

# The Climb

Jacob's Ladder, Inc.®

Spring 2019

*One rung at a time*

## CLIMBER SUPPORT

*Thank You!*

### Summer Enrichment Camp & Year-Round Advocacy

Summer Enrichment Camp costs \$725 per week per child, which totals \$2,900 for the 4-week residential summer enrichment camp experience. From September-June, the JL Advocacy program provides Climber follow-up at a cost of \$1,325 per child. This includes school visits, a winter event, and spring retreat. We ask for your continued support and sincerely appreciate your partnership with Jacob's Ladder. You truly make a difference in the life of an intellectually gifted, at-risk child!

#### Climber Insights

"To me, Jacob's Ladder is like a second family where I know I am accepted by everyone, where I know I can make a lot of new friends, and where I can have fun learning in a safe and carefree environment. All the things I've learned at Jacob's Ladder, such as confidence and responsibility, will be with me forever."

"Jacob's Ladder is a place where I can express feelings, tell about my emotions, and not be afraid. I love that everyone is helpful and caring to each other because that shows how coming to camp has changed my life. It showed me that others can have a positive effect on each other's lives."

## JACOB'S LADDER

### Nutcracker Winter Event

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the JL Climbers, family members, Board members, and staff enjoyed a joyous reunion at the Robin Inn for a yummy lunch before attending the Richmond Ballet's *Nutcracker* at the Carpenter Theatre. The event began with a special presentation to honor our outgoing Chair of the JL Board, Peg Davis, for her dedication. Special thanks to Blair Gilchrist, a guest from Capital One, who surprised the Climbers with tote bags of goodies and also sponsored our lunch. The ballet performance was a delightful time of music, dance and togetherness. This event was a great way to start the holiday season!



Jacob's Ladder is a pro-active enrichment program serving children who are gifted and at risk for 28 years.

Climbers at the Robin Inn



JoAnne Ruffa, Palmer Castrodale,  
Nicole Pearson, and Sue Albaugh  
(Executive Director)

### JL~ University of Richmond High School Seminar

Special thanks to our High School Advocate, Palmer Castrodale, for collaborating with Danita Salome, UR Assoc. Director of Admissions. We made JL history in March with our first high school seminar. Through this wonderful partnership, Alumni Climbers and their parents/guardians took part in this workshop. The day began with an amazing testimony by JL Alumni and current UR freshman, Alexis Williams, who spoke about her personal experience with the college



application process and the impact of Jacob's Ladder in her life. Presentations included Academic Preparation for College Application, Navigating the FAFSA and Financial Aid Process, and a hands-on writing activity about the College Essay. University of Richmond provided breakfast and lunch, as well as a student tour campus scavenger hunt with the aid of two current students.



## JACOB'S LADDER Spring Retreat

The Jacob's Ladder Spring Retreat was an amazing time of reconnecting with fellow Climbers at Camp Piankatank during the weekend of March 22-24. Events included writing letters to new Climbers, brainstorming our camp theme, an egg hunt, outdoor games, a bonfire complete with s'mores and devotions. A special lunch provided an opportunity for JL Board members and Climbers to get to know each other and learn some fun facts.



Of course, good food was on the menu and Ms. Ruffa's culinary expertise was appreciated by all. Pastor Bruce from Urbanna Baptist Church brought us a powerful Sunday message about making a difference and being accepting of others. There were so many special memories made, words of wisdom shared, and support offered to and from each other!



## HARMONY to the HEART



The Tappahannock Rotary Club presented a generous donation to Jacob's Ladder during their February concert. Our own Nicole Pearson was one of the artists performing for this sold-out event! Accepting the check were RA-Micaiah and Essex Climber-Andrew. We appreciate the continued support of the TRC for JL Climbers.



## PROSPECTIVE CLIMBER INTERVIEWS

This spring JoAnne Ruffa and Sue Albaugh traveled to 15 different school districts to hold interviews. School visits also included a parent/guardian, counselor or gifted resource teacher. These visits provide a critical foundational relationship with the families and schools of future Climbers. Eighteen new Climbers will begin their JL journey this summer!



## 26<sup>th</sup> GOLF CLASSIC

Jacob's Ladder will hold its annual Golf Classic on **Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** at The Club at Viniterra in New Kent County. Sign up online and bring a friend to support a worthy cause. [www.jladder.org](http://www.jladder.org)



## GREEK FESTIVAL

We are excited that Jacob's Ladder was selected as a 2019 charity to receive a portion of the proceeds of this year's Greek Festival. We will have a JL information booth at the festival on **Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**, with a check presentation that evening at 6:00 PM. The dates of the festival are May 30-June 2, 11:00 AM - 9:30 PM.

## JLOYSTER TASTING

Save the Date: September 29, 2019

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Oyster Tasting will take place at Merroir. Details to come!

## FROM THE EXEC'S DESK

As my second year gets underway with Jacob's Ladder, I marvel at the collaborative and caring way our Board and staff work together. We are hard at work to prepare for another year of our Summer Enrichment Camp, which will take place from June 29-July 26. We are happy to be returning to the campus of Christchurch School in Middlesex County. Many plans are underway for engaging classes, fun activities, interesting events, and more! Be sure to click on **About Us** and select **Interview with the Founder** on our website to see our new video of Aubrey Hall as he tells the Jacob's Ladder story! [www.jladder.org](http://www.jladder.org)

~ Sue Albaugh, Executive Director