

James F. Mikulski Memorial Group



www.jfmmemorial.org

Annual Year End Report 2025

James F Mikulski Memorial Group Inc.

February, 2026

info@jfmmemorial.org

Executive Summary

We are proud that the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group/Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future continues to grow and gain new supporters year over year. In 2025, the charity awarded twenty scholarships which makes 145 scholarships granted since 2014. The charity realized its largest revenue to date, slightly outdoing our strong 2024 performance. Our Saver's clothing drives continue to help our revenue stream and introduce new people to the charity. We are also pleased to see many new volunteers at race events.

Our relationships with the schools and the Erie Neighborhood House remain strong and positive. It is an honor that Jim's Bridge is highly regarded by the organizations we sponsor, the race directors we assist and our clothing drive liaisons as a quality, dependable organization with a purposeful mission to help children.

We look forward to continuing the work of the charity to benefit school children from lower income areas of Chicago in ways that promote wellness and service into 2026 and beyond.

Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future Accomplishments Since Established in 2014

\$329,327	Total Funds Granted to help Children
97,459	Pounds of goods collected for Savers
2,844	Volunteers provided to Run/Walk events
1067	Donations Received
145	Scholarships Awarded
91	Volunteer events supported

Best regards,

Maureen and John Mikulski

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Visitation Catholic School



St. Gall School



The Erie Neighborhood House



Old St. Mary’s School



Academy of St. Benedict the African

Mission

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group, Inc. was formed to establish a legacy of sharing, caring and helping others in memory of James F. Mikulski, a wonderful and loving family member and friend who passed away by suicide on October 2, 2013.

This charity was created to honor Jim's life by giving back in a way that will directly benefit underserved children in the Chicago area. The organization accomplishes its mission by providing scholarships and support for academic and after school activities. This is made possible through fundraising activities that promote wellness, service and the opportunity to support the education of school age children. The organization is entirely run by volunteers. The grants awarded by the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group are directed to grade schools and institutions that support young children in the Chicago area.

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group is funded through private donations, online contributions and donations in appreciation of organized volunteer services. Donations and volunteer assistance are accepted from anybody who would like to help make a positive difference in a child's life.



About the Organization

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group is an IRS Tax Exempt 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, EIN 46-4519616. It was incorporated in the State of Illinois as a charitable organization on January 13, 2014. It has a five-member Board of Directors.

Approval of tax-exempt status for The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group was received from the Internal Revenue Service on July 30, 2014 with an effective date of Exemption of January 13, 2014.

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group is registered with the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Illinois, under both the Charitable Trust and the Solicitation for Charity Acts, effective November 28, 2014.

The charity has an Assumed Name of Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future which was renewed at the end of 2024 for the next five-year period.

Accomplishments for 2025

The year 2025 was another successful year for the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group/Jim’s Bridge to a Brighter Future. We were able to grant significantly more funds to the schools and the social services organization we support thanks to a strong 2024. We are pleased that the charity continues to attract new supporters, volunteers and donors.

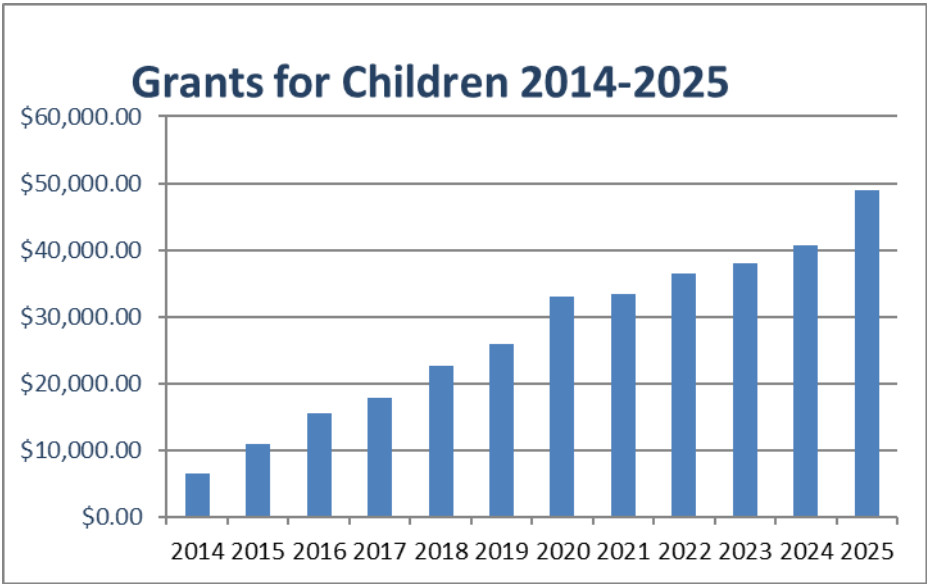
Help Children in Need in the Chicago Area

A total of twenty scholarships were awarded in 2025. Jim’s Bridge grants scholarship funds to the schools and the school administration chooses the recipients, based on financial need and good school standing. For the Erie Neighborhood House, we continued our tradition of helping to fund fully stocked backpacks for the Erie House children to get ready for a new school year. Jim’s Bridge also helped to sponsor food and gifts for 673 children at the Erie House Holiday with Heart celebration. For Visitation, we funded trips to the Children’s Museum at Navy Pier, a pumpkin farm and the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

During the year, we visited with our scholarship students at Visitation, St. Gall’s. Old St. Mary’s and The Academy of St. Benedict the African (ASBA). It was wonderful to be able to spend time talking with them and getting to know them better.

This year we were able to provide special year end grants for the schools. Each school had its own unique way to use their grant to benefit the students. Old St. Mary’s School used it to fund tutoring for students. The Academy of St. Benedict the African applied the grant to its “Many Hearts, One Light” Holiday campaign for the school. Visitation used it to host Santa and Mrs. Claus for the students as well as a Christmas breakfast. St. Gall School held a “Student Appreciation Day” during Catholic Schools week, where the grant was used for a hot dog/chips lunch along with a movie for all of the students!

Since 2014, Jim’s Bridge has provided over \$325,000 to school children in financial need.



Enhance Fundraising

The 2025 Jim's Bridge Annual Fundraiser and Get Together was fun and successful once again. Ninety-four people joined us at Zachary's Grill on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Many supporters who were unable to attend the event were very generous with donations to the fundraiser. This year, a sixth grade Jim's Bridge scholarship student from St. Gall's was the featured speaker. Our guests were very impressed with her as she confidently delivered her speech. The Principal of Visitation, the Principal from ASBA and the Executive Director of the Erie Neighborhood House spoke about the impact that Jim's Bridge has made for the children in their organizations. We received many positive comments from the attendees.



Jim's Bridge held two successful Clothing Drives – one in winter and the other in the summer. Savers compensates the charity based on the number of pounds of goods we deliver to them. Our Saver Clothing Drives are a nice source of income for the charity and also provides great publicity for the charity. Many people look forward to the semi-annual drives as their motivation to declutter!

In 2025, Jim's Bridge had a more active campaign for “#Giving Tuesday”, which was on Tuesday December 2, 2025. That campaign brought in much more revenue for #GivingTuesday than prior years. Based on that experience, we will use that type of outreach again in the future.

Coordinate Volunteer Groups as a Source of Revenue

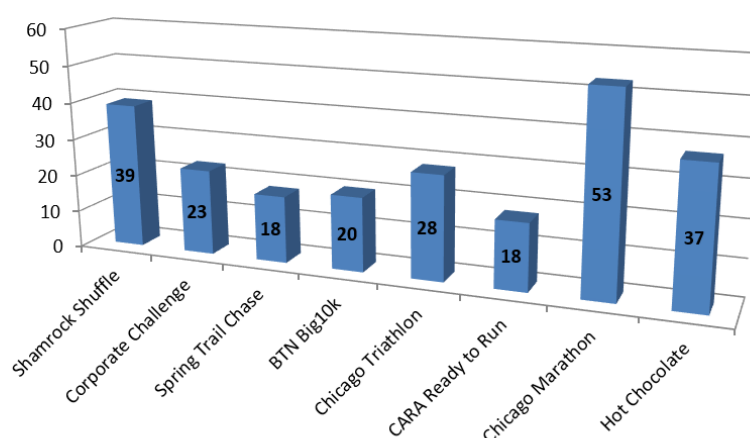
In 2025, Jim's Bridge supported eight racing events. Our Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) “Blue Partner” status provides Jim's Bridge with \$20 per hour per BCBS employee volunteer, up to \$2000 per year. In 2025 we reached the maximum level with BCBS volunteers. This award arrives the following year, so the donations below reflect the 2024 Blue Partner donation. However, we learned the Blue Partner program has been replaced with a different program in 2026. It is not clear at this point what the impact will be for Jim's Bridge since it is based on employee volunteers designating grants for charities.

For race events, once again, the Corporate Challenge was very generous with its donation. Also, the changes Chicago Event Management (CEM) made to its volunteer donation program has nicely benefitted Jim's Bridge. CEM directs the Shamrock Shuffle, the BTN 10K and the Chicago Marathon. In 2025, we received additional funds from the Chicago Triathlon by filling the site captain role.

Year over Year comparison for Races (Past Six Years)

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Number of Events	8	8	8	8	7	3	9
Number of Volunteers	236	246	253	182	163	34	353
Donations Received	\$8,960.00	\$8,455.00	\$8,080.00	\$5,330.00	\$3,835.00	\$1,520.00	\$6,362.50

2025 Event Volunteers



Get the Word Out About our Organization

The Jim's Bridge Facebook page, the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group website, email, Instagram and our semi-annual newsletter remain the primary ways that we communicate about the work our charity has performed as well as announce upcoming activities. Additionally, we keep the 'At a Glance' Tri-Fold summary up to date and use it as a nice way to introduce people to our charity.

Our Facebook "Likes" continue to steadily rise with 327 followers. The Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/JimsBridge/>.

The charity has become well known through activities such as volunteering at races, Facebook Birthday Fundraisers and the Savers Clothing Donation Drives. This helps to attract new contributors for Jim's Bridge.

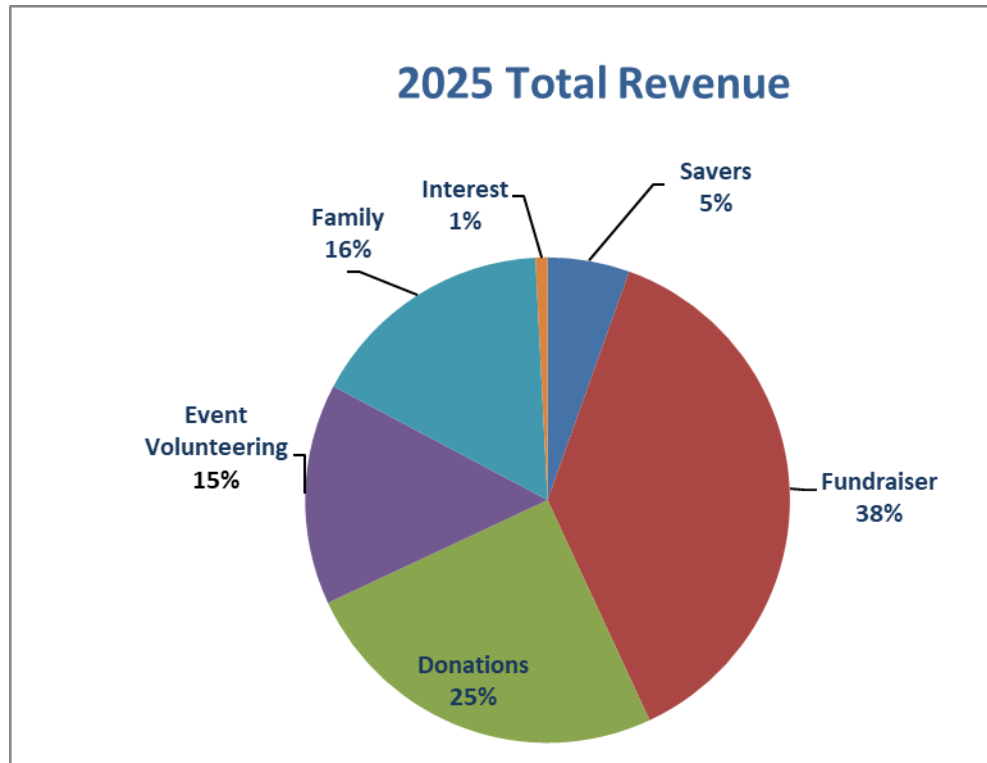
We are happy that Jim's Bridge has great support from local businesses including Zachary's Grill, Running for Kicks and Wellspring Chiropractic, as well as the "Yankee Runners" running group. Many Yankee Runners join us as volunteers, contribute generously to our clothing drives and enjoy our annual fundraiser.

Keep Operating Costs Low – Financial Analysis

Revenue and Expenses

Our overall annual revenue was the highest for the charity, slightly surpassing last year's total. Our fundraiser realized the highest revenue to date. However, increased fundraiser expenses, brought it in as the second highest profitable fundraiser for the charity. General donations were down from last year (which was exceptionally high) bringing it back to levels we generally see.

This year we successfully expanded our #GivingTuesday campaign, resulting in over \$4,000 in donations. Our revenue from Saver's clothing drives and volunteering at athletic events were steady with last year.



Our expenses were higher than 2024, driven by a few factors. We added General Liability and Director/Officer Liability Insurance, which had a noticeable effect on our expenses, but was appropriate to purchase. Also, fundraising expenses in general were higher and we paid every three-year registration fee for the hosting of our website. Our expense to revenue ratio, including our fundraising cost, is 13.3%, which is higher than usual for the charity. Looking only at operations and management expense, it is 5.4%, a better level.

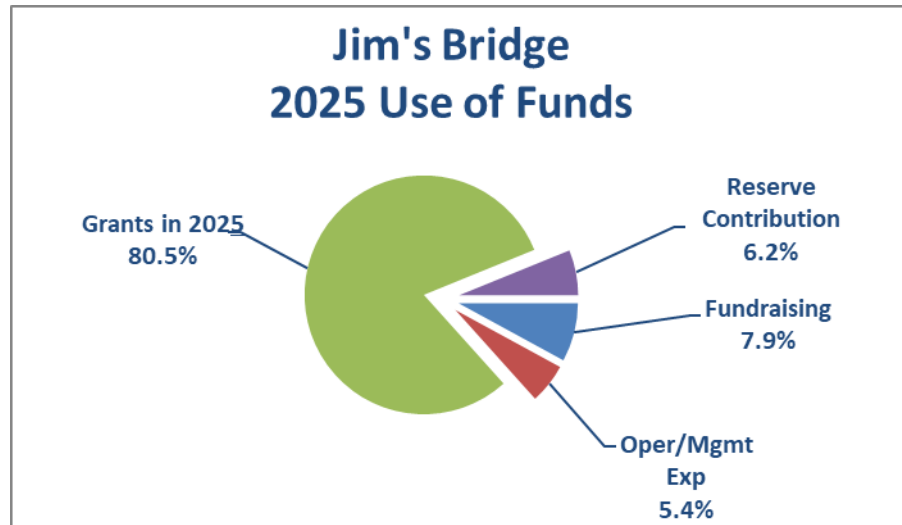
As always, our charity manages all of its own fundraising. No outside or professional fundraising organizations are used.

Even though we increased our grant level by almost \$9,000, we were still able to increase to our reserve by \$3,745. At the close of 2025, the charity reserve stands at \$96,166.

Year over Year Financial Status Prior Six Years

Year over Year Comparison (Last 6 years)

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Revenues	\$60,892.11	\$60,669.36	\$49,518.71	\$45,590.56	\$38,862.09	\$36,805.51
Total Expenses	\$8,122.87	\$5,569.08	\$4,375.19	\$2,482.89	\$1,980.86	\$1,583.98
Grants for Children	\$49,023.90	\$40,648.53	\$38,020.00	\$36,540.41	\$33,423.43	\$33,008.98
Total Expense to Revenue	13.3%	9.2%	8.8%	5.4%	5.1%	4.3%
Fundraising Expense	7.9%	6.8%	6.7%	2.4%	2.4%	0.1%
Opex to Revenue	5.4%	2.4%	2.1%	3.1%	2.8%	4.2%
Opex	\$3,295.72	\$1,428.53	\$1,053.21	\$1,401.36	\$1,077.69	\$1,529.52
Reserve Contribution	\$3,745.34	\$14,451.75	\$7,123.52	\$6,567.26	\$3,457.80	\$2,212.55



Our Board of Directors

We are fortunate to have a Board of Directors comprised of family and friends skilled in business and wellness professions. There is frequent communication among the Board of Directors throughout the year, with two formal meetings per year.



Maureen Mikulski, President, is retired with more than 40 years of experience in Information Technology, Project Management and Business in the Chicago Area, with an advanced degree in Computer Science and Certification in Project Management.



Kathleen Diaz, Vice President, has almost 20 years of combined experience working for non-profit organizations and in the wellness field, with an advanced degree in Psychology.



John Mikulski, Treasurer, is retired after having acquired more than 35 years of experience in Information Technology and Business in the Chicago area, with an advanced degree in Computer Science.



Kathleen Grady, Secretary, is a retired Registered Nurse with an advanced degree in Nursing and more than 30 years of experience as a volunteer or volunteer coordinator.



Zachary Kubiak, Sergeant at Arms, is an entrepreneur with a very popular restaurant in Palos Heights. This restaurant, Zachary's Grill, is the location of our Annual Fundraiser and Get Together.

Plans for 2026

Supporting the Children

The James F. Mikulski Memorial Group will sustain, and hopefully increase, its level of support for the children at Visitation, St. Gall, the Academy of St. Benedict the African, Old St. Mary's School and the Erie Neighborhood House in 2026. We will visit the schools and meet with our scholarship recipients at times throughout the school year. When possible, we will attend programs and activities at the schools and at the Erie Neighborhood House. We will continue to seek other organizations that Jim's Bridge can help.

Fundraising

We plan to hold an Annual Fundraiser in 2026 as another fun afternoon of meeting with old friends, making new friends, enjoying delicious food and having a chance to win great prizes. The Board of Directors will meet in January to discuss possible dates.

We will continue to hold semi-annual Saver's clothing drives, which has been increasingly popular and introduces many new people to Jim's Bridge.

As in 2025, we will be reliant on individual and corporate donations. We will actively look for additional ways to raise funds for the charity. We are hoping to become an official charity of the 2027 Chicago Marathon, where runners will raise funds for Jim's Bridge. That needs to be arranged and approved in 2026.

Coordinating volunteers as a source of revenue

Volunteering at races as a source of revenue continues to be a steady source of revenue and another great way to introduce people to our charity. We will look for opportunities to expand the number of events supported. We have also initiated contact with local high schools and universities as possible sources of new volunteers.

We stay in contact with the race organizers that we have worked with in prior years, including SuperTri, Enmotive, Lakeshore Athletic Services, CARA and Chicago Event Management. Based on our relationships with those groups, we are able to receive high levels of per volunteer donations from them.

Getting the word out about our organization

We will continue to publish our semi-annual newsletter and promote the charity through email, Facebook and Instagram. The annual fundraiser, volunteering and the Savers clothing drives have expanded our reach to those who may not have known about the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group/Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future. We will actively seek other opportunities to promote our work and grow the organization.

Keeping our Operating Expenses low through strong financial management

Efficient management of expenses and monitoring our revenue stream will always be a priority. We will actively identify ways to keep our expenses as low as possible, ensuring our donors know

their dollars will be spent to benefit the children that we support. We are pleased that we have maintained a low expense/revenue ratio.

Ways You Can Help Support Our Mission

Please consider helping our cause with a donation in one of these ways

- The James F Mikulski Memorial Group website
<http://www.jfmmemorial.org/donatePP.html>
- On our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/JimsBridge/>
- Through Zelle to John@jfmmemorial.org
- By mailing a check to

James F. Mikulski Memorial Group
405 Shadow Creek Court
Palos Heights, IL 60463
EIN 46-4519616

If you would like to volunteer with us or if you would like to be included on our distribution list, please send an email to info@jfmmemorial.org



From the Erie House Peace Mural
1347 W. Erie, Chicago, IL
Sponsored by James F. Mikulski Memorial Group
Dedicated August 2015