



**Junior  
Achievement™**  
of Greater Fairfield County

# Impact Report 2023-24



**Inspire • Prepare • Succeed**

Dear JA Supporters,

At Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County (JAGFC), we are committed to providing students with a continuum of learning that helps guide them toward a brighter future. This framework of **Inspire – Prepare – Succeed** directs our strategic growth and community impact. Our student-centered approach empowers young people to become the workforce professionals, community leaders, business owners, and change agents that will shape the future of our communities.

Our core work, centered on financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship, is essential for any student, but especially for those from marginalized and disadvantaged communities. JA levels the playing field, providing access to economic opportunities and resources. We address the wealth and opportunity gaps, giving young people the tools to build generational wealth and a pathway to economic mobility for a more equitable and inclusive society.

We hope this report inspires you to support our mission and the students we serve.

Sincerely,



**Bernadine Venditto**

President, JA of Greater Fairfield County



**Michael Steinharter**

Chair, JA of Greater Fairfield County Board of Directors

## ►►► Mission and Vision

JA's mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. Through learning experiences led 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

We collaborate with local youth and community members to promote greater social and economic equity through programs focused on financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship.

## ►►► Core Values

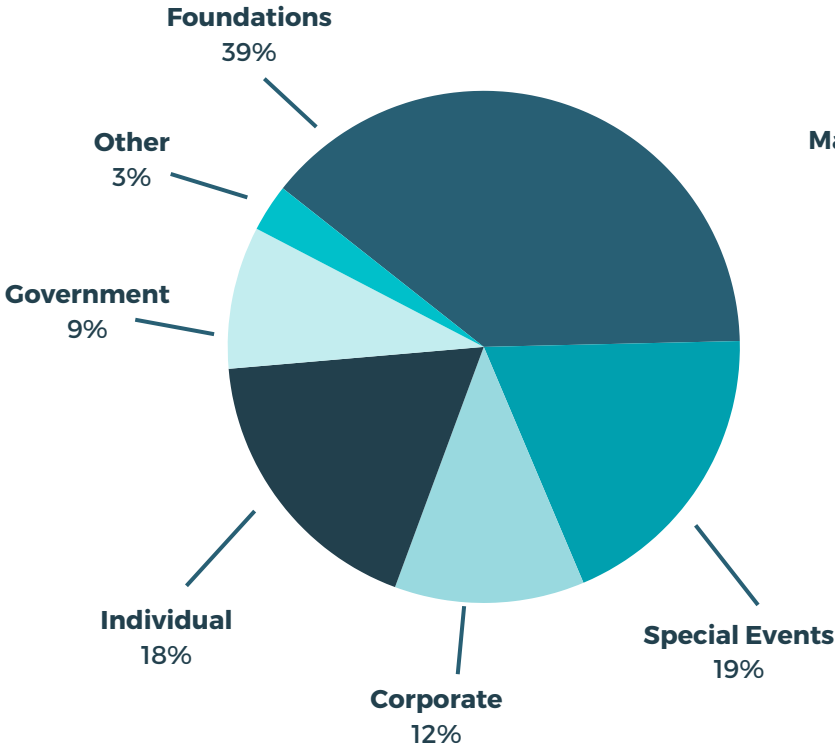
- Believe in the **boundless potential** of young people to be future leaders
- **Inspire curiosity** through education and exposure to possibilities
- Teach and model skills that help to build a more **inclusive and equitable community**



## Financials

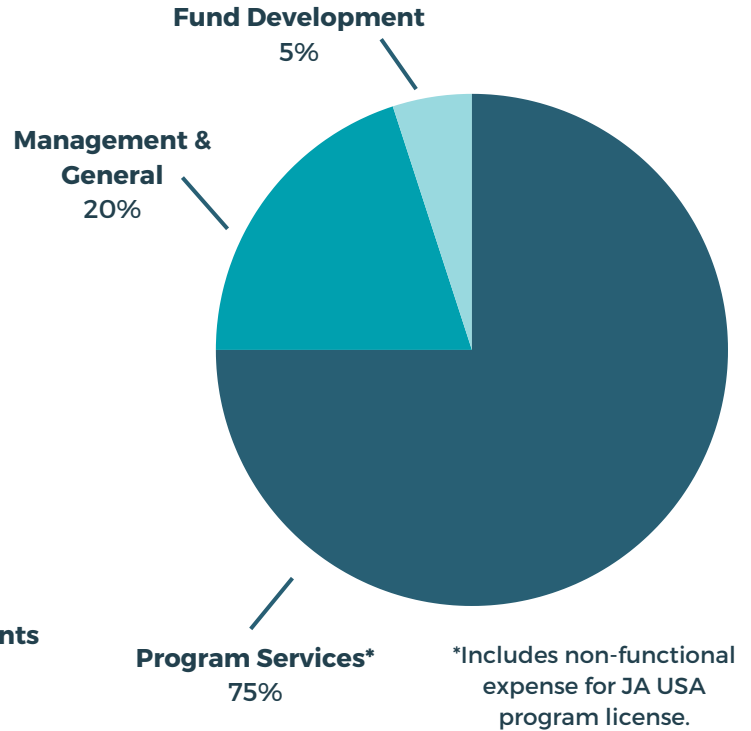
### Total Revenue

\$1,388,583



### Total Expenses

\$1,456,011



## Service Territory



- Greater Danbury Area:**  
 Bethel, Brookfield, **Danbury**, Monroe, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Sherman, Wilton
- Valley Area:**  
**Ansonia, Derby, Seymour, Shelton**
- Lower Fairfield County Area:**  
 Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, **Norwalk, Stamford, Weston**
- Greater Bridgeport Area:**  
**Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Stratford, Trumbull, Westport**

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

\*JAGFC priority district

*Equipping young people to own their economic success*

**13,694**  
Students

22.5% increase over previous school year

**54**

Schools and Organizations Served

**620**

Volunteers

**65,985**

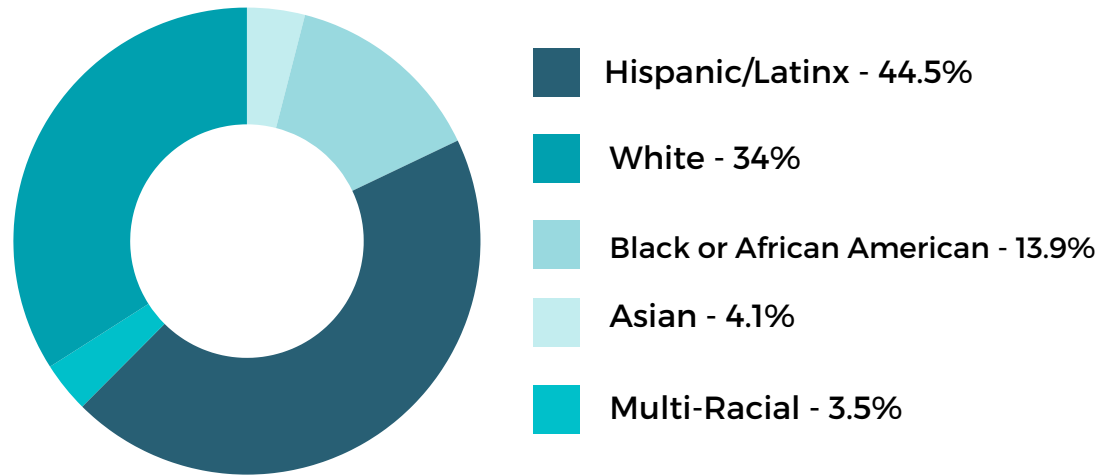
Hours spent with students

14.1% increase over previous school year

**83%**

Percentage of hours spent with students in our priority districts

## 2023-24 Demographics



- Elementary School - 39%
- Middle School - 25%
- High School - 35%
- Post High School/Other - 1%

51.33% Low to Moderate Income\*

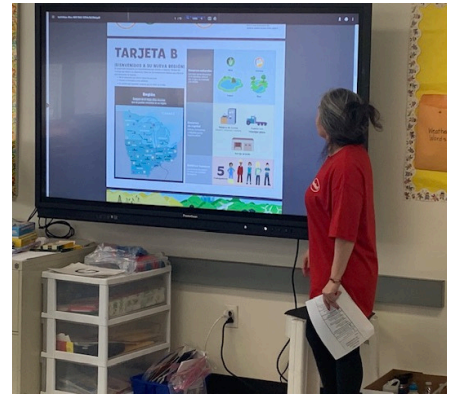
## Impact Statements

Surveys of local students from the 2023-24 school year show the following:

- 90% of students feel more confident in their ability to successfully compete in the workforce in the future.
- 83% indicated that their JA volunteer gave them confidence that they can pursue any career they are willing to prepare for.
- 84% reported that what they learned in their JA program will help them become more successful in a business environment.
- 93% said that, because of their JA program, they developed clearer aspirations for their financial future.

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

In collaboration with our partners, JA empowers the next generation by providing them with the knowledge and skills needed to create successful futures. Here are some of our highlights from this past school year.



## JA Stock Market Challenge

For the first time in many years, JA of Greater Fairfield County hosted the JA Stock Market Challenge at University of Connecticut’s Stamford campus. After engaging with the JA Take Stock in Your Future curriculum, over 120 high school students from our region gathered to put their knowledge and skills to the test. They analyzed the impact of current events on the market, assessed the risks and rewards of trading, and explored the benefits and challenges of long-term investing to accumulate the largest portfolio and be awarded as the champion of the JA Stock Market Challenge! Some of our students went on to participate in the national virtual competition, where they placed among the top 12 teams.

**“All of the curriculum we had prepared me for this moment. It paid off!”**

## Wells Fargo Job Shadow

A select group of students from Central High School (Bridgeport) met with employees at Wells Fargo for a firsthand look at the world of banking and finance at the company’s Hudson Yards offices in New York City. The students’ experience started with visits from Wells Fargo employees. Students visited Wells Fargo’s trading floor, gaining insights on sales and trading, along with valuable advice for a successful career in the financial services industry.

**“I am so grateful I got this opportunity to help me decide what I want for my future.”**

## JA in a Day in Spanish at Julia Stark Elementary School

One of our longstanding partners, Henkel, sent a dozen of their employees to volunteer at a JA in a Day for fourth-grade students at Julia Stark Elementary School in Stamford. Notably, all Spanish-speaking students (newcomers to Stark) participated in the JA in a Day experience as well. The class was taught by two Spanish-speaking Henkel volunteers who were able to utilize JA’s Spanish-translated digital activities to drive impact for the students. They discussed how to become an entrepreneur, characteristics of an entrepreneur, supply chain, and more.

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Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County relies on the generosity, time, and talent of many individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations. Special thanks to the following supporters who helped to make our 2023-24 year a success.

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