When you rise, you inspire others to choose the same path.
Each child has a unique set of gifts and abilities that provides a foundation for learning and success. Jumpstart helps children tap into and develop their inherent assets, then leverage those assets to build self-efficacy and a propensity to shine as they move through various stages of life. Our work is built on the premise that, with the right support, every member of the Jumpstart family can rise and reach their potential to thrive.
When the last child hugged his Jumpstart friend goodbye at the end of the year, we accomplished something monumental: over 100,000 children served since Jumpstart was founded. That’s a significant milestone, and we could not be more proud of our organization’s growth and evolution.

What makes Jumpstart successful isn’t just how many children we serve, but how we serve them. We believe in the innate potential of every child, and we strive to help them discover and unleash that potential: to rise, shine, and thrive.

Years of research have shown us that children from low-income communities enter kindergarten 61% behind their wealthier peers. That’s a sobering statistic, and one that reveals a deep disparity in access to quality schools and resources. This is not the result of an achievement gap, but rather a gap in opportunity.

What Jumpstart brings to the communities we serve is a desire to bridge that gap by providing consistent, high-quality, enriching experiences for young children that build the most important skills children need to succeed in kindergarten. Jumpstart’s partnership with Erie Neighborhood House in the West Town neighborhood of Chicago is a perfect example of this concept in action.

Jumpstart focuses on language and literacy, and we also know that skills such as initiative, self-control, persistence, and attachment—so-called social-emotional competencies—are particularly important for preschoolers’ successful transition to kindergarten. In 2016, we asked external evaluators to help us understand Jumpstart’s impact on the development of these skills. We were thrilled to learn that Jumpstart children were 1.5 to 2 times more likely to have scores in the highest range on a nationally normed measure, the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA).

The researchers told us that one reason for this outcome is the importance Jumpstart places on relationships—the unique bond that forms between Corps members and children, like the story you will read about Yesenia and Angelo, who are still friends 16 years after they first met in a Jumpstart classroom.

Their story reminds us that Jumpstart benefits not just the children we serve, but also those Corps members who serve them. Many, like Community Corps member JoAnn, find hope and a second chance through their experiences with Jumpstart. Jumpstart also builds our Corps members’ communication, problem solving, and time management skills, as well as the other “soft skills” such as growth mindset and cultural awareness that are so important to the workforce—especially the early education workforce—of tomorrow.

We have our eye on the future. The children entering kindergarten this year will be entering the workforce in the year 2034. Among the thousands of children served by Jumpstart are our future leaders: teachers, innovators, policy officials, artists, doctors, and more. Together, with your support and partnership, we will help them rise, shine, and thrive.

dear friends,

Naila Bolus
President & CEO

Chris Stadler
Chairman
forging lifelong relationships

Sixteen years ago, Yesenia Guzman signed up to be a Jumpstart Corps member at California State University, Fresno. That was when she first met Michelangelo, a shy 4-year-old in the preschool classroom where Yesenia served. At the beginning of the year, Michelangelo’s mother asked Yesenia if she could help him learn to write his name before he started kindergarten. “I thought, ‘Oh my gosh, his name is Michelangelo!’” remembers Yesenia. “How am I going to do this?” But she was up for the challenge and began to work regularly with Michelangelo on his name.

Then one week, Michelangelo—who everyone calls Angelo, for short—was out of school. Yesenia reached out to his mom to make sure everything was okay. Angelo had just come down with a bad cold, so Yesenia offered to stop by with some balloons and well-wishes. Something special happened that day. “I remember staying there for hours talking to his mom. From then on, I would stop by every now and again to visit with Angelo’s parents and play with him. As time went by, I just kept in touch.”

Yesenia and Angelo call each other on their birthdays. She runs into his mom at the store, and still stops by to visit. “It’s been a blessing for me. I’m proud to see how much he’s accomplished, and it makes me proud to know I met him when he was just four years old!”

Yesenia is now an investigator for the public defender’s office, but her time with Jumpstart and Angelo sparked a new calling and inspired her to become licensed as a foster parent. “Jumpstart really showed me that the impact you make on someone when they’re little can truly affect their future,” says Yesenia. The training she received while at Jumpstart had an impact on her as well. “Jumpstart helped me be a better aunt to my nieces and nephews, and if I decide to have my own kids in the future, all those classes really taught me how to be a better parent.”

Three days before Michelangelo graduated from high school last May, his father, who owned a towing company, was struck and killed by a car. Yesenia was by Angelo’s side on his graduation day when he gave a moving speech about his father. Angelo started school at UC Davis this fall, and he says he’s planning to become a doctor. Yesenia worried that the loss of his father might interrupt his college plans, but Angelo told her that he needs to go because that’s what his father had worked so hard for. “I hope he can accomplish everything that he wants to,” says Yesenia. “I believe he will.”
“It’s been a blessing for me. I’m proud to see how much he’s accomplished, and it makes me proud to know I met him when he was just four years old!”

— YESENIA GUZMAN, JUMPSTART ALUMNA
When preschool teacher Christiana Seigle proposed bringing a porcine guest to her classroom at Arizona’s Bright Ideas Childcare and Learning Center, the director assumed it would be a baby piglet.

“I walked into the school one day,” says Jumpstart’s Arizona Program Coordinator, Amanda Gryzkewicz, “and the director told me, ‘There’s a pig in Christiana’s classroom.’”

For students living in urban Phoenix, this was their first encounter with a hog. They loved it.

This willingness to try new things is what makes Christiana ideal for Jumpstart’s Workforce Pathways Program, which provides early childhood education training to Arizona teachers in preschools that serve children from low-income communities. In addition to receiving customized training, participating teachers enroll in courses.

“I walked into the school one day, and the director told me, ‘There’s a pig in Christiana’s classroom.’”
The Jumpstart program has given me a better understanding of why literacy skills are so important... We now sit down and have more intimate conversations about how the books make [the children] feel.”

— CHRISTIANA SEIGLE, JUMPSTART WORKFORCE PATHWAYS COHORT MEMBER

for college credit, learn how to integrate Jumpstart’s curriculum into their lessons, and receive ongoing support and coaching to improve their classroom practice.

“Preschool teachers in this community work really hard, but many have little to no training in early childhood education,” explains Ann Marie Marino, Program Director of Jumpstart’s Workforce Pathways Program. “Jumpstart gives them the resources and support that they need to succeed in the classroom.”

Though Christiana had no degree in early childhood education, she was resourceful and inventive, often creating her own activities for the classroom to inspire her young students. Her own lack of a solid educational foundation made her all the more determined to make an impact on young children and “plant those early seeds [of] how to be [good] little humans.”

“I had an unstable education when I was younger and got put in remedial education,” says Christiana. “As I got older, I started volunteering to help younger kids with reading and math, things my grandmother used to help me with.”

“The Jumpstart program has given me a better understanding of why literacy skills are so important,” says Christiana. “I’ve seen improvements in my students’ vocabulary just from introducing new books. We sit down and have more intimate conversations about how the books make them feel.”

Above all, Christiana says, “I love putting more things in my toolbox and learning new ways to help the kids.”
A rebirth - later in life
a deeper sense of purpose

A decage ago, a sudden layoff led JoAnn Priestly to leave the workforce earlier than expected, and the retirement she once envisioned for herself—spending her twilight years traveling and being with friends—did not come to fruition. After her sister passed, JoAnn moved into senior housing and found herself spending most of her days watching television. This life, she thought, was untenable.

Through a weekly support group at her church, JoAnn learned about Jumpstart’s Community Corps, a Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program. Though she had never taught before, JoAnn was eager to learn how to support her community’s youngest learners. After 40 hours of Jumpstart training, she entered her first preschool classroom at Silva Head Start Center in South Los Angeles.

Preschool teacher Rosario Carreño has seen the impact that JoAnn has had in the classroom since day one. “One particular little girl, who’s very shy and timid, built a relationship with Grandma JoAnn. She’ll sit very close to JoAnn and work [together on speaking] English in complete sentences.” Thanks to JoAnn’s presence, this shy little girl has “really come out of her shell,” says Carreño. “It’s just wonderful to see this confidence in her.”

Seeing children thrive has given JoAnn the sense of purpose that she was missing.

“My philosophy for children is listening to them,” JoAnn says. “‘When they know that you have their full attention and that you remember the things they say to you, it gives them confidence that you’re someone who they can trust.’

When JoAnn’s not exploring new worlds with children through books in the classroom, she’s working on a book of her own about finding purpose later in life.

"Jumpstart is important to me because we are meeting a valuable need in our communities,” says JoAnn. “Being able to share my knowledge this past year has been rewarding. Knowing that children are more prepared because I had the opportunity to help gives me a deeper sense of purpose. I really believe the children love the Jumpstart Foster Grandparents because we just accept them as they are, with open arms and warm smiles.”

“Knowing that children are more prepared because I had the opportunity to help gives me a deeper sense of purpose....We just accept them as they are, with open arms and warm smiles.”

— JOANN PRIESTLY, JUMPSTART COMMUNITY CORPS MEMBER
empowering a neighborhood

On Chicago’s West Side, Erie Neighborhood House has been the hub of the West Town community for over 100 years. Education and empowerment are at the core of Erie’s mission: they provide ESL and workforce programs for adults, afterschool and tutoring programs for older children, and childcare for the community’s youngest learners. That’s where Jumpstart comes in.

“What is most amazing is the dedication the Corps members bring,” shares Louis Falk, Erie’s Director of Child Care. “Building positive relationships with the children and their families by being kind and showing that you care makes a world of difference. Jumpstart understands that you need to make the investment early on if you want the investment to continue to grow.”

And it’s an investment that has paid dividends for all involved: DePaul University and Jumpstart have partnered to serve Erie for over 14 years, and many of DePaul’s Jumpstart Corps members have gone on to graduate and return to Erie as teachers.

When she first started serving as a Jumpstart Corps member at Erie House, Lauren Kolack was “struck by how much everyone seemed to care so deeply for the children that they worked with. They clearly valued the work that Jumpstart was doing in their classrooms and built a very positive working relationship with the Jumpstart team to ensure the best outcomes for the children’s learning and development.” Now Lauren works at Erie Neighborhood House as a Lead Teacher herself. “I absolutely love working here.”

Francine Hernandez, another Jumpstart alumna who is now an assistant teacher at Erie House, sees similar critical links between her time with Jumpstart at DePaul and her ability to affect change in her community. “My Jumpstart training gave me the confidence to become an impactful early childhood educator. I am eternally grateful for my Jumpstart experience and know that I would not have the professional skills I possess today had I not gone through the program.”

Over the last decade, Jumpstart, DePaul, and Erie Neighborhood House have developed a robust consortium of services for the West Town community. Mandy Cervantes, a current DePaul student and Jumpstart Corps member serving at Erie House, can feel it. “When I help a child understand a new concept and they get it, it makes me feel like I too can do the same with my own classes and work. These children teach me more every day, and I am a better person because of it. Jumpstart is important because for every child we teach, that’s one more ready for kindergarten and on track to being their best possible self.”

“I am eternally grateful for my Jumpstart experience and know that I would not have the professional skills I possess today had I not gone through the program.”

— FRANCINE HERNANDEZ, JUMPSTART ALUMNA
from corps member to change maker

**tiffany dunston**
URBAN TEACHERS IN WASHINGTON, DC

A first-generation college student, Tiffany started her freshman year at Howard University with law school in mind. But soon after arriving on campus, she found herself interested in an unexpected opportunity—Jumpstart. Tiffany remembers one child in particular from her first year serving with Jumpstart. “He couldn’t write his name. Every time I went, I remember working with him. By the end of the year, he was able to write not only his first name, but his last name as well. I thought that was just so powerful, just working with him day in, day out, day in, day out. That was a profound experience.”

Over the next few years, Tiffany interned at a law firm and with Senator Chuck Schumer. But, the whole time, her love of children and her experience with Jumpstart tugged at her. During her senior year, she met a woman who’d left law school for a program called Urban Teachers. Tiffany realized her destiny had changed. Today, Tiffany is in her third year with Urban Teachers in DC, teaching first graders. “I remember things I learned from my Jumpstart site manager at Howard. I’ve carried those lessons with me everywhere I go. For me, Jumpstart was a great gift.”

> “I’ve carried those lessons with me everywhere I go. For me, Jumpstart was a great gift.”

— **Tiffany Dunston, Jumpstart Alumna**

**jessie demis**
HEAD START IN KANSAS CITY

Growing up in a small suburb of Kansas City, Jessie always enjoyed babysitting and working at the church nursery. So when she arrived at the University of Missouri-Columbia, she was immediately drawn to Jumpstart. She liked that Jumpstart offered the chance to serve in her new “temporary” home, and “serve the community as a whole.”

Jessie was struck by the calm of her preschool classroom’s teacher, Ms. Beck. “For me, it would’ve been overwhelming to have a group of brand new young adults in my classroom, but Ms. Beck handled it with grace,” says Jessie. “She also did a great job of opening our eyes to different life circumstances; she was very gentle and respectful with all the different family dynamics, which is no small task.” After college, Jessie worked at a preschool in her hometown of Lee’s Summit before going to work at Head Start in Kansas City. “Jumpstart was a big motivator for me to stay involved with local communities and families. The combination of exposure to a lot of different families and needs, and the strong leadership that I found while serving—that was really powerful and led me to where I am now.”
When Gina first joined Jumpstart, she was at a crossroads about her future, and had no idea that Jumpstart would fundamentally shift her path. “What was before an unfocused love of teaching,” says Gina, “became a passionate commitment to fight for educational change and equity. Jumpstart became the experience that I have circled back to ever since.” Gina’s experience serving with Jumpstart inspired an undergraduate thesis on racial awareness and perceptions in preschoolers, and was the subject of her application essay for a Fulbright fellowship. She went on to win that fellowship, serving as an English Teaching Assistant at UC Irvine.

Today, Gina is a kindergarten teacher in an underserved area of Los Angeles, and still looks back on her time with Jumpstart as transformative: “For my Jumpstart children, their time in preschool was also a crossroads; it was a time and place for them to explore and grow and begin to define who they were and who they would become, and Jumpstart provided the space and the support to allow them to develop... And, from the broadest perspective, the US is now at a crossroads for education, and Jumpstart is a guiding force in the right direction—a promise of a future in which every student, regardless of their circumstances, is prepared to succeed.”

Chris first discovered Jumpstart at Texas Tech while searching for a work-study job, but the mission quickly felt personal. “Serving children living in poverty—that had once been me. I knew I’d gotten where I was because I’d had strong mentors, and now I had an opportunity to give back.” Chris remembers the first Jumpstart child he mentored, Bradley, and the impact that relationship had on him. “It was awesome seeing him change from a shy, quiet kid to a confident, classroom ambassador,” says Chris. “Seeing those changes in him and the other children, and my own potential to bring out the beautiful traits every young one has—I realized I needed to learn everything there was to know about working with children so I could better support their education. I needed to be an advocate in their lives.”

A few years after graduating with a degree in social work, Chris enrolled in the Bright Horizons & Jumpstart Early Childhood Teaching Program, where he quickly became a Master Teacher. “I love helping children and teachers get excited about learning.” Now Chris has brought that passion back to where it all started—this fall, he started his new role as the Jumpstart site manager for Tufts University. Chris’ Jumpstart roots continue to keep him motivated: “Any time I lose my focus, all I need is to remember what success looked like in Bradley, and I am reenergized to push forward.”
read for the record

Each year, Jumpstart begins our program year with a special campaign to promote the importance of early literacy and reading together. Jumpstart’s Read for the Record reaches not only the children that Jumpstart serves, but also brings together schools, communities, and families across the globe.

On October 27, 2016, over 2.3 million children, families, educators, and volunteers gathered together to read The Bear Ate Your Sandwich by Julia Sarcone-Roach. Jumpstart’s curriculum team worked with Random House Children’s Books to create a special edition book featuring content that emphasized reading comprehension, vocabulary, and, most importantly, how to make reading together a memorable and fun event for children and adults.

Jumpstart Literacy Champions—including NFL player Martellus Bennett, fitness star Shaun T, and actors Jane Lynch, Bridget Moynahan, Josh Duhamel, and Kyla Drew—supported Read for the Record by helping to raise awareness through PSA videos and engaging posts on social media.

The Bear Ate Your Sandwich inspired a young reader to get into character.
Events like our Scribbles to Novels galas and Fall Celebration and Luncheon allow us and our partners to celebrate the impact that Jumpstart makes in communities around the country. The events are also a chance to honor Jumpstart Corps members and alumni for the amazing work they have done and continue to do in the fight for educational equity.

At Scribbles to Novels events in New York, Boston, and San Francisco, we celebrated a central theme of Jumpstart’s work—the power of literacy and the written word. In Jumpstart classrooms, books open the doors to new worlds and perspectives, and become a gateway through which we make powerful connections and learn key skills. We also highlighted 17 authors of books currently making a mark on the literary landscape, and discussed the transformative power that books had on their own lives. All together, Scribbles to Novels, Los Angeles’ Fall Celebration, Connecticut’s Evening with Jumpstart, and New York’s Fall Luncheon raised over $2.3 million towards our goal of making sure that every child enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.
It has been a great honor to be a part of the Jumpstart Corps. It was truly inspiring to see our teams rising to the occasion to help at community events and as invaluable leaders in the classroom. However, the best part of my service was seeing my students everyday, shining faces with shining futures.”

— JOSEPHINE BAILEY-MCLEIN, JUMPSTART CORPS MEMBER
Because of Jumpstart, I better understand that it’s not about me, but about being an example for my community and advocating for young children.”

— ABIGAIL ALEJANDRA SEVILLA, JUMPSTART CORPS MEMBER

USC Good Neighbors Campaign
van Dellen Partners
Warriors Community Foundation
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
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Cynthia Bonanno
Theodore Bonanno and Yelena Bobjyar
Larry and Laura Bortstein
“Witnessing the excitement to learn in a 4-year-old is contagious. Working with these kids and seeing them shine through their accomplishments made it clear to me that my role as a Corps member is to nurture that shine.”

— DANIELLE WATERMAN, JUMPSTART CORPS MEMBER
William Nelson  
Spencer and Mieke Neumann  
Katie and Craig Nicholson  
Nancy Obler-Kaufman  
Matthew O’Brien  
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Failla Wines  
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Massachusetts Service Alliance  
Missouri Community Service Commission  
New York City Council  
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development  
New Yorkers Volunteer  
Serve DC—The Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism  

“Being able to serve the children in my own community makes everything that I do with Jumpstart so much more meaningful. The kids we serve are growing up in the same circumstances that I did, but through Jumpstart I make a difference in their lives.... As much as I feel privileged to help these children, they are the ones who have, in fact, helped me in indescribable ways.”  
— AJ RYAN, JUMPSTART ALUMNUS
This publication was produced prior to the completion of Jumpstart’s 2017 financial audit. All figures are preliminary and subject to modifications or adjustments.

Please visit jstart.org/finance for the most up-to-date information.

## revenue breakdown

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**Net Assets**  
$5,287,000
leadership

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where we serve
To learn more about where we serve, visit jstart.org/our-work/locations.

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Jumpstart
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