community-led solutions in addressing complex social issues.”

The emphasis on wellness also reflects broader themes discussed during Summit Weekend, where workshops and conversations centered on mental health, maternal care, and community resilience. Speakers like Dr. Rachel Hardeman and Dr. Janice Johnson Dias underscored the importance of addressing the “poverty and race tax” on women’s health and the need for joyful, change-making parenting practices.

THE IMPACT OF SPARK TANK

Since its inception, Spark Tank has become a cornerstone of JP’s commitment to fostering entrepreneurship among single mothers and disrupting generational poverty. Rooted in coaching, mentorship, and financial support, the competition helps women transform their ideas into actionable ventures that benefit their families and communities.

This year, Spark Tank awarded \$20,000 in total prize money to the winners, with additional support offered to all participants through coaching and resources. The competition not only elevates individual entrepreneurs but also contributes to a broader movement of economic empowerment and social change.

As one participant noted, “Spark Tank gave me the confidence to pursue my dream. It’s more than a competition; it’s a community that believes in you.”

LOOKING AHEAD

The success of this year’s Spark Tank winners underscores the transformative potential of community-driven entrepreneurship. By centering wellness, these ventures address critical gaps in services and support, offering holistic solutions that uplift individuals and communities alike.

As JP continues to invest in the dreams and aspirations of single mothers, the popularity of Spark Tank continues to serve as a powerful reminder that single moms have the perspective, insight, and discipline needed to tackle the community’s most pressing problems.

Meet the Winners!

Get to know the innovative founders of the three winning businesses, reimagining wellness through the lens of motherhood and community.



FIRST PLACE AND INSPIRATION AWARD

Tara Carlson and Tory Queensley, Founders of EmpowerHER

LOCATION: Fargo

AWARD: \$10,000 + \$2,500

MISSION: Healing Through Holistic Support

Tara Carlson and Tory Queensley's venture, EmpowerHER, addresses the critical intersection of addiction recovery and maternal health. Recognizing the stigma faced by pregnant women struggling with addiction, EmpowerHER offers comprehensive support, including recovery housing, medical care, treatment services, and educational opportunities.

"Our goal is to create a safe, nurturing environment where women can heal and rebuild their lives," said Tara. "We believe that by supporting mothers, we're also supporting their children and the broader community."

Their approach aligns with JP's two-generation model, emphasizing that investing in mothers leads to positive outcomes for their children. By addressing the root causes of addiction and providing holistic care, EmpowerHER aims to disrupt the cycle of generational poverty and trauma.

"I was incredibly inspired by the courage, time, and effort each mompreneur put into bringing their ideas to life. Each finalist found a real need and brought a unique, personal perspective to the solution."

— ANNA SAWYER, CFO AT ODELE BEAUTY
AND SPARK TANK JUDGE

“What sets JP apart is its focus on advancing mom entrepreneurs — women who are courageously balancing the demands of motherhood while pursuing their business dreams. Serving as a judge was an honor.”

— DR. KEY HALLMON, FOUNDER OF THE VILLAGE MARKET AND SPARK TANK JUDGE



SECOND PLACE

Sharmaine Hamilton, Founder of MomsOnly Social Inc.

LOCATION: Boston

AWARD: \$5,000

MISSION: Building Community Through Self-Care

Sharmaine Hamilton's MomsOnly Social Inc. focuses on empowering mothers through self-care activities and community engagement. Recognizing that motherhood can be isolating, she created a platform where moms can connect, share experiences, and access resources to support their well-being.

“Self-care isn’t a luxury; it’s a necessity,” Sharmaine emphasized. “When mothers take care of themselves, they’re better equipped to care for their families and contribute to their communities.”

MomsOnly Social Inc. organizes events, workshops, and social gatherings that promote mental health, physical wellness, and personal development. By fostering a supportive network, the venture aims to reduce stress and burnout among mothers, ultimately enhancing family stability and community resilience.



THIRD PLACE

Dallas Outlaw, Founder of Parental Inclusion Network

LOCATION: Las Vegas

AWARD: \$2,500

MISSION: Advocating for Neurodiverse Families

Dallas Outlaw's Parental Inclusion Network addresses the needs of parents, caregivers, and supporters of autistic and special needs children and adults. The organization provides resources, training, and educational assistance to help families navigate the complexities of caregiving and advocacy.

“Our mission is to empower families with the knowledge and tools they need to support their loved ones effectively,” Dallas explained. “We want to create a more inclusive society where neurodiverse individuals are understood, respected, and valued.”

By offering workshops, support groups, and informational materials, the Parental Inclusion Network aims to bridge gaps in understanding and services, ensuring that families feel equipped and supported in their caregiving journeys. 🌸



the Power

of

Collective Dreaming

THE 2025 JP SUMMIT WEEKEND BROUGHT TOGETHER HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TO CHAMPION A MOVEMENT ROOTED IN ECONOMIC MOBILITY, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES.





“WHAT IF **WE** ARE WHO WE’VE BEEN WAITING FOR?”

JP President and CEO Chastity Lord posed that question to the nearly 500 JP moms, alumni, staff, board members, partners, and changemakers who joined the fifth annual JP Summit Weekend, March 7-9, 2025. While the in-person gathering was held in Minnesota, nearly 400 people joined from across the United States for JP’s first-ever SummitX, the event’s virtual experience. In both spaces, the energy of collective power was palpable; participants came together around the shared goal of economic mobility and a belief that when moms and families win, our communities win.

That’s what the weekend’s theme, “The Power of Collective Dreaming,” was all about: a potent movement of mothers growing all over this country, and the towns and cities that are better and stronger for it.

“Imagine if this room, this network, this sisterhood is actually what we’ve been waiting for,” Chastity encouraged the audience. Summit Weekend challenged participants to not only imagine it but to build it — together.

MOMS DREAMING FOR THEMSELVES, THEIR CHILDREN, AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

The JP Summit Weekend was designed for women who are preparing themselves and their families to thrive *and* contribute to their communities. From posting inspiring messages on a “Collective Dreaming Wall” and choosing



stimulating books in JP's free onsite bookstore to attending powerful featured conversations and workshops, participants had the space to focus on healthy bodies, minds, and families — the building blocks of a healthy public.

The workshops emphasized creativity and energy, allowing moms to fill their cups over the weekend and take their inspiration back home.

Two sessions focused on parenting and preparing children for the future. Dr. Janice Johnson Dias, author of *Parent Like It Matters: How to Raise Joyful, Change-Making Girls*, led a workshop on effective daily parenting practices and how moms should make sure they seek joy outside of their parenting identities. Geida Cleveland of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities helped JP moms, many of whom are first-generation college students, think about how to plan for and support their children's higher education journeys.

Two other sessions focused on two-generation wealth-building. Dr. Key Hallmon, author of *No One Is Self-Made: Build Your Village to Flourish in Business and Life*, shared how doing good in your community can also lead to creating generational health, wealth, and lasting change. Dr. Paris Woods, author of *The Black Girl's Guide to Financial*

Freedom, presented her values-driven, low-stress strategies to help moms feel they can master their finances and confidently create the lives they love.

Recognizing the importance of systemic change, Jehmu Greene, CEO of We Defend Truth and co-founder of Vote Run Lead, led a session encouraging attendees to be the change they want to see by running for elected positions — from PTA president and school board chair to city council. Civil rights leader Cristina Tzintzún Ramirez facilitated a workshop on turning grassroots community organizing into lasting impact that shifts systems. And Rhiana Gunn-Wright, a leading voice on climate and economic policy, conducted a session on how addressing climate justice can create a more sustainable future for everyone.

DREAMING ABOUT WHAT OUR COUNTRY CAN BE

The vision of a future that serves us all was prominent in our featured conversations, too. Acclaimed sociologist and professor Matthew Desmond spoke with JP leaders and staff during a pre-Summit Weekend event about why poverty persists in the United States, the wealthiest country in the world, and how we can collectively change this status quo.



About 1 out of every 9 Americans lives below the poverty line, and about 1 in 18 experiences deep poverty, he explained. He attributes this to segregation — neighborhoods of concentrated affluence and concentrated poverty — and the exploitation of workers. “Poverty isn’t just the absence of money,” Desmond said. “It’s the absence of choices and the people who take advantage of it.” These choices include those made by the average individual *and* by people entrusted to make public policy.

Referring to the research behind his most recent book, *Poverty, by America*, Desmond argued that we can counter the labor exploitation and segregation that contribute to much of U.S. poverty by investing, empowering, and building. “Invest in families by rebalancing the safety net,” he said. “Empower the poor by reining in exploitation, and build inclusive and open communities.”

Professor, researcher, and author Dr. Rachel Hardeman, one of *Time*’s Most Influential People of 2024, opened the Summit’s first full day of programming with eye-opening data on health inequities and motherhood. Referencing research centered on Black maternal health, she declared, “We live in a country where we have allowed maternal deaths to be acceptable.”

During a fireside chat with JP national board member Kadia Tubman, she said these inequities are “why women must take care of ourselves,” encouraging participants to slow down, attend to their physical and mental health, and be vocal about their needs.

For families and communities to be healthy, they must also have access to quality food and nutrition support. Yet, nearly 30 percent of American families experience poverty, and that includes hunger. That’s why nutrition is a key component of JP’s holistic approach to supporting families on the path to economic mobility: Access to food is both a basic need *and* a strategic catalyst for broader economic mobility and empowerment. (Read more about this on page 11!)

Summit Weekend’s premier sponsor and invaluable partner, No Kid Hungry, aligns with JP’s belief that no mother should have to choose between paying the electricity bill or feeding her family.

Lillian Singh, senior vice president of family economic mobility at Share Our Strength, No Kid Hungry’s parent organization, is committed to addressing the root causes of hunger. Noting that No Kid Hungry is known for its school meal programming, Lillian wanted to extend that work further.



“They invited me to create the Family Economic Mobility Initiative,” she said during a pre-Summit dinner conversation. “I started with a vision that this was a national apparatus that needed to be used to connect organizations like JP to greater power and influence and capital ... if we’re going to really begin to address some of these challenges for single moms like my mom.”

JP is proud to partner with No Kid Hungry to deepen our work making sure families have what they need to thrive and contribute to healthy, thriving communities.

DREAMING TOGETHER BEYOND THE WEEKEND

As the weekend concluded and attendees prepared to head home, the spirit of family, togetherness, and sisterhood filled the air. When asked about her time during Summit Weekend, one mom reflected, “Tremendous love from everyone and the power of sisterhood is pure poetry. What a lovely experience!” Another shared, “This Summit experience has been amazing, and I am thankful I got to meet other JP moms from across the country.”

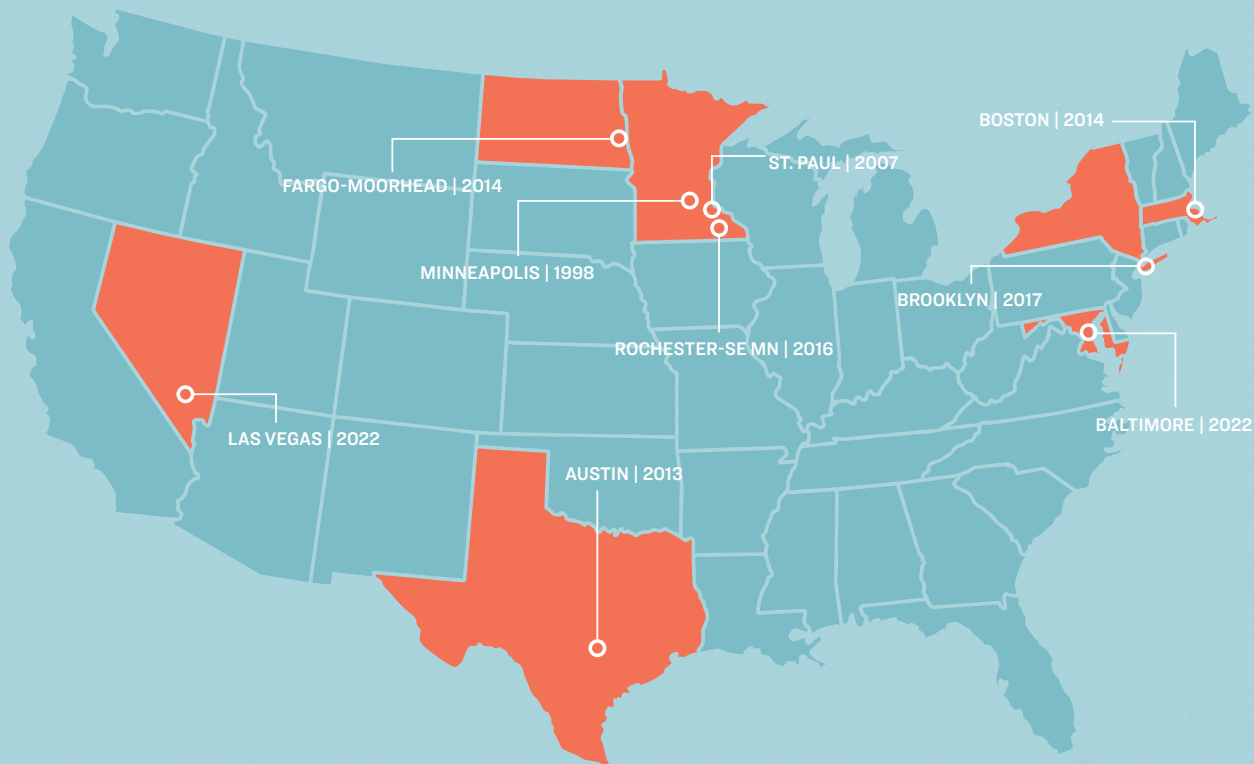
One JP mom told us she left feeling rejuvenated.

“It was a refreshing experience,” she said. “I got to take a break from work, family, motherhood, etc., and just enjoy catching up with women who I’m in sisterhood with. I felt that this weekend was about me and the ladies that I’ve grown with.”

A participant who has attended multiple JP Summits told us she looks forward to it every year.

“As a full-time working single mother, I often find it hard to make meaningful time for myself,” she explained. “Thanks to Jeremiah Program for continuing to gather at our yearly Summits where we can reconnect with friends we haven’t seen in a while, as well as meeting new moms and encouraging them as they start their JP journey.”

JP is grateful to our entire community of moms, alumni, supporters, board members, partners, and sponsors for making these journeys possible — not only for a weekend but as part of a larger movement that can influence the entire nation. Momentum is growing, and with our collective dreams bolstering our sails, the best is yet to come. 🌟



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2024 *ANNUAL* REPORT

Jeremiah Program



Jeremiah Program

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

2024 was a year of many firsts for Jeremiah Program. We published our first research report examining the experiences of JP moms in our introductory Empowerment and Leadership course. We launched our first “Get out the Vote” campaign, encouraging civic engagement among JP moms, and we had the very first graduate from our Early Childhood Education Fellowship, a JP mom. Each of these milestones represents meaningful strides.

We also held our fourth annual JP Summit Weekend in Baltimore, the second in person, assembling nearly 400 JP moms, staff, alumni, and partners. It was an opportunity for reflection, conversation, and celebration of our JP families and alumni. Student parents, educators, changemakers, and more all came together with a shared commitment to removing barriers to economic mobility.

We also held our fourth annual JP Summit Weekend in Baltimore, the second in person, assembling nearly 400 JP moms, staff, alumni, and partners. It was an opportunity for reflection, conversation, and celebration of our JP families and alumni. Student parents, educators, changemakers, and more all came together with a shared commitment to removing barriers to economic mobility.

I am incredibly proud of the work JP has accomplished. Together, we support single mothers in their goals to graduate from college, chart career paths, develop leadership skills, and advocate for their families and communities — supporting over 2,000 moms and children in 2024 alone.

We are partnering with families as they create brighter futures by ensuring access to high-quality early childhood education, providing summer enrichment opportunities, and investing in their postsecondary education with 529 accounts. Because JP families have the space not only to dream but to pursue their dreams, their spheres of influence are better for it. That means that, as a collective, we are lifting up entire communities through a proven model that places the aspirations and expertise of JP moms at the center.

What gives me the greatest pride, though, is the nationwide network of individuals who believe deeply in the power of education and opportunity. Your partnership doesn’t just fuel programs; it changes lives. Your generosity paves the way for two-generation support beyond our programming for current JP families: We can now honor the children of JP alumni who are making an impact on their communities with the brand-new JP Legacy Award.

You are helping to disrupt the cycle of poverty for generations to come.

And with our country’s rapidly changing environment, we need you to champion JP’s mission and impact now more than ever. If you know someone who’s not yet familiar with JP, will you share this annual report magazine with them? Let them know how critical this work is.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Jeremiah Program community.

With deep gratitude,

Meredith Moore

Meredith Moore

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**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

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JP AUSTIN IMPACT

\$2.5K+

**INVESTED IN
529 ACCOUNTS**

for JP kids, making them three times more likely to enroll in college and four times more likely to graduate.

54

JP KIDS ACCESSED

exceptional birth-to-5 education in JP Austin's Child Development Center, setting the foundation for life-long learning and success.

31

FAMILIES ACCESSED

safe, affordable housing on the JP Austin campus, tapping into the power of intentional community spaces.

233

MOMS AND KIDS

engaged in JP's full suite of 2Gen program supports.

53

NEW MOMS COMPLETED

JP's three-month Empowerment and Leadership program, designed to emphasize women's agency and anchor them in their strengths.

ACHIEVED

4/4

QUALITY RATING

for JP Austin's Child Development Center.



JP BALTIMORE

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U.S. Office of Personnel Management



JP BALTIMORE IMPACT

\$4.2K+

INVESTED

in family emergency support.

100%

OF MOMS

reported that they would
recommend JP to a friend.

29

NEW MOMS COMPLETED

JP's introductory, three-month
Empowerment and Leadership
program, designed to emphasize
women's agency and anchor them
in their strengths.

186

MOMS AND KIDS

engaged in JP's full suite of 2Gen
program supports.

74

KIDS PARTICIPATED

in JP-funded summer enrichment
opportunities (STEM camps, swim
classes, martial arts, gymnastics,
and more).

6

MOMS PARTICIPATED

in JP's Early Childhood Education
(ECE) Fellowship, with one
JP Baltimore mom becoming
the first-ever graduate of the
fellowship program.

Danielle Staton
Baltimore Executive Director

JP BOSTON

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JP BOSTON IMPACT

\$4K+

INVESTED IN 529 ACCOUNTS
for JP kids, making them three times more likely to enroll in college and four times more likely to graduate.

90+

KIDS PARTICIPATED
in JP-funded summer enrichment opportunities (STEM camps, swim classes, martial arts, gymnastics, and more).

91%

OF MOMS
reported that they would recommend JP to a friend.

201

MOMS AND KIDS
engaged in JP's full suite of 2Gen program supports.

98%

OF FAMILIES
who received JP-funded tutoring observed progress in their children's academic performance.

6

JP MOMS EARNED
college degrees, with 3 receiving associate degrees and 3 earning their bachelor's.

JP BROOKLYN

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024

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JP BROOKLYN IMPACT

\$11K+

INVESTED IN 529 ACCOUNTS
for JP kids, making them three
times more likely to enroll in
college and four times more
likely to graduate.

117

MOMS SUPPORTED
on their post-secondary
education journeys.

170+

KIDS PARTICIPATED
in JP-funded summer
enrichment opportunities (STEM
camps, swim classes, martial
arts, gymnastics, and more).

341

MOMS AND KIDS
engaged in JP's full suite of 2Gen
program supports.

98%

OF FAMILIES
who received JP-funded
tutoring observed progress
in their children's academic
performance.

84%

OF MOMS
reported that JP coaching is
helping them progress toward
their educational goals.

JP FARGO- MOORHEAD

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JP FARGO-MOORHEAD IMPACT

635

COACHING SESSIONS
focused on college and career
guidance and whole-family
support.

143

MOMS AND KIDS
engaged in JP's full suite of 2Gen
program supports.

50

MOMS SUPPORTED
on their post-secondary education
journeys.

\$2.5K+

INVESTED
in family emergency support.

77

KIDS PARTICIPATED
in JP-funded summer enrichment
opportunities (STEM camps, swim
classes, martial arts, gymnastics,
and more).

26

FAMILIES ACCESSED
safe, affordable housing on the
JP Fargo-Moorhead campus,
tapping into the power of
intentional community spaces.

JP LAS VEGAS

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024

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Nevada Grantlab

Edith Fernandez, Ph.D.
Nevada State University



Maria Tucker
Las Vegas Executive Director

JP LAS VEGAS IMPACT

\$11K+

INVESTED IN 529 ACCOUNTS
for JP kids, making them three times more likely to enroll in college and four times more likely to graduate.

276

MOMS AND KIDS
engaged in JP's full suite of 2Gen program supports.

98%

OF FAMILIES
who received JP-funded tutoring observed progress in their children's academic performance.

1.1K+

COACHING SESSIONS
focused on college and career guidance and whole-family support.

174

KIDS PARTICIPATED
in JP-funded summer enrichment opportunities (STEM camps, swim classes, martial arts, gymnastics, and more).

31

NEW MOMS COMPLETED
JP's three-month Empowerment and Leadership program, with 97% opting to fully join JP Las Vegas.

JP MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024

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JP MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL IMPACT

NEARLY
\$10K

INVESTED IN 529 ACCOUNTS
for JP kids, making them three
times more likely to enroll in
college and four times more likely
to graduate.

163

MOMS SUPPORTED
on their post-secondary education
journeys.

79

JP KIDS ACCESSED
exceptional birth-to-5 education
in JP's Minneapolis and St. Paul
Child Development Centers,
setting the foundation for life-
long learning and success.

445

MOMS AND KIDS
engaged in JP's full suite of 2Gen
program supports.

93

FAMILIES ACCESSED
safe, affordable housing
on JP's Minneapolis and St. Paul
campuses, tapping into the power
of intentional community spaces.

ACHIEVED

4/4 QUALITY RATING
in both the Minneapolis and St.
Paul Child Development Centers.



Mari Jo Long
St. Paul Executive Director

JP ROCHESTER- SE MINNESOTA

COMMUNITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024

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Sheila Neidert
SGN Professional Training

Jerry Perry
Perry Law Firm

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer
First Universalist Unitarian Church

Ally Hanten Ebert
Rochester-Southeast MN Executive Director



JP ROCHESTER-SE MN IMPACT

\$9.2K

INVESTED IN 529 ACCOUNTS
for JP kids, making them three
times more likely to enroll in
college and four times more
likely to graduate.

NEARLY

100 MOMS SUPPORTED

on their post-secondary
education journeys.

57

JP KIDS ACCESSED
exceptional birth-to-5
education in our newly owned
Rochester-SE MN Child
Development Center, with
an average of 88% of JP kids
meeting or exceeding their
developmental milestones.

115

KIDS PARTICIPATED
in JP-funded summer
enrichment opportunities
(STEM camps, swim
classes, martial arts,
gymnastics, and more).

102 FAMILIES

including 170 children,
engaged in JP's full suite of
2Gen program supports.

45

FAMILIES ACCESSED
accessed safe, affordable
housing on the JP
Rochester-SE MN campus,
tapping into the power of
intentional community spaces.

GRANT FUNDERS 2024

3M Foundation
Alex Stern Family Foundation
The A.M. Fund
American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation
Ameriprise Financial
Anonymous (2)
Applied Materials Foundation
Archie D. & Bertha H. Walker Foundation
Associated Bank Rochester
Austin Young Chamber Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
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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
Ciresi Walburn Foundation for Children
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ECMC Foundation
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 Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation
First Alliance Credit Union Foundation
First Interstate BancSystem Foundation
First Lutheran Church of Fargo
Fondation CHANEL
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Foundation
General Motors
Gilligan Foundation
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Grotto Foundation
The Hackerman Foundation
The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation
Hardenbergh Foundation
Harper Family Foundation
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
The Harry E. and Eda L. Montandon Charitable Trust
Hector Foundation
Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead Foundation
The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
ICONIQ Impact Education & Economic Mobility Co-Lab
Imaginable Futures
J. Jill Compassion Fund
James B. Linsmayer Foundation
John M. Sawyer Memorial Trust
Judy Family Foundation
Kinney Family Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
Life Science Cares
Lola Wright Foundation
The Louis Calder Foundation
M&T Charitable Foundation
Mardag Foundation
Margaret Rivers Fund
Mayo Clinic Community Contributions Program
Metzger-Price Fund, Inc
MGM Resorts Foundation
MGM Resorts International
Mildred's Dream Foundation
Minneapolis Area Realtors Foundation
Minnesota Energy Resources
Minnesota Office of Higher Education
The Miriam Fund at Combined Jewish Philanthropies
Mollie Baldwin Foley Charitable Trust
New Commonwealth Fund
New Yorkers for Children

North Dakota Association for the Disabled
North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
Odele Beauty
Old National Bank
Otter Tail Corporation
Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
The Paul and Edith Babson Foundation
PNC Foundation
Posey Family Foundation
The Powell Foundation
Red Sox Foundation
Reisenbach Philanthropies
Results Foundation
The Richman Foundation
Robert E. Herman Charitable Trust
Rockland Trust
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
Sammons Financial Group
Sauer Family Foundation
Securian Financial Foundation
Share Our Strength
Sherman Family Foundation
The Stern Family Charitable Foundation
Stranahan Foundation
Sundt Foundation
Target Foundation
TEGNA Foundation
Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation
The Wild Gifting Project, Inc.
Tikkun Olam Foundation Inc.
Umpqua Charitable Foundation (Umpqua Bank)
United Way for Greater Austin
United Way of Cass-Clay
US Bancorp Foundation
US Venture / Schmidt Family Foundation (USV/SFF)
W. G. Christianson Foundation
Walser Foundation
Wellington Management Foundation
Xcel Energy Foundation
Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund

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New Yorkers for Children
Lauri and Jim Roberts
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Share Our Strength
Texas Mutual
Therese Foundation
Trellis Foundation
W. G. Christianson Foundation
Yield Giving

**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 26 NEW MEMBERS WHO
JOINED THE VISIONARY CIRCLE IN
2024 AND TO THE 224 EXISTING
MEMBERS. THROUGHOUT OUR
HISTORY, VISIONARY CIRCLE
DONORS HAVE GIVEN MORE
THAN \$118 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 47 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 2023	\$41,760,999
Change in Net Asset Unrestricted	(\$9,372,843)
Change in Net Asset with Restricted	\$884,164
Net Assets 2024	\$33,272,320

Operating Revenue \$18,404,861 vs. 2023 \$24,102,518	Operating Expenses \$28,325,917 vs. 2023 \$25,712,728	Operating Income (\$9,921,056) vs. 2023 (\$1,610,210)
Total Assets \$48,593,745 vs. 2023 \$55,676,898	Total Liabilities \$15,321,425 vs. 2023 \$13,915,899	Net Assets \$33,272,320 vs. 2023 \$41,760,999

Your Time Can Impact Two Generations TODAY



At Jeremiah Program, we believe that when a JP mom has the opportunity to invest in her children's futures as well as her own, she can rewrite her family's trajectory for generations to come. But she can't do it alone — no one can. We all need a village.

As a volunteer, you can be part of a JP family's village. Whether you mentor, support campus events, or offer your professional skills, your time and talents help families disrupt the cycle of poverty, two generations at a time.



Ready to make a difference?
Join our community of changemakers.

Volunteer with Jeremiah Program today.
jeremiahprogram.org/volunteer

Jeremiah Program

DISRUPTING POVERTY
TWO GENERATIONS AT A TIME