

Connections

Dear Friends,

The new year has begun and as we sit back and evaluate the last several weeks, we find ourselves with full hearts. The holidays are always bittersweet as we reflect on December 8, 2003, and the night we lost Jaxson. At the same time, we celebrate the season with family and friends and are thankful for all who are involved in our lives.



As you are aware through communication we have shared the past two months, we are transitioning to new leadership with Jeanie Shuck as Executive Director of JWAS. As a transition can be difficult sometimes, we have also found it to be a time of reflection for both Larry and me and many of our family members. Several of our children are now participating in a more significant role. In addition, we have had several grandchildren come forth expressing their interest and passion for JWAS and we are now in the beginning stages

formulating a plan to engage in the excitement of the next generation!

We are beyond excited for 2020 and the plans we have for the Jaxson Scholars and their families. January has proven to be a busy, successful month with all the programming that Jeanie has planned and implemented. Proud is less than adequate of a description of the emotions we experience each time we are with the Jaxson Scholars and their families. These past twelve months' programs that have been provided by Jeanie for the Jaxson Scholars, their families, and the Swank family have proven to be a tremendous asset in the daily lives of all of us. The bonding we have seen between the Scholars' families continues to melt our hearts.

On January 19, we celebrated what would have been Jaxson's 18th birthday. Again, a bittersweet day for us and also one filled with so much love. Sixteen years ago, neither of us had any imagination that our family might possibly make such a large impact on so many lives in honor of our sweet Jaxson. A day never goes by that he is not in our thoughts and each time we are with any one of our fourteen Jaxson Scholars there is a bond that forever keeps our angel present.

On behalf of Larry and me and the entire Swank family, thank you for your continued support. It is with your generosity we are making a difference and we have only just begun!

God Bless,

Sherry & Larry



For a child lost, a Gift is Given.

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

Good Shepherd Montessori Academy

Good Shepherd Montessori School (GSMS) was founded in 2002 to be an authentic Montessori elementary school that makes an impact on the community at large. The ultimate aim of a Montessori education is world peace. Because of this, GSMS supports and challenges each member to grow to their potential. Committed to socio-economic diversity, GSMS seeks to build a school community where one-third of its members are from economically impoverished circumstances. When friendship and understanding reach across socio-economic divisions, peace can be established. GSMS recognizes that each person is



created in God's image and likeness, and therefore is to be respected and loved.

Experiential learning is central at GSMS, in the classroom and the community at large. The Elementary weekly farm component highlights the interconnectedness of all living things; junior high works on the campus urban farm. GSMS has grown from one classroom of sixteen children ages 6 to 9 to six multi-aged classrooms of 170 children ages 3 to 14. In Fall 2020 GSMS will open another Primary (ages 3-6) classroom to continue to expand its impact on the Michiana community.

To learn more visit www.gsms.org.



To explore the exquisite flavors of Dakota Shy visit www.dakotashywine.com.

2020 Wine Dinner Vintner Partner

Our seventh annual wine dinner is around the corner! On June 5 we will gather in the unforgettable Carriage House Gardens for another incredible evening of delectable wines, fantastic food, and one-of-a-kind donation lots, all to celebrate and support the life-changing work of JWAS. Tom Newman will share his legendary wines from Dakota Shy Winery. From carefully selected vineyards, produced in very small quantities and artfully crafted to reflect a sense of place, Dakota Shy wines are a testament to Napa Valley's reputation for producing the greatest Cabernet Sauvignon-based wines in the world. We cannot wait to gather together, share an unforgettable meal, and raise the bar even higher than last year for our 16 Jaxson Scholars and their families.

Contact us at jshuck@jwasfoundation.org to confirm your support on June 5 or to be added to the wait list if tickets come available.

Thank you!

We are grateful for our longstanding partnership with The Carriage House Dining Room and Gardens of South Bend, IN. We could not ask for a more gracious venue to host our annual Wine Dinner. Thank you!



Thank you to Susan Moore Hall and Chip Moore of Highland Commercial for being an Angel Sponsor of our 2020 Wine Dinner. Their continued support and generosity are greatly appreciated!

To learn more about our tiered sponsorship opportunities for this year's event, contact Jeanie Shuck at 219.898.7006 or jshuck@jwasfoundation.org.

Santiago

I am a single mother of a wonderful 6-year-old young man. The ability to ensure that my child has every possible asset to grow and mature is not always easy. I am blessed with all that JWAS has allowed me to give to my child. JWAS has always been there for us and I cannot express enough how rewarded my family is. The additional time I am afforded and the treasures that JWAS has blessed us with truly is remarkable.

Thank you!

Maria

Mother of Jaxson Scholar, Santiago



Santiago's family shares their vision board at our annual January with Jaxson family retreat.

The Sterling Group's Charity of Choice

We are so honored to be selected as The Sterling Group's Charity of Choice! This effort allows Sterling colleagues to help support the JWAS mission and families affordably. In 2019 Sterling held their first "Jeans for JWAS" event, and it was a hit! For a small donation, employees dress down during the work week. The event was so popular, they added another jeans event this past January.

Based in Mishawaka, IN, The Sterling Group also held a JWAS Trivia Night at the LaSalle Tavern & Kitchen in South Bend last summer. All monies raised through these events will assist in funding important individual needs of our Jaxson Scholars; field trip fees, backpacks, etc. Not only has Sterling been focusing on raising funds, but also took on the task of sponsoring all 14 Jaxson Scholars for the 2019 holiday season. We are so blessed to have Sterling's generous support and look forward to our growing partnership.



Thank you, Sterling team members, for your ongoing support!

JWAS FAMILY *Holiday Celebration*



Jaxson Scholar, Savino, enjoys time on the ice with his family.

This past December the brand new Howard Park of South Bend graciously hosted our annual holiday party for all of our JWAS families and Board of Trustees. We had a memorable time ice skating, playing on the innovational playground, and serving our community through creating holiday letters for the foster children in St. Joseph County.



We are blessed beyond words for our growing JWAS family!

The Sterling Group made it extra special by sponsoring our Jaxson Scholars and having Santa himself deliver the presents! There wasn't a dry eye in the room as we celebrated each other and what has brought us all together as one JWAS family, our sweet and dear Jaxson.

January with Jaxson

FAMILY RETREAT



Each January our JWAS families come together to celebrate Jaxson's birth and his extraordinary legacy. This year we celebrated what would have been his 18th birthday. During this event we kick off the new year by building connections, setting family goals, participating in engaging and fun team building activities, as well as sharing the personal impact the JWAS Foundation has on all of us. The retreat has a lasting and heartwarming impact on our Jaxson Scholars as well as their families. We hope to inspire the cultivation of a deep and lasting gratitude for all we have been given as well as explore our goals as a family unit. While we spend intentional time doing so, we encourage each and everyone of us to give back to our community throughout the upcoming year.

Join us at our newest event!

Allora Wine Dinner May 1

We continue to be incredibly grateful for our expanding community of friends and supporters in Napa Valley. Our new event in May offers you a unique opportunity to share in the brilliance of our newest Napa friends, Allora Winery. They asked us how they could help JWAS and we all agreed the best way is to share their exquisite wines with all of you!



The Allora dinner is a wonderful complement to our annual Wine Dinner in June. This smaller and more intimate experience, limited to 60 supporters, is designed to appeal to busy schedules and a wide variety of budgets. We hope that includes you, too!

Join us May 1st at the Swank's home to support our mission and learn more about how we assist our JWAS families in reaching their full potential – all while sampling the amazing handiwork of Allora Proprietors Terry and Nancy Klein, who manage the winery with their family. The Napa River runs directly behind the vineyards and delivers a "taste of the hills" when the rains come. On a map, you will notice that Allora Vineyards is located at one of the narrowest parts of the entire valley and for that reason a moderate breeze allows for even ripening of the fruit.

Contact us now to reserve your seat to this incredible experience. At \$200 per ticket, we expect to sell out quickly.



JWAS Board of Trustees members, Josh and Danette Swank

Danette Swank

My purpose for serving JWAS has always been for two reasons, the love of Jaxson and my family. I am so blessed to be part of both. It is great to have a common goal as a group; to serve in Jaxson's memory. From the opportunities we provide to the Jaxson Scholars and their families, the outreach in the communities the JWAS family is a part of, to the wonderful and generous donors who have become part of the extended JWAS community. It has been an enriching opportunity to witness the JWAS family growth first-hand. No one person can do everything, but together, we can accomplish great things. Thank you for being part of this amazing journey with us!

BOARD MEMBER
HIGHLIGHT

Meet our 2020 Jaxson Scholar

We couldn't be more excited to share in our celebration



Finleigh ^{AGE} 4

Favorite colors:

Purple & pink

Favorite ice cream flavor:

Vanilla

Hobbies:

Baton, loves going to the library and playing board games

Dream job:

Ballerina Doctor

Family time:

We enjoy going to the beach and to the zoo.

Why are you excited to become a Jaxson Scholar?

It makes me so happy and I get to meet new friends.

"It still feels unreal to have an undoubtedly bright future for my daughter, something I could have never done without Larry and Sherry. The strength they have to turn their tragedy into life-changing opportunities for children like my daughter who would have never had the chance otherwise is incredible. For the years to come, I look forward to watching Finleigh grow into someone who can be as brave and giving. We will work hard to keep Jaxson's legacy shining bright. We take much responsibility to carry this light forward. I owe JWAS all the praise for believing in my daughter as I do. Thank you for making us a part of your family. You have warmed our hearts during such a hard time in the midst of losing my father and Finleigh's Grandfather-- the only Dad she has ever known. I know he would have been so proud to see her start this incredible journey. I know he is watching over us and is just as grateful for this opportunity. It is with such sincerity from Finleigh and me that we say thank you."

— Elizabeth, mother



Star Recipients

celebration of our newest additions — to our JWAS Family!

4 AGE Masai

Favorite color:

Black

Favorite ice cream flavor:

Vanilla with caramel syrup

Hobbies:

Playing outside, especially with remote control toys

Dream job:

To be a superhero (Black Panther!)

Family time:

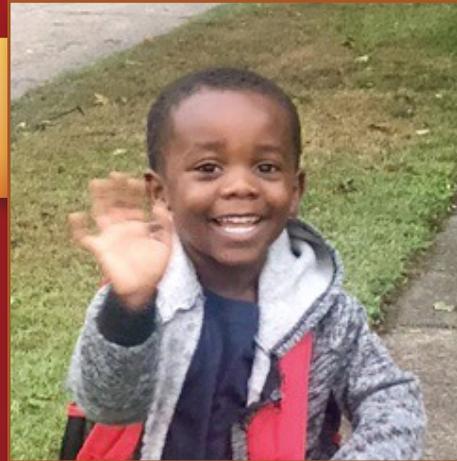
Loves to go to the beach and park. He loves story time too!

Why are you excited to become a Jaxson Scholar?

We are excited to be a part of an amazing group of people and for the chance at a great education.

“I am so excited and thankful that Masai has become a Jaxson Scholar because this allows him to have a great education which allows him to have a better chance of being a successful adult. My oldest son had the chance to go to a private school which I believe got him academically, mentally, and morally ready for college and life after school. I have had to sacrifice so much to ensure that my oldest son had the best education and experiences. Seeing where my oldest son is now and the path that he is on, I know those sacrifices have been worth it and I just want the same for Masai and being a Jaxson Scholar gives him an amazing opportunity to be successful.”

— Malisa, mother



As part of our School Choice policy, our 2020 Jaxson Scholars will visit and tour at least three private schools of their choice in the Michiana area. Upon meeting with JWAS and discussing the options and interest, the family will then apply and choose the appropriate fit for their family. We look forward to sharing what schools they will be attending in our next newsletter.

Jaxson William Augustus Swank



FOUNDATION

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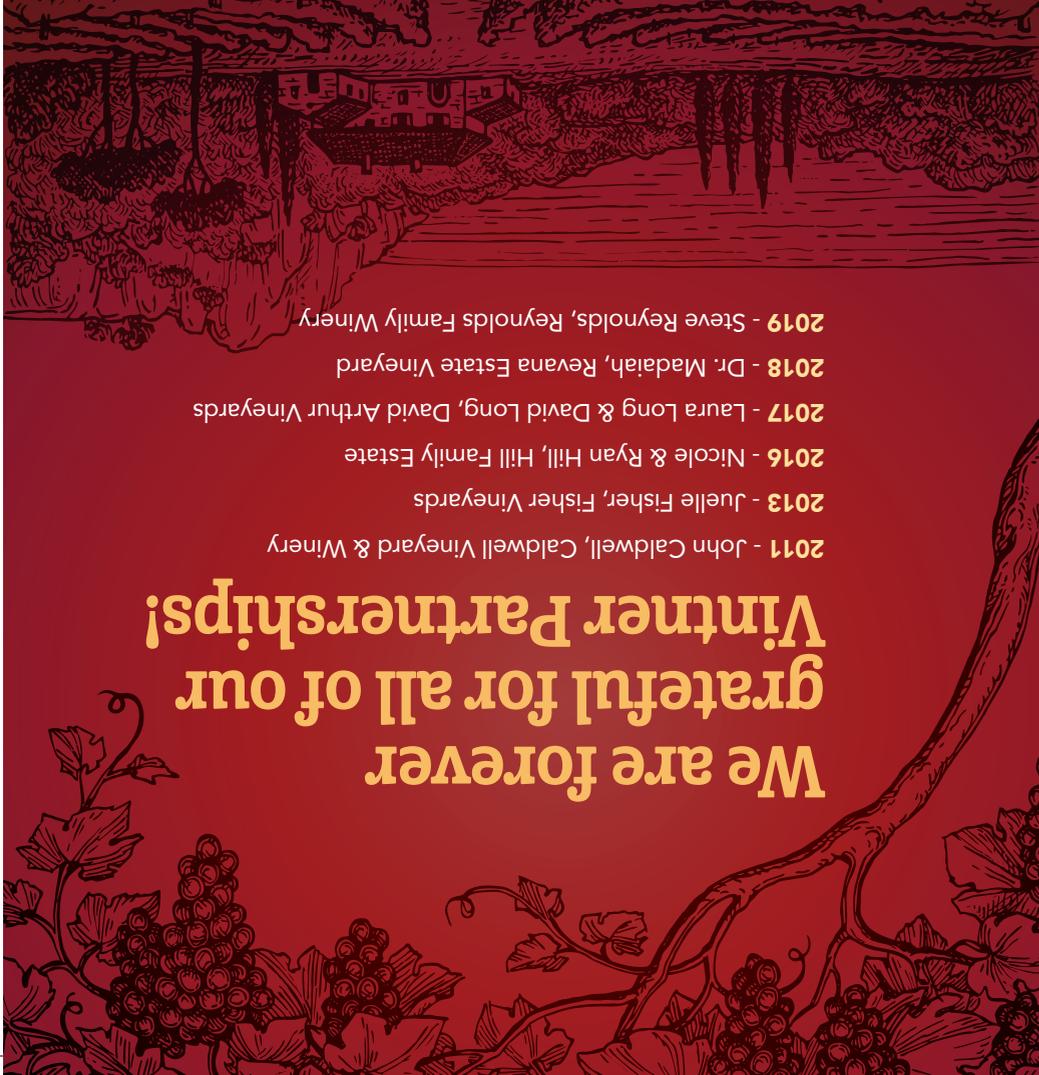
Thank you!



Your financial generosity enables us to fulfill our mission of providing a top-notch education for low-income children in Jaxson's memory. Together, we honor an amazing little boy who made a huge impact on all who knew him during his short time with us. We thank you for your support!

100% of all donations are utilized to educate current and future Jaxson Scholars.

Donate online at www.jwasfoundation.org.



We are forever grateful for all of our Vintner Partnerships!

- 2019 - Steve Reynolds, Reynolds Family Winery
- 2018 - Dr. Madalah, Revana Estate Vineyard
- 2017 - Laura Long & David Long, David Arthur Vineyards
- 2016 - Nicole & Ryan Hill, Hill Family Estate
- 2013 - Juelle Fisher, Fisher Vineyards
- 2011 - John Caldwell, Caldwell Vineyard & Winery

Issue

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