

plus impact in its first 5 years

Focus Areas: JCF has six focus areas for philanthropic investment for the greater good of Jefferson Parish: education, health and wellness, neighborhood support and revitalization, race equity, senior initiatives, as well as transit.

H2Geaux Swim

More than 50% of the children in Jefferson Parish cannot swim. So when the JCF initiated a free learn to swim program, the response was overwhelming!

JCF formed a partnership with the YMCA of Greater New Orleans, the Parish of Jefferson and the Jefferson Parish School Board. Over the past five years, the Y has provided over 3,000 swim lessons at the Johnny Jacobs pool on the Westbank. Plans are already underway to expand the program in the summer of 2024 with a goal of serving 1,000 children!

Kenner Discovery Health Science Academy

JCF is proud of its support of the Kenner Discovery School (KDS), an open enrollment school which continues to grow and expand its campus and its enrollment. In 2012, JCF funded an initial 'seed money' grant to KDS.

Originally an idea held by a small group of Jefferson Parish residents to reform public education has since grown into a successful and high demand charter school network. Founded in 2013, Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy opened its doors to 420 students in grades Pre-K-3rd, 5th and 6th grade. Each year, Kenner Discovery added more grade levels and students. Now in its tenth year, the school serves over 2,000 students in grades K-12 and in 2020, KDS graduated its first senior class! In 2017, the Jefferson Parish School Board granted KDS an additional 10 years on its Charter designation.

Jefferson Ready Start Network

Jefferson Ready Start Network (JRSN), in partnership with the Jefferson Community Foundation (JCF), announced the launch of the JRSN Future Fund to support early care and education in Jefferson Parish.

Quality early childhood education drives short and long-term economic development for the state because it supports the workforce of today and develops the workforce of tomorrow. Childcare providers are a critical piece of the puzzle, as they allow parents to work or further their education while their children receive high-quality care and education, no matter their economic background.

A lack of dependable childcare costs our state's employers \$816 million each year in lost productivity. Five years from now, parents will join the

workforce with specialized training or higher education that they only had the chance to earn because you supported affordable, high-quality early education for their children. Fifteen and twenty years from now, those same children that you helped educate during the first five years of their life – when 90% of brain development happens – will be applying to work for you. Every dollar donated to the JRSN Future Fund will be matched through the State of Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund.

Laureate Academy Charter School

JCF was an early supporter of Laureate Academy, a Westbank open enrollment elementary school that opened four years ago. Classrooms at Laureate filled quickly, and today there are more than 364 students enrolled there with waiting lists for each grade level. Having outgrown its original location, Laureate administrators worked with JCF Board members to secure a new home and Laureate students entered spacious new quarters in St. John Bosco Parish. In the 2023-2024 school year, Laureate serves grades K-8. While nearly 90% of Laureate's students are at-risk students, the school ranked as the highest performing open-enrollment elementary school on the Westbank, proving true the Laureate mantra—every child can learn!

Metairie Business Development District Fat City Initiative

JCF played a critical role in sustaining and advancing the effort to revitalize the Fat City neighborhood. In 2013 the Fat City Task Force created by the Jefferson Parish Council concluded its two years of work when it delivered a series of recommendations on that renewal effort to the Parish Council. That final recommendation involved the creation of a business development district known as the Metairie Business Development District (MBDD). The JCF helped facilitate that recommendation by providing funds for a small staff to 'bridge' between the volunteer efforts until the official MBDD could take over. This volunteer organization known as Fat City Friends served a vital role in the transition in the two-year period between the conclusion of the task force and the creation of the Metairie Business Development District in 2015. Fat City Friends was able to mobilize a public mural campaign, a 'greening' campaign involving the planting of more than 200 trees in Fat City and holiday lighting displays. The funding from JCF was leveraged to match a grant from the Parish so that those improvements could be rolled out and the effort could continue without interruption.

Boys and Girls Club of Gretna

Boys and Girls Club of Gretna JCF grant funding has helped to improve academic success and enrollment. At the Westbank Boys and Girls Club, our members take part in enrichment activities with the stated goal of helping to mold young men and women especially those in need, to achieve academic success, good character, citizenship and lead healthy lifestyles. During the 2016 Club year, the Club served just under 325 youth during the after school and summer enrichment programs.

The Jefferson Community Foundation Grants have gone towards the operating budget of the Club and additional funding goes towards increased staffing thus allowing for increased enrollment.

Woodmere Initiative

Woodmere's residents have more to enjoy and be thankful for since the Jefferson Community Foundation revived the Woodmere subdivision. Woodmere is located on the Westbank of Jefferson Parish and is the largest subdivision in the State; it is home to about 20,000 residents, most are first time home buyers. In response to complaints from residents about a need for stronger public safety measures and enhanced code enforcement, the JCF partnered with the district councilman, Mark Spears, and funded a neighborhood renewal effort which included sponsorship of community health fairs, installation of video surveillance cameras in targeted areas, and seasonal community celebrations. The JCF also assisted with after school activity programs for Woodmere students.



2023 Initiatives

Cafe Hope capital campaign
Community Health Assessment
Covid Vaccine Awareness Campaign
Hurricane Ida Long Term Recovery
iPhone for Boomers
Jefferson Community Youth Leadership
Jefferson Parish Senior Exposition
Mobile Market
Musical Instruments Drive
Quality of Life Survey
Race Equity Reconciliation monthly dialogue

Future Endeavors

Aquatics Center/Hope Haven
Bucktown Harbor
Campaign to Celebrate JP Diversity
Community Arts Center
Mike Miley Cooling & Charging Station
Mental Health

Nonprofit Partners ADL, Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Louisiana, Building Excellent Schools, Cafe Hope, Celerity Woodmere Charter School, Center for Development & Learning, Community Visions Unlimited, Discovery Health Sciences Foundation, Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful, Grand Isle Garden Club, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Louisiana Foundation, Jefferson Beautification, Jefferson Chamber Foundation, Jefferson Dollars for Scholars, Jefferson Federation of Greater New Orleans, Laureate Academy, New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity, New Orleans Education League of the Construction Industry, Servant's Heart International Outreach, Teach for America, Thompson Thibodeaux Community Development Corporation, United Way of Southeast Louisiana, YMCA of Greater New Orleans.

Community and Civic Organization Partners Civix/GCR, Dawn Busters Kiwanis, East Jefferson Business Association, Greater New Orleans Foundation, InclusivCare, Jefferson Parish Government, Jefferson Parish Public Schools, Jefferson Parish Recreation Department, JEDCO, Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson Ready Start Network, Kenner Business Association, LCMC, Louisiana Public Health Institute, Our Community Health, Tulane University School of Professional Advancement, Westbank Business & Industry Association.