# J3 FOUNDATION Building Bold Readers for Bright Futures

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020** 

## **OUR MISSION**

J3 Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides after- school reading programs in partnership with high need schools that serve students of color.

Our mission is to equip 4th grade scholars with the reading skills, habits, confidence, and books they need for a lifetime of reading success.



### "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader"

### **Margaret Fuller**

Why do we focus on literacy? Studies show that in Los Angeles, two -thirds of students not reading proficiently by the end of fourth grade will at some point be incarcerated or on welfare. More than 50% of students in LA are not meeting reading standards and the number is even more alarming for students of color. In order to interrupt the school to prison pipeline, J3 Foundation directs its resources to build communities of scholars who are passionate about books and confident in their abilities.



## LETTER FROM J3

Dear Friends,

At J3 Foundation we are working each and every day to make a difference in the reading lives of young people.

The many dreams and aspirations of students will emerge in the early years with proficient reading and a love of reading. J3 Foundation is working to support growth in the reading skills, habits, confidence, and book access for the most vulnerable 4<sup>th</sup> grade students across Los Angeles.

When we started the 2019-2020 school year, we could never have imagined what would be in store for us. J3 had just completed its Winter quarter session when news that the Coronavirus pandemic had reached the United States was starting to sink in. At a time when we were all facing enormous uncertainty, I am proud to say that J3 Foundation was able to adapt our program to fit the virtual classroom model so that we could continue to support student literacy. During this critical time for students and teachers alike, our team found new ways of teaching and fostering communities of readers within each Cozy Reading Club.

J3 Foundation is extremely appreciative and proud of its network of students, educators, employees, volunteers, and community supporters and sponsors.

We encourage each and every follower of J3 Foundation to get involved in any way possible to expand opportunities for children across Southern California

Joe Blackstone, Co-Founder

# AT A GLANCE

	201 8	201 9	2020
Students Served	24	125	253
Partner Schools	1	3	16
Teachers	6	15	35
Full-Time Staff	1	2	3
Sponsors	26	35	35

## **OUR IMPACT**

For the 2019 -2020 school year, the J3 Foundation held data sharing agreements with three schools across three districts - **Aveson School of Leaders** (PUSD), **Thomas Edison Elementary** (GUSD), and **Watts Learning Center** (LAUSD). Data collected from the standardized assessments each school administers (i.e. DIBELS, iReady, Achieve3000) are used, first, to populate J3's program with students meeting our criteria for reading intervention (one grade level behind), and ultimately to track student growth over the course of the year of participation in J3.

Across all three schools, **50% of students** have shown measurable growth in reading assessments after one session (between 6-10 weeks, depending on the school). More specifically, students increased in their **reading rate** (more words per minute), **accuracy** (fewer errors), and **reading comprehension**. We have also found a positive relationship between attendance over the course of a session and growth in reading skills.

At Thomas Edison Elementary School (GUSD) in particular, we were able to put a program into effect that is most closely representative of the model we hope to replicate as we scale - in terms of recruiting students at our target reading level, meeting our student-teacher ratio, and length of the program. At Thomas Edison Elementary, **86% of students** in fall session saw an increase in their standardized reading scores and **50% of students exceeded** *annual typical growth*.

Surveys conducted anonymously have shown that across all schools and districts:

**100%** of parents felt that J3 positively impacted their student's reading skills, habits, and confidence.

**92%** of parents felt that J3 created a sense of excitement and community around reading.

**91%** of students said that J3 made them feel more confident in themselves and their reading abilities.

**100%** of students said that J3's library featured books that they were excited to read.

## **SUCCESS STORIES**

#### **Notes from Parents:**

"Thank you for all your help, support, and encouragement you gave [my student]. J3 renewed her confidence and it is showing!!!"

"Cozy Reading Club could not have come at a better time. The kids were able to learn social skills with familiar and unfamiliar faces during such a rough patch in their school year. The teachers were so active and helpful. My kid loves being a part of after school programs, hopefully this continues when school fully opens."

"Keep up the great work. [My student] enjoys the reading club very much. She loves the teachers also. She feels welcomed. I think it is a great safe place for my child to read and expand her critical thinking skills. You are all amazing!"

#### Notes from J3 Teachers:

*"J3 has built confidence in many students, which has improved the school environment as a whole."* 

*"J3 definitely helped our 4th graders feel confident in reading and collaborating with peers. This will help their confidence in sharing and working with each other as they move onto 5th."* 

#### **Notes from Students:**

*"I used to read super bad before but now I've been practicing and I'm really confident now."* 

*"I like reading now. I used to not like it a lot. But because of this program I love reading now. It's fun for me."* 

### **OUR APPROACH**

Our J3 approach is grounded in rigorous, evidence-based research and informed by a cycle of continuous evaluation. Our development team includes nationally recognized experts who are educational practitioners, nationally recognized researchers, and experts in the fields of psychology and social work. Our advisory board includes educational practitioners and researchers, parents, authors, entrepreneurs, and professionals in several fields. Our J3 after-school reading program for students in grade 4 provides the skills, habits, confidence, and books kids need to succeed. Our evidence- based curriculum and highly-qualified teachers provide young scholars with the opportunity to practice word-attack skills, increase their vocabulary, and build their reading fluency. At J3, we teach young scholars how to use their voices, to speak up, to read out loud and to be public scholars in community spaces.



J3 is on a mission to create lifelong readers, and that starts with access to irresistible books from our culturally relevant collections. Our J3 classroom libraries and home collections have been carefully chosen and include high-interest, culturally relevant, fiction and non-fiction titles to encourage wide reading. In close partnership with local donors, we provide free and low-cost books so young scholars can choose books to grow their own collections. J3 partners with schools and their teachers who play an active role in giving our young scholars new reasons and opportunities for reading all day long. Our school partners help young scholars apply their growing skills and newfound confidence with multiple opportunities for co-reading and partner reading with classmates, home reading activities, and community reading events. These essential partnerships help J3 scholars learn how to share their confidence and new habits with siblings, parents, and friends in the community.

# **STRATEGIC PLAN**

### <u>Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022</u>

Approved by unanimous vote of the J3 Board of Directors, February 25, 2018. Updated August 16, 2018.

Our Vision	Promote accelerated reading growth and access to culturally relevant books for students of color in high need schools in Los Angeles through school and community partnerships.						
Our Mission	J3 Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Los Angeles that provides after- school reading programs in partnership with high need schools that serve students of color. Our mission is to equip 4 <sup>th</sup> grade scholars with the						
	skills, habits, confidence, and books they need for a lifetime of reading success.						
Who We Serve	J3 serves students in 4 <sup>th</sup> grade who are at least one year below reading level and are attending high need schools in Los Angeles.						
Our Programs and Services	<ul> <li>J3 accomplishes its mission through the following:</li> <li>After-school reading programs for 4<sup>th</sup> graders</li> <li>Culturally relevant, high-interest book collections</li> <li>School &amp; community partnerships</li> </ul>						

# STRATEGIC PLAN

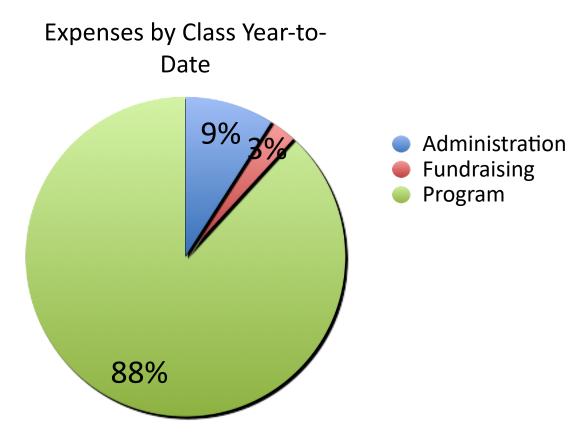
Our Goals: 2018-202 2	1. • •	With a goal of students reaching grade level proficiency, promote measurable increases in reading ability in four ways: skills (fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension); books (book access, number of books in home); confidence (reading attitudes); and habits (sustained reading growth and attitudes over time).
	2.	Create after-school partnerships with schools and communities that can be sustained, replicated, and scaled up over time.
	3.	Curate culturally relevant, high-interest J3 book collections to increase reading access to benefit students, families, schools and communities.
	4.	Create mutually beneficial partnerships with schools, families and communities to promote sustained reading achievement.
	<ol> <li>Develop sustainable funding and stra partnerships through innovative event other sources to enable growth in the r</li> </ol>	Develop sustainable funding and strategic partnerships through innovative events and other sources to enable growth in the number of kids and families reaching success in J3 programs.

# FINANCIAL REPORTING

### December 31, 2020

J3 Foundation										
Budget vs. Actual										
12/31/20			Budget							
	YTD Actual		YTD Budget		YTD Variance		Annual Budget		YTD Actual less Annual Budget	
Ordinary Income/Expense										
Income										
Individual Contributions	\$	432,924	\$	240,000	\$	192,924	\$	240,000	\$	192,924
Corporate Contributions	\$	500	\$	80,000	\$	(79,500)	\$	80,000	\$	(79,500
Special Event Revenue	\$	-	\$	140,000	\$	(140,000)	\$	140,000	\$	(140,000
Interest and Other Income	\$	1	\$	-	\$	1	\$	-	\$	
Total Income	\$	433,425	\$	460,000	\$	(26,575)	\$	460,000	\$	(26,575
Expense										
Personnel	\$	134,200	\$	136,668	\$	(2,468)	\$	136,668	\$	(2,468
Program	\$	12,694	\$	36,338	\$	(23,644)	\$	36,338	\$	(23,644
Professional Fees	\$	179,136	\$	176,725	\$	2,411	\$	176,725	\$	2,411
Operations	\$	9,876	\$	97,660	\$	(87,784)	\$	97,660	\$	(87,784
Total Expense	\$	335,906	\$	447,391	\$	(111,485)	\$	447,391	\$	(111,48
Net Ordinary Income	\$	97,519	\$	12,609	\$	84,910	\$	12,609	\$	84,910
Other Income/Expense										
Other Income										
In-Kind Income	\$	2,880	\$	-	\$	2,880	\$	-	\$	
Restricted Funds Received	5	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	
Restricted Funds Released	5	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	
Total Other income	\$	2,880	\$	-	\$	2,880	\$	-	\$	
Other Expense										
In-Kind Expense	\$	2,880	\$	-	\$	2,880	\$	-	\$	
Total Other Expense	\$	2,880	\$	-	\$	2,880	\$	-	\$	
Net Income	\$	97,519	\$	12,609	\$	84,910	\$	12,609	\$	84,910

## FINANCIAL REPORTING



## **FUNDRAISING**

In order to support this year's expansion of our program we launched two virtual fundraising campaigns.



### May 5, 2020

#GivingTuesdayNow was a day of global action for giving and unity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This one-time fundraising event raised nearly \$7,000 for J3

### December 2020

During the month of December, we raised roughly \$164,500 through the launch of our Giving Tuesday and end-of-year giving



# **OUR SUPPORTERS**

**ARMANINO LLP** 

**BARRY FAMILY FOUNDATION** 

**BOOK FOUNDATION** 

**BROTHER INTERNATIONAL** 

**CTBC BANK CORP** 

**DAVID & ILYSIA PIERCE** 

**DYLAN & SAPNA PROCTOR** 

**GLASER WEIL LLP** 

**HUMBERTO & MARIA GRAY** 

JUDY GUIDOTTI & DAVID HIRSCH

**JAMES WORTHY** 

**JOEL & SHERRY MCKUIN** 

**KYLE & KATHY FRANDLE** 

LEA RUSSO & BRUCE BERMAN

LIDO ADVISORS LLC

**MACQUARIE CAPITAL USA** 

MARK & JESSICA SAMUEL

MCKUIN FRANKEL WHITEHEAD LLP

**PATTY GLASER** 

**PIZZICOTTO** 

RACHEL'S MOBILE TABLE & CHAIR MASSAGE

**ROGER & LINDA HOWARD** 

**TASCHEN BOOKS** 

THE BRENTWOOD INN

#### ADDRESS

11693 San Vicente Blvd., #404 Los Angeles, CA 90049

#### PHONE

(310) 472-0405

### EMAIL

info@J3FoundationLA.org

SOCIAL

0

https://www.instagram.com/j3foundationla/



www.twitter.com/https://twitter.com/J3FoundationLA

f

https://www.facebook.com/J3Foundation