



**FY21 YEAR IN REVIEW**

# A LETTER FROM THE CEO & BOARD CHAIR

## Greetings,

We are pleased to share our FY21 Annual Report with you. As you will see, despite the challenges associated with schools being closed due to the pandemic and the need to pivot to tele-therapy, JPA was able to provide meaningful mental health services to almost 2,000 children, their families and teachers last year.

In this year's report, we want to highlight the importance of play. Play is an important developmental activity for children. Through play, children cultivate social-emotional skills as they interact with others. They explore, learn and create. While play is often fun, it is also a chance to process frustration and disappointment. It's not a stretch to say that play is how children make sense of their world.

Play was equally important last year for JPA therapists. Our therapists rode on magic carpets with their clients, played "what's outside your window," colored together and even logged on multiplayer video games. As we played with the children, we heard about the deaths of family members and friends due to COVID, the anxiety they felt watching their parents stress over lost jobs or having to serve on the front lines as essential workers. We listened to them describe long bus rides to local pantries and juggling the boxes of food on the way home. Most often, we heard about how much they missed their friends and their teachers.

## Last year, we played a lot.

This year, school is back in person but the issues are no less challenging. Only a few months into the school year, teachers report feeling exhausted. They tell us that their students are exhibiting higher levels of anxiety and they are fighting more with one another and with school staff. Just last month, the American

Hospital Association, noting a worrisome uptick in ER visits for children due to suicidal ideation and anxiety, issued a call to action to address the mental health crisis among youth.

Throughout these travails, we also see communities coming together, teachers and parents seeking support for children and themselves, and a growing understanding that asking for help is a positive step that can lead to feeling and functioning better.

## So, we plan on continuing to play – A LOT!

We asked for your help last year and you said yes. We are grateful for the many generous donors who helped us fill therapy kits with toys, games, slime, crayons and coloring books for every child on our caseload. We thank you for your donations, cards and volunteer hours. You joined our Virtual 5K, Game Night and a Gala. It was clear you were All in for Kids as you played for JPA. We hope you will play for JPA again this year.

## Thank you!



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**Daisha Hill**  
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**Rochelle Jackson**  
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**Genice Lofton**  
C2K Consultant

**Marilyn Marshall**  
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Director, Marketing & Events

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Staff Therapist

**Erin Vanden Brook, LCSW**  
C2K Program Coordinator

**Raven Walker, MSW**  
C2K Consultant

# OUR MISSION

Founded in 1901 by Jane Addams, JPA's mission is to improve the social and emotional well-being and functioning of vulnerable children so they can fulfill their potential at home, in school, and in our community.



Of children we serve have experienced at least one significant trauma, including gun violence, gang activity, abuse, homelessness or neglect



Of parents of our therapy clients began having regular, substantive conversations with their child's therapist during the COVID-19 pandemic



Number of at-risk children JPA impacts annually through our therapeutic services.



Of children who participate in JPA's school-based mental health programs feel and function better within their first year of treatment





**1,900**  
PEOPLE SERVED



**20 SCHOOLS**



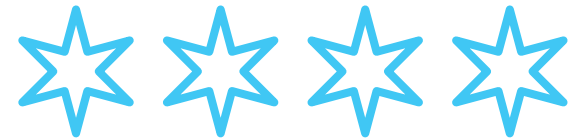
**1250 CHILDREN**



**450 EDUCATORS**

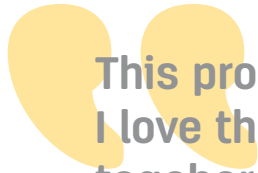


**150 CAREGIVERS**



**9 NEIGHBORHOODS**

Altgeld-Riverdale, Archer Heights, Bucktown,  
Irving Park, Lincoln Park, McKinley Park,  
North Lawndale, South Shore, and Detroit, MI



This program is very unique in that it is teacher-focused. I love that with a program like this, you are helping the teachers so the teacher can better help their students. I love it and feel privileged to be part of it.- C2K Teacher

## FY21 OUTCOMES



Of teachers said that C2K had a positive impact on the classroom environment



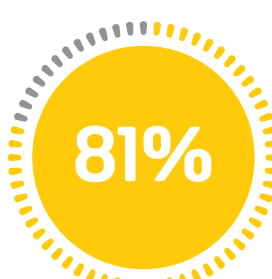
Of teachers said that "Consultation helped me better understand and respond to students' challenging behaviors"



They helped the teachers during the pandemic to stay grounded and supported when the world was spinning out of control.  
- C2K Teacher



Of teachers reported being satisfied with the quality of consultation to help them with individual students



Of teachers reported that consultation reduced job-related stress



I faced tough challenges this year and I do not think I could have survived without the support of C2K.  
- C2K Teacher



Of teachers reported that C2K had a positive impact on their work with parents

# DURING THE PANDEMIC,

JPA continued to offer its school-based programs and supportive services online to children, families and educators—and found that tele-therapy is highly effective!

One young client and her therapist plop on their respective beds and ride their “magic carpet” to far off places.

A five year old likes to look out her window and share what she sees with her therapist.



# To help ease the transition from in-person to virtual therapy, JPA assembled and delivered “therapy kits” to every child on our caseload.

These kits contained similar toys, games and activities the children would have found in a school therapy room, such as play-doh, puzzles, dolls, and board games, enabling them to find security away from the therapy room and offer insights for the therapist as they play during tele-therapy. JPA also provided all therapy clients (and their siblings) with headphones so they could maintain private conversations with their therapists - and be more attentive to their virtual classes.

“I came back home a little after 4pm with a very full heart. I dropped off 11 bags and saw 9 out of those 11 kids (and their families, siblings, and some pets).” - JPA Therapist



# ANNUAL BENEFIT A SUCCESS

JPA's annual *All in For Kids* Benefit was held on Friday, May 7, 2021. While we were not able to celebrate in person, we were able to bring the benefit to our supporters virtually, raising over \$300,000 to support the mental health and wellness of Chicago's youth!

## A special thanks to our Benefit Planning Committee:

Melissa Levy (Chair), Mary Anne Bobrinsky, Bob Johnson, Debbie Lamm, Meredith Mesirov, Doreen Rogers, and Steve Sutherland

## And to our 120th Anniversary Host Committee:

Avionos, Mary Anne & Charlie Bobrinsky, Joo & Stephen Boe, Ann & Jon Cohn, Guggenheim, The Holden Family, Melissa & Scott Levy, Josh & Marianne Mintz/MacArthur Foundation Match, The Robert & Patricia Moore Foundation, Doreen & Peter Rogers, Jerome H. Stone Family Foundation, Steve & Sheila Sutherland, Howard & Paula Trienens Fund



# ALL IN FOR KIDS GOLF OUTING

JPA hosted its first golf outing in over 15 years on September 27, 2021, at the Royal Melbourne Country Club in Long Grove. The gorgeous fall day was filled with golf, food and drinks, exciting contests and games, and raffle prizes.

Most exciting is that we raised over \$48,000 for JPA's programs. Save the date of September 26, 2022, for next year's outing! It's a day you won't want to miss.

## Thank you to our Golf Outing Committee members:

Debbie Lamm & Bill Buhr (Co-Chairs), Mary Anne Bobrinsky, Mark Osmond and Kathy Pirogova





Associate Board Members participating in the virtual 5K

# VIRTUAL GAME NIGHT

**MARCH 11, 2021**

The Associate Board turned their traditional, in-person Casino Night into a Virtual Game Night held on Thursday, March 11, 2021. We kicked off the evening with a cocktail-making class by one of Lettuce Entertain You's acclaimed mixologists. Guests learned how to make a Vodka Collins & Espresso Martini while enjoying their mezze platter delivered from Aba. Afterward, guests competed with their teams in several virtual games.

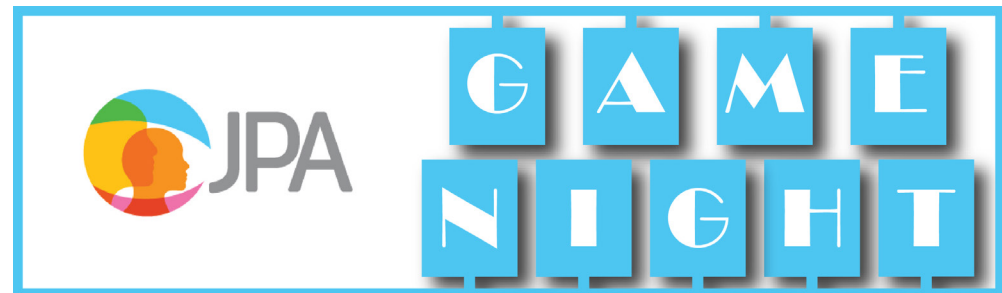
**The Associate Board brought together over 100 people (virtually) and raised more than \$30,000 for JPA!**

# MILES FOR MENTAL HEALTH

## JPA'S FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL 5K

**OCTOBER 4-18, 2020**

177 Participants including 17 teams joined us for our *All in for Kids* 5k!







# Mesirow Family Resource Center

A Child Thrive Partner

3543 West Chicago - Chicago, IL 60651

A partnership between JPA, Children's Place Association (CPA), West Humboldt Park Development Council and Rush University Medical Center, the Child Thrive Resource Center is a safe place where area families can access trauma-focused mental health therapy, primary care services, evidence-based youth mentoring and participate in community-sponsored activities to bolster a response to neighborhood violence and social determinants of health.

This Center is JPA's long-term investment in West Humboldt Park, an under-resourced community designated as one of the top 10 INVEST South/West neighborhoods by the City.



## JPA Services Available at Child Thrive

Individual & Small Group Therapy

Family Therapy

After School Programs

Therapy for Adults

Yoga Therapy



NEW IN  
FY22



WeROCK brings enthusiastic adults into the classrooms to work on a project with students from our partner schools on Chicago's south and west sides. The volunteers work with us to develop an instructional activity that kids and adults can do together. These fun and interactive activities are not only educational, but they let the children know that they matter and that there are caring adults outside of their own communities who want to see them succeed.



Children participate in WeROCK at the Mesirow Family Resource Center



TOP NEWS



MAUDLYNE HEJRKA  
CHICAGO CHRONICLES  
mhejrika@suntimes.com | @maudlynei

## A Better Chicago to grant \$7 million to address CPS students' mental health amid pandemic learning loss



Bessie Alcantara, executive director of Alternatives, Inc., stands inside the organization's Uptown location Monday. Alternatives Inc. is among seven organizations that will receive more than \$7 million in grants from A Better Chicago. TYLER LAMBERT/SUNTIMES

The challenge, a collaboration with The University of Chicago Education Lab and The Chicago Public Education Fund, was framed against findings from last year's Mapping COVID-19 Recovery Project. That Field Foundation-led collaboration of 25 prominent Chicago philanthropic and civic entities for the first time unveiled where public, private and philanthropic sector investments had been going — or not going — in COVID-devastated BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) communities in Chicago and Cook County.

"Our efforts through the Mapping Project produced crucial data that helped us ensure we're directing resources to populations and communities most in need," Pace said of the seven winners of the multiyear grants, which were whittled from more than 110 proposals.

Grantees include Alternatives, Inc.; Chicago HOPES for Kids; Juvenile Protective Association; Leading Educators; Lion's Pride Mentoring; VOCEL (Viewing Our Children as Emerging Leaders); and Roosevelt University. The groups are targeting students from early learners to high school and populations from English as Second Language learners to homeless students.

"This is super exciting. We want to build capacity so that schools can work without us," Executive Director Bessie Alcantara said of Alternatives' \$450,000 grant to bring its Systemic Evaluation, Enhancement and Institutional Training (SEIIT) program to 10 schools.

Currently in four schools, SEIIT involves evaluating a whole school and tailoring resources. "We're looking at everything from the behavioral health resources you have or don't have in the building, to your process in place for kids with behavioral issues. We assess teachers, then the young people. A lot of youth are referred to services once they act out. It's about how do we catch these things before they happen?" Alcantara said.

A \$475,000 grant will help Lion's Pride expand its unique mentoring program, now in three schools, to

five. The program supports high school freshmen, pairing them with juniors and seniors who get leadership training.

"The transition from grammar school to high school is always a difficult adjustment, even in a 'normal' year," co-founder and Executive Director Jasmine Gilstrap said.

"Providing additional support to ninth graders during this return to school and adjusting to this new normal is more important than ever. The combination of peer support and social emotional learning will help support this class of ninth graders to thrive, despite the challenges they have faced the past year and a half."

The ultimate goal is to help each organization fine-tune their programs for future scaling to reach hundreds of thousands of students, through CPS and city of Chicago funding.

At the Juvenile Protective Association (JPA), a \$850,000 grant will scale its 8-year-old Connect to Kids (C2K) program. Currently in 10 schools, C2K provides teachers with weekly social and emotional learning consultation throughout the school year.

"We don't just need child development. We need adult development. Our therapists are helping the adults build their own social emotional capacity, along with a toolkit and techniques," Executive Director Karen Foley said.

"If we can help a teacher understand what's underneath the behavior of that child, in almost all cases, the more effective they can be in supporting the need of their students."

Of teachers in the program, 92% report a positive impact on their classroom environment, and 7 of 10 report lower stress levels.

"Kids are not the only ones feeling the pain from the past 18 months — so many teachers also feel burned out, and have lost close family members and friends to this terrible virus. First the adults have to put on their own oxygen masks to help them to then help the children."



Karen Foley  
Executive Director

# A BETTER CHICAGO DESIGN CHALLENGE

JPA was one of eight finalists for A Better Chicago's Chicago Design Challenge and has since been awarded an execution grant to implement our three-year strategic plan to bring Connect 2 Kids (C2K) to 92 teachers in 25 schools impacting over 5,000 children!



Marshana Roberts Pace

"The pandemic exacerbated systemic inequities that already existed in our city and country. This manifested in the education space as disparities in school funding for quality remote learning and safe returns, as well as at-home access to high-speed internet and devices," said Marshana Roberts Pace, director of investment at A Better Chicago.

"The COVID pandemic has also resulted in detrimental social-emotional impacts on Chicago's youth that could threaten their achievements later in life."

IN THE NEWS

INVEST FOR KIDS



# INVEST FOR KIDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In September, JPA was chosen as one of six beneficiaries of the 13th annual Invest for Kids Conference on November 4, 2021.

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**\*2022 Casino  
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JPA's Junior Board hosted a drive-thru fundraiser on August 15, 2020, raising almost \$8,000 for JPA!





# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS FY21 DONORS!

## Corporate, Foundation, Trust & Organization Donors

### **\$250,000 +**

Steans Family Foundation

### **\$150,000-\$249,999**

Mesirow Financial

The Reva and David Logan Foundation

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Anonymous (2)

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**SAVE  
THE DATE!  
2022 EVENTS**

*All in for Kids*  
**Casino Night**

**Saturday, February 5, 2022**  
Venue West - Chicago, IL

*All in for Kids*  
**Benefit**

**Friday, May 6, 2022**  
Venue West - Chicago, IL

*All in for Kids*  
**Golf Outing**

**Monday, September 26, 2022**  
Royal Melbourne Country Club  
Long Grove, IL



Juvenile Protective Association • 1707 N. Halsted Chicago, IL 60614 • 312.440.1203