



Wonderful things are happening at JPA.

Welcome to the first of our new monthly eNewsletters to keep you informed about what's happening at the [Juvenile Protective Association](#).

First, about our name - [JPA's earliest program](#) was funded by an association of activists led by Jane Addams. This group banded together to provide probation officers for vulnerable children who were crosswise with the law and otherwise on their own navigating the legal system. Hence our name, the Juvenile Protective Association. When the government assumed that function, JPA continued its support of children and families by providing a wide range of services including education, advocacy, and social programs for those living in under-resourced communities.

Fast forward: JPA continues to support children whose well-being and functioning in school, at home and in our community is endangered by violence, gangs, trauma, abuse and neglect.

With everything happening in Chicago these days, we all need a little light in our lives. There is nothing like kids to brighten the day. We want to be sure you're up to date on the developments, achievements, and progress of the more than 2,000 kids and families we serve each year.

Thanks for doing your part to build a stronger and more compassionate Chicago. We look forward to building our relationship with you!

Karen G. Foley
President & CEO

JPA News and Activities

We always view this time of year as a time for renewal: Students and teachers are back in their classrooms and parents appreciate the fresh start for their children. Here at JPA, we are filling our rosters with children who will benefit from therapy, and working with schools and teachers on proven ways of supporting children's social and emotional well-being.

This year we are especially excited to tell you about these new developments:



[Telligen Community Initiative \(TCI\)](#) began a new relationship with JPA this year when it awarded JPA a \$50,000 grant to expand our work in the award-winning Building Bridges to North Lawndale program, now in its eighth year. Through the program, we provide counseling for over 1,000 students in six Chicago elementary schools located in one of the city's most challenged neighborhoods. Comments from Matt McGarvey, TCI's executive director, made us proud: "JPA's approach made all the sense in the world. JPA's counselor wasn't just dropping in and running back to the suburbs, but was totally woven into the fabric of the community...We hope this is the start of a long relationship." We are grateful for Matt's visit to see first-hand the work we do and for TCI's support!



We've added [six new schools](#) in two new neighborhoods to our portfolio this year!



grade.

Our new mentoring program, [9th Gear](#), exceeded our highest expectations. It attracted volunteer mentors to help 8th graders with the transition to high school, one of the leakiest junctures in the educational pipeline. With training and on-going support from our licensed clinical social workers, the mentors developed positive relationships with the kids over the summer. They modeled behaviors likely to help their mentees enter high school ready to meet new people and tackle the workload required in high school. One of the highlights of the summer was a visit from high school seniors enrolled in another mentoring program, Chicago Scholars. We'll be back in December to hear from the mentees about their first semester of 9th



Real Stories, Real Kids

JPA's approach is focused on positive relationships. We don't try to "fix" kids; we build relationships so they can heal. JPA's approach involves harnessing children's natural drive to learn, to succeed, and to engage in positive relationships, while working to transform psychological barriers that impede progress. Each month, we'll present a new story about a real kid (with the name and particulars changed to protect the child's privacy). We'll share what is called the youth's "presenting issue" and how we approached it. For parents and teachers, we'll offer ideas, tips, and lessons that they can use in the classroom or living room.

September's Story: [From Silence to Smiles](#)

Final Thoughts

To you, our supporters and allies, we say welcome and a big thank you. You have helped make our efforts possible. These developments mean that we can serve more adults and children throughout Chicago. We can alleviate the difficulties facing those who are least able to handle them. In the process, we provide the tools enabling children and parents to build their lives the way they envision them.

In the coming months, you'll see more news, more activity, and more changes. We're feeling supercharged! To keep up with what's happening at JPA, please [sign up here](#) for our monthly eNewsletter. You'll receive an issue each month. (Be sure we're on your "safe" list.) Send us your comments and questions, too.

Wonderful things are happening at JPA. We're glad you're along for the journey!

"The mission of JPA is to improve the social and emotional well-being and functioning of vulnerable children so they can reach fullest potential at home, in school and in their communities."