

The Climb

Jacob's Ladder, Inc.®

Summer 2022

One rung at a time

JACOB'S LADDER Climber Spring Retreat

In April 2022, twenty-three of our current middle school Climbers assembled for the Climber Spring Retreat at Camp Piankatank in Hartfield, VA. The group was blessed with warm weather, allowing the weekend to be filled with outdoor adventures. When the Climbers needed a break from the sun, they took part in letter writing to our new Climber class, devotions, exploring summer volunteer opportunities, and much more! Our Board members were lunch guests, which provided the opportunity for Climbers to practice social skills, such as introducing themselves when meeting new people.

JACOB'S LADDER 29th Annual Golf Classic



Jacob's Ladder held its 29th Annual Golf Classic at the Golden Eagle Golf Course on Monday, May 16, 2022. The awards celebration was held at the end of the day, with music provided by Jumbo Lump Daddy. In addition to our many generous and loyal sponsors, the Golden Eagle Cottages Association members helped support the event, enabling us to net \$21,890. All net proceeds help provide room and board for the intellectually gifted, at-risk children at the summer residential enrichment program. Thank you, Golfers (17 teams), Sponsors, Prize Donors, and Volunteers for your loyal support of a worthy cause!

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans for good and not for evil, to give you a hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11

FROM THE EXEC'S DESK Catherine Coggeshall



JoAnne Ruffa and Catherine Coggeshall

Have you ever experienced something so impactful you can't fully explain it? That's how I feel about my first Jacob's Ladder Summer Enrichment Program. When I took this position as Executive Director, I knew I wanted to be fully immersed in everything Jacob's Ladder had to offer. To take advantage of this opportunity, I spent my summer in Tappahannock living in the dorm alongside all of our Climbers and staff members. This experience allowed me to grow close to those around me, strengthen relationships with those supporting Jacob's Ladder, and get a true understanding of why our summer program is so impactful on everyone involved. I spent six months planning our summer program and it was incredible to see everything come together. I couldn't have done it without my dedicated team of Directors and RAs, a majority of whom are alumni Climbers. It was comforting knowing that the Climbers were in such capable hands, and I could count on my staff to always be there supporting me and lending a helping hand when it was needed. But, the most important thing I want to mention is just how much FUN I had at camp! I spent my nights working out and watching movies with my Directors and the RAs, attended classes and clubs with

the Climbers, and was even able to go off campus once a week with the teachers and Directors for afternoon socials. I encourage anyone who wants to see camp in action to reach out next summer and come visit for yourself! You will get to see just how truly special Jacob's Ladder is.



JACOB'S LADDER Board Member Retires



For the past twenty-one years, Walter Ryland, or "Rusty" as his friends know him, has served as a Jacob's Ladder Board Member. This year, he has made the

decision to step away from his role. From all of us at Jacob's Ladder, thank you for the experiences you've been a part of, lessons you've taught, and willingness to always lend a helping hand. We wish you the best for all of your future endeavors. You will always be a part of our Jacob's Ladder family.

Jacob's Ladder, established in 1991, is a pro-active enrichment program serving children who are gifted and at risk.

IT'S WEDDING SEASON Introducing Mr. and Mrs. Presley



It's time for a celebration! Our Activities and RA Director, Micaiah Presley, recently tied the knot with his beautiful bride Justyce. Micaiah has been involved with Jacob's

Ladder since he was a child, as he was a Climber himself. When he qualified, he joined the team as a RA in 2015 and has since transitioned to his new leadership role. His compassion, energy, and willingness to always lend a helping hand are admirable and aid in his continued success. Congratulations to the beautiful couple and welcome to the family, Justyce!

SHAILA SCOTT

Alumni Climber- Class of 2010



At Jacob's Ladder, we aid and encourage our Climbers to reach their full potential and become leaders in their community. Each Climber paves their own unique

path to success, some of these include joining the armed forces. Shaila Scott is one of those individuals. She devised a plan before reporting to training to set herself up for success once she finished with boot camp. "I did my research. I opened my first credit card and began building my credit. My plan was to get out of boot camp, pay off the bat mobile, take out a low interest loan of 25K, take out an auto loan and buy my grandmother a car, and take out a home loan to buy my first house, which will be a rental property when I move. All interest rates under 3% because of that work on my credit" stated Shaila. Within a year and a half, she made all of her dreams come true through hard work and determination. She has a home that

is fully furnished, two cars, a dog, a savings account on the rise, and a credit score doing the same. It took planning and perfect timing, and it was mentally exhausting, but was absolutely worth it. She is a progress story that is ever evolving and we cannot wait to hear about her continued success.

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

Make Your Donation Go Further

Jacob's Ladder strives to make a difference in our community by fulfilling our mission. Gifts from generous supporters make this difference possible. To maximize the impact of every charitable gift we receive, we are participating in a charitable fundraising program offered by the Dominion Energy Charity Classic and PGA TOUR/PGA TOUR Charities, Inc. called Birdies for Charity presented by TowneBank. Birdies for Charity gives Jacob's Ladder the opportunity to receive a 10% bonus on funds we receive through the program! Thus, we are asking that you consider making your annual gift to Jacob's Ladder through the Birdies for Charity platform this year. **When you make your gift through Birdies for Charity, we will receive your entire contribution plus a 10% bonus from the Charity Classic.** For more information, email jkirby@jladder.org OR call the office at 804-758-0712.



JACOB'S LADDER 12th Oyster Tasting

Please join us for our 12th Annual Oyster Tasting on **September 25, 2022 from 3pm – 5pm**. Enjoy a Sunday afternoon at Merroir Restaurant eating artisan oysters raised and harvested by the Rappahannock Oyster Co. Climbers have donated artwork from this summer to be

sold at the tasting, as well as pickled cucumbers made by Climbers and the Essex Woman's Club. For more information and to register, please visit www.jladder.org. You may also RSVP to Janet Kirby at jkirby@jladder.org or by calling the office at 804-758-0712 **no later than September 10, 2022**. We hope to see you there!

WHERE YOUR DONATIONS GO

Your donations will be used to support the summer enrichment program and the second key element of our model, the year-round mentorship and advocacy arm, including enrichment activities throughout the year.

WE'RE GOING VIRTUAL

Our team has been working hard to utilize Bloomerang, our donor management software, to help spread the word about Jacob's Ladder and stay connected with our patrons. As a result, we are requesting that you provide your current email address on the enclosed donation card or email Janet at jkirby@jladder.org so we have your address. This will allow us to send updates, newsletters, invitations and more through email. If you would still like to be included on the list of individuals that receive the newsletter in the mail, that is absolutely fine, just let us know your preference!

NAP Tax Credits

Jacob's Ladder has been approved by Virginia's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) participant for FY 2022-2023. In order for a donation to qualify for NAP tax credits, a minimum donation of \$500 for an individual or \$616 for a business must be received by Jacob's Ladder. A tax credit of 55% will be applied. Make your check payable to Jacob's Ladder, Inc., P. O. Box 555, Urbanna, VA 23175. Your NAP forms will be mailed to you to complete.

UPCOMING EVENT

30th ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
Monday, May 15, 2023
The Golden Eagle