

2020



From the Love of One  
*to the Heart of Many.*

A J W A S A N N U A L R E P O R T

Jaxson William Augustus Swank



Dear Friends,

The past handful of years have flown by. So much has been achieved in memory of our dear son, Jaxson, that we could not ever have dreamed possible. To say that his spirit lives on in every one of our Scholars and their families is to understate what has become of our unique mission.

We currently have four schools engaged with our fourteen Jaxson Scholars daily: Good Shepherd Montessori School, La Lumiere School, Montessori Academy of Edison Lakes, and The Stanley Clark School, all in St. Joe County, Indiana. Of the fourteen Scholars, six attend Good Shepherd Montessori School, one attends La Lumiere School, one attends Montessori Academy Edison Lakes, and six Scholars attend The Stanley Clark School. We are so grateful for our school partnerships that continue to expand each year.

Watching these young boys and girls grow into young men and women has filled our hearts and made us realize God has a bigger plan for each of us. We do not fully understand the magnitude of this plan yet. Our lives have been so richly blessed by this mission, all who have and continue to support JWAS, and those who are engaged on a personal level. They all have a common goal: to positively change the trajectory of the Jaxson Scholars and their families' lives. We are forever grateful.



The gifts our family have received far outweigh the time, treasure, and talents we have given to this mission and these beautiful children. Our lives continue to be blessed every step of this amazing journey and we are humbled and moved beyond words.

We and the entire Swank family have a great deal of gratitude for Jacqueline Kronk. She has led JWAS in the astounding growth we have experienced the past four years. Her leadership and guidance will forever be appreciated as will her passion for our mission and her love for the Jaxson Scholars. We wish Jacqueline all the best in her new role at Boys and Girls Club of

St. Joseph County. We thank her for the guidance through this transition she so graciously provided through January 31.

Great excitement surrounds the JWAS Foundation as we enter 2020 with Jeanie Shuck as Interim Executive Director. Jeanie joined our team in 2018. In a short amount of time she has formed an incredibly strong bond with the Jaxson Scholars and their families.

Jeanie has extensive experience developing our strategic plan measuring the success of the character, citizenship and educational development of our Jaxson Scholars. Additionally, her experience in programmatic strategy, development, implementation, and community relations will enhance our community partnerships, fundraising goals, and marketing efforts. Most importantly, she has the passion and energy to carry out the JWAS mission and Jaxson's legacy of generosity and care.

In the pages that follow, we take stock in what the last year has abundantly provided the JWAS Foundation, our Jaxson Scholars, and their families. Enjoy!

With unsurpassed gratitude,

Sherry & Larry Swank

# Jaxson Scholars



## *Jolie Springer*

Freshman

**Age:** 14 years old

**School:** La Lumiere School

**Hobbies:** Knitting, spending time with Marilynn, La Lumiere Girls' Basketball Team Manager

**Dream job:** Nurse or Psychologist

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2008

## *Marilynn Springer*

8th Grade

**Age:** 13 years old

**School:** Good Shepherd Montessori School

**Hobbies:** Spending time with Jolie, listening to music

**Dream job:** Veterinarian

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2008



## *Freedom Jones*

7th grade

**Age:** 12 years old

**School:** Good Shepherd Montessori School

**Hobbies:** Baking, playing the guitar

**Dream job:** Teacher, Chef, or Baker

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2016

## *Rihanna Castillo*

6th Grade

**Age:** 12 years old

**School:** The Stanley Clark School

**Hobbies:** Spending time with family, volleyball, basketball

**Dream job:** Business woman who manages an entire facility

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2016



## *Josiah Frazier*

3rd Grade

**Age:** 9 years old

**School:** Good Shepherd Montessori School

**Hobbies:** Cross Country, learning how to play the piano, sports

**Dream job:** Chef or Builder

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2016

## *Aline Jimenez*

3rd Grade

**Age:** 8 years old

**School:** Good Shepherd Montessori School

**Hobbies:** Martial arts, singing, music

**Dream job:** I want to be a voice actress because I always want to change my voice and I always wanted to be a part of a cartoon character!

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2017



## *Freddy Rodriguez*

3rd Grade

**Age:** 9 years old

**School:** The Stanley Clark School

**Hobbies:** Football, wrestling, baseball

**Dream job:** Horse Trainer

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2019



# Jaxson Scholars



## *Kiara Nikol Nunez*

2nd Grade

**Age:** 8 years old

**School:** Good Shepherd  
Montessori School

**Hobbies:** Paint, draw, swim, play outside

**Dream job:** Scientist or artist

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2017

## *Santiago Recalde*

1st Grade

**Age:** 6 years old

**School:** Montessori Academy  
at Edison Lakes

**Hobbies:** Anything that allows him to  
move, learning how to read, video games

**Dream job:** Dragon Rider!

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2018



## *Savino Rivera III*

1st Grade

**Age:** 7 years old

**School:** The Stanley Clark School

**Hobbies:** Martial arts, being outside

**Dream job:** Astronaut

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2018

## *Savannah Castillo*

Kindergarten

**Age:** 6 years old

**School:** The Stanley Clark School

**Hobbies:** Spending time with  
family, making friends, dancing

**Dream job:** Veterinarian

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2016



## *Alani Jimenez*

Kindergarten

**Age:** 6 years old

**School:** Good Shepherd  
Montessori School

**Hobbies:** Nature, music, gardening

**Dream job:** Pilot

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2017

## *Layla Rodriguez*

Kindergarten

**Age:** 5 years old

**School:** The Stanley Clark School

**Hobbies:** Swimming, drawing,  
making new friends

**Dream job:** Singer/Dancer

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2019



## *Branton Givens*

Preschool

**Age:** 5 years old

**School:** The Stanley Clark School

**Hobbies:** Soccer, nerf guns, playing  
with baby sister, Brooklyn

**Dream job:** Monster Truck  
Builder/Mechanic

**Jaxson Scholar since:** 2018



# Programming Overview

## GOALS & INTENTIONS FOR JWAS FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL PROGRAMMING

To build connection and confidence in our Jaxson Scholars, their families, and the JWAS Board of Trustees.

### *January with Jaxson Family Retreat*

- To be intentional on hosting an annual event to celebrate Jaxson
- To offer the families an opportunity to express their gratitude for the JWAS Foundation and its' Founders
- To annually review the JWAS mission as a JWAS community
- To foster and build relationships amongst the Scholars, parents, and Board of Trustees
- To offer an opportunity for all of the families to reflect on the past year and set annual goals/intentions as a family unit



### *Recap:*

All Scholar families and several members of the Board of Trustees were present. While coming together to celebrate the birth of Jaxson, we were able to interact during team-bonding initiatives, games, as well as family activities. Scholars enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together while the parents and Board learned more about what connects us rather than what divides us. We concluded with each family creating their Vision Board for 2019.

### *Parent's Night Out Etiquette Dinner*

- To develop and enhance the social relationships amongst our Scholar parents and Board of Trustees
- To build self-confidence in social and professional situations through annual etiquette lessons for our Scholar parents

### *Recap:*

All Scholar parents attended this 2.5 hour event filled with the ins and outs of proper dining etiquette as well as three etiquette tips to carry on a conversation. Each year we will have the opportunity to practice and refine all previous skills learned as well as begin to cover additional etiquette topics during the event.



## Manners I & II Scholar Etiquette classes

- To instill the importance of good manners and build confidence and character in our Scholars through annual etiquette lessons



### Recap:

Scholars ages 9 and under attended our 2-hour Manners I class held at The Sterling Group. Through interactive games and conversation our class focused on 10 rules to remember while dining with our loved ones as well as learning how to set a table. We practiced all of our skills learned over a casual yet sweet feast with the assistance of Chloe Swank.

Scholars 10 and up attended our 2-hour Manners II class held at The Carriage House in South Bend. Over a 4-course dinner, we focused on all aspects of proper dining etiquette while dressed in our Sunday best. Scholars had the opportunity to practice engaging in healthy conversations with one another as well as with the Swank children (Lily, Chloe, & Taylor).

## Scholar Leadership Day Camp, Firefly Farm, La Porte

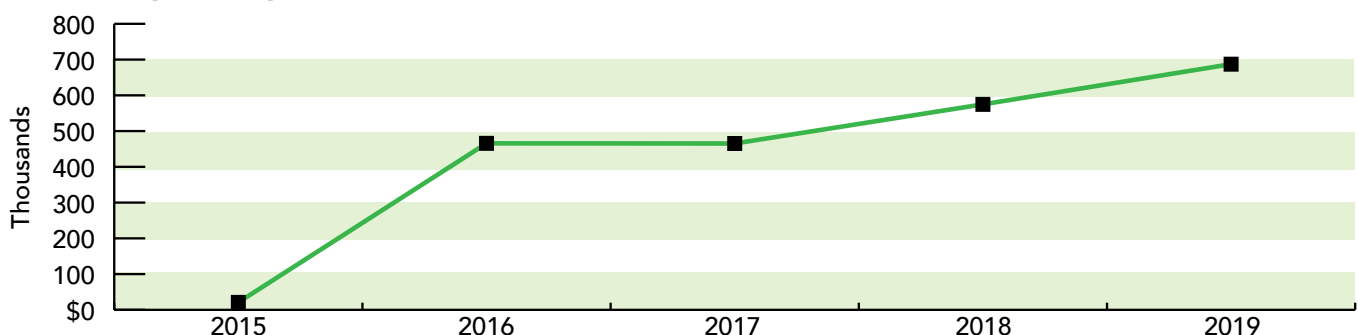
- To offer an outdoor experiential multi-day program to our Scholars
- To cultivate and develop leadership skills of each JWAS Scholar
- To create leadership and mentoring opportunities for our oldest Scholars
- To offer team-bonding and team-building activities to enhance the Scholars' relationships with one another and as a JWAS family.



### Recap:

We exceeded our expectation of the impact of this program in every way. Larry and Sherry were able to attend each day and experience the connections and joy built amongst the Scholars first hand. Chloe and Lily had an incredible impact on the Scholars as well as building deeper and meaningful friendships with our oldest Scholars. Micky Doyle played a huge part in fostering a fun and safe experience as well as assisting in necessary confidence building disciplinary measures when needed. The level of trust built amongst the entire cohort was felt by all. The week culminated with several Scholar parents and grandparents attending a cookout on the last day.

## Fundraising Giving



All Foundation administrative expenses are paid by the Swank family. 100% of all donations go directly to our Jaxson Scholars.

## Family outing, South Bend Cubs game

- To foster and build the relationships amongst the JWAS Scholars, parents, and Board of Trustees and families

### Recap:

This was the program we were able to witness the deeper and more meaningful connections the families, and especially the Scholars, made during the Leadership Camp. With the camp completing just a few days before the baseball game, the Scholars felt comfortable and happy to reconnect with their JWAS family.



## Family Service Project at La Casa de Amistad

- To instill the value of serving and giving back to our community in our JWAS families

### Recap:

Each Scholar family was eager to give back to the community and join us for this experience at La Casa. With several of the families already having a connection to the organization, it was indeed impactful and profound to come together as one JWAS family to serve others. This is just one of the many ways our Scholars and families will serve our community throughout the year.



## Holiday gathering

- To celebrate the holiday season with our Scholar families and Board of Trustees families

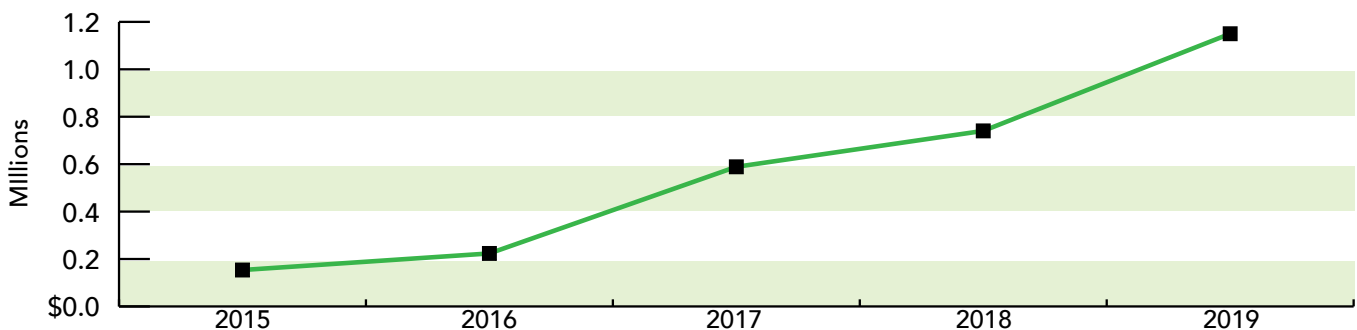
### Recap:



Our gathering at Howard Park in South Bend was very memorable! Our Scholar families were able to enjoy the outdoors while iceskating as well as spend time serving others as they created Christmas cards for the South Bend youth in foster care. Not only were we able to celebrate the abundance of the last year, but also form a connection with The Sterling Group, who adopted each Scholar for the holiday season.



## Endowment



## ***Strategic Vision:***

The JWAS Foundation provides financial support, customized programming, and services to ensure the success of our Jaxson Scholars and their families from the preschool through four years of university. We inspire others by sharing Jaxson's story, we treat our Scholars like our very own, and we bring Jaxson's love and light with us and all that we do as a foundation. By investing in our Jaxson Scholars' education and their social and emotional development, we motivate our Scholars to reach their full potential and become forces of good in the community.

## ***Mission:***

The mission of the Jaxson William Augustus Swank Foundation is to perpetuate Jaxson's loving memory by providing full scholarships to children from lower socio-economic means from preschool through college.

Jaxson William Augustus Swank



*For a child lost, a gift is given.*

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