

**2021-2022**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Boundless Possibility**



**Junior  
Achievement™**  
of Greater Fairfield County

Member of  
JA Worldwide



# Greetings from JAGFC President and Board Chair

Dear JA Supporters,

While the past few school years have brought incredible difficulties to our community, we at Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County are turning these challenges into opportunities. We are dedicated to providing essential learning experiences for the students and schools most in need. Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is the cornerstone of our mission, as we advance greater economic opportunity for all.

Inside, you will see what we have achieved over the past year. With the help of our dedicated volunteers, donors, and supporters like you, we are unleashing the power of possibility for our students.

*Sincerely,*

**Bernadine Venditto**

President, JA of Greater Fairfield County

**Michael Steinharter**

Chair, JA of Greater Fairfield County Board of Directors

## Mission and Vision

Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County (JAGFC) inspires and prepares young people to succeed in a global economy. Through learning experiences taught by volunteer role models, we equip students with essential knowledge and skills. Our vision is for young people to develop the skillset and mindset to build thriving communities.

## Programs and Pathways

JAGFC's volunteer-delivered, youth-centered programs foster work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy skills. With the help of community and business partners, we connect students to role models, resources, and real-world experiences. Youth are inspired to dream big and reach their full potential.

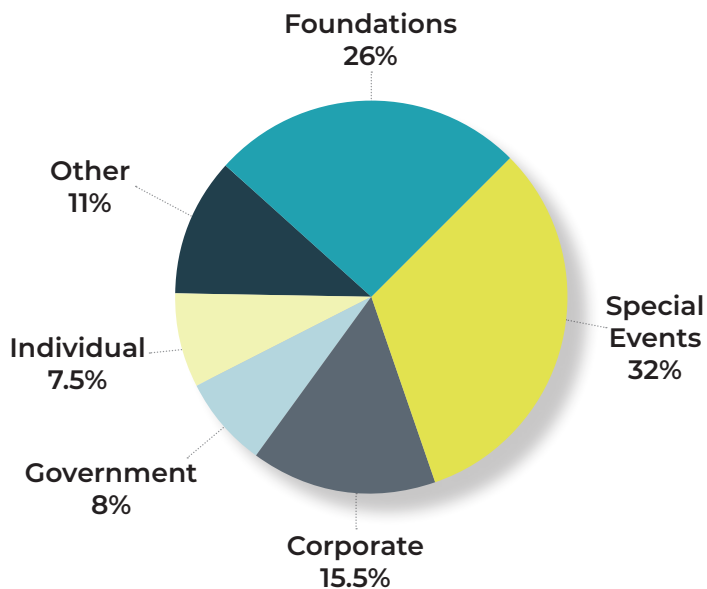
## Core Values

- Believe in the boundless potential of young people to be future leaders
- Inspire curiosity through education and exposure to possibilities
- Teach and model skills that help to build a more inclusive and equitable community

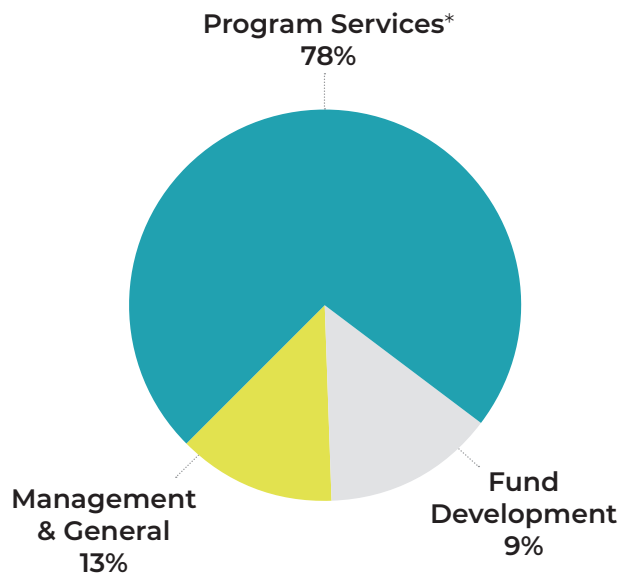


# Financial Summary 2021-2022

**Total Revenue**  
**\$1,297,228**



**Total Expenses**  
**\$1,284,568**



\*Includes non-functional expense for JA USA program license

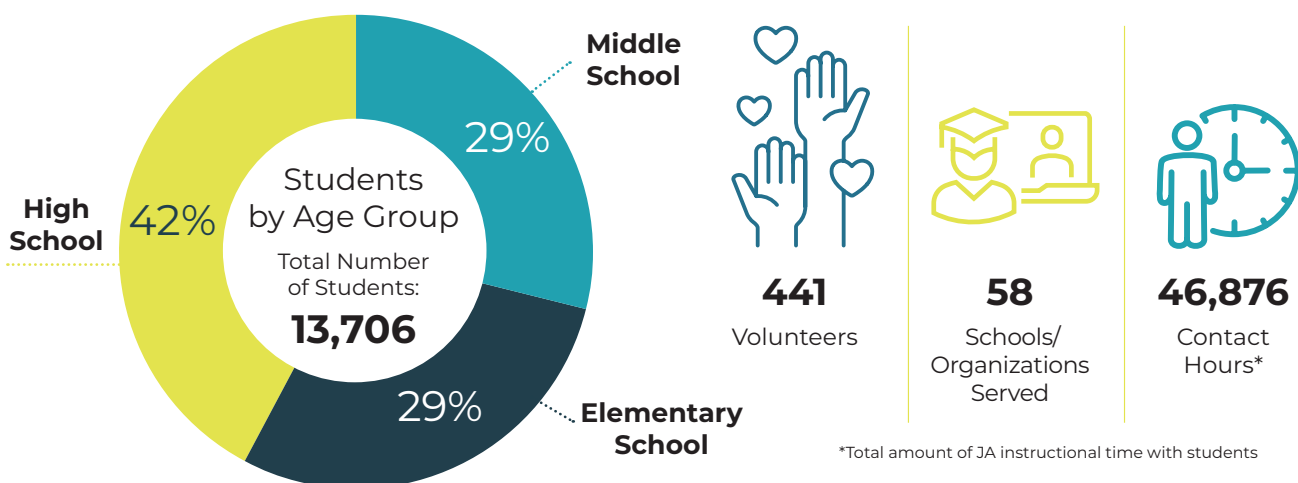


## Service Territory



\*Service territory shows where we can provide program.  
The towns and schools receiving services vary from year to year.

# Impact



## According to a 2022 third-party study of JA alums conducted by Ipsos:

- Ninety percent of JA alums say it exposed them to different ways of thinking, 89% say it motivated them to succeed in their professional lives, and 88% say JA widened their horizons.
- More than half (56%) say they are currently in a career or job, or have worked in a similar position, to the one their JA volunteer had.
- Strong majorities of JA alums report that JA played an important role in believing they can achieve their goals (90%), their personal development (87%), and gave them confidence in new situations (85%).

# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Junior Achievement addresses the opportunity gap and systemic disparities for students through access to quality educational opportunities and resources, with a focus on career exploration, leadership and life skills, and financial literacy. Our organization emphasizes solutions that help break the poverty cycle and achieve lasting, positive change. Junior Achievement takes three approaches to help address economic inequity:

- 1) Increase financial security through financial literacy
- 2) Narrow the income gap through career and work readiness
- 3) Level the playing field through entrepreneurship

JA programs are proven to give students the tools they need to increase their chances of achieving economic security as adults. These skills will not only improve young people's lives, but they will also bolster their families, their communities, and our nation.



## 2021-22 Student Demographics

- Native American: **0%**
- Asian: **4%**
- Black or African American: **17%**
- Hispanic or Latinx: **43%**
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: **0%**
- Multi-Racial: **3%**
- White: **33%**
- **53%** Low to Moderate Income\*

\*According to student eligibility for free or reduced-price meals as reported by the Connecticut State Department of Education



# Program Highlights



Through partnerships with schools, businesses, and community organizations, we connect young people to role models, resources, and real-world experiences.

## **Manufacturing Career Awareness Seminar:**

In October 2021, JA hosted our first annual Manufacturing Career Awareness Seminar in partnership with The WorkPlace. Local high school students heard from various manufacturing leaders in our state, including ManufactureCT, Sikorsky, and Bigelow Tea about this high-growth industry. Participants also had the chance to ask questions about potential career opportunities.

**Financial Literacy Day:** In April 2022, all ninth and tenth grade students in Stratford participated in our annual Financial Literacy Day, where students explored the true cost of car ownership. With the help of their JA business volunteers from JPMorgan Chase, students calculated the monthly expenses associated with owning a car and made financial planning decisions based on their findings.

“I am glad I was able to learn about the expenses that come with buying a car. This information will be very helpful in the future.”

– Danielle, Bunnell High School Student

“I would like to be a Physician Assistant, but I really didn’t know where to start. The presenters coming here gave me an opportunity to learn more about what I want to do and pushed me more. Hearing about it makes me feel better about what I want to do.”

**Student - Shanice, Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet High School**

“The students really appreciated the college section about how much it costs. Some of the 10th and 11th graders said that they had never even talked about that with their parents before, and the program made them realize that they needed to start talking about things now.”

**Educator - Vanessa Fasanella, Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet High School**

“It teaches them young that in order for the dreams and possibilities to happen, you need to work hard, save a lot of money for that goal, and plan, plan, plan!”

**Educator**

“The lessons were fun, interactive and engaging for students. They made a huge impact on the students, and my students were sad to see the program end.”

**Educator - Jaclyn D’Amato, Stillmeadow Elementary School**

“As a long-standing JA volunteer – and as a former achiever myself – I can attest to the quality of JA programs and their positive impact on students. The interaction between students and volunteers creates personal connections and brings the material to life. The volunteers serve as role models that enable students to envision themselves as successful adults. The combination of world-class content and skilled, dedicated volunteers brings experiential learning to our next generation.”

**Volunteer/Board Member - Tina Foraker-Blackwell**

# Board of Directors, Emeritus Board, and Committees

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*For a complete list of  
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website. [jagfc.org/donors/](http://jagfc.org/donors/)*

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Endowment Fund  
Raymond P. Lavietes  
Endowment Fund  
Karen Colangelo Memorial  
Scholarship Fund  
John & Patricia Rayner  
Scholarship Fund

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**Junior  
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of Greater Fairfield County

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**Engagement Opportunities**

Volunteer your time in-person  
or virtually and engage  
with students

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help young people to succeed

Join a committee or  
advisory board and help  
advance our mission