JA Students Make a Difference

Chris Jennings
Volunteer
JA of Greenville,
South Carolina

When Chris Jennings was in eighth grade, a JA volunteer taught him and his classmates how to write a check, look up a stock and start a business. The JA volunteer was a young and successful man who brought real-world lessons to Jennings and his class. That experience made an impact. Now, successful himself, Jennings wants to make the same impact on students in his community.

Jennings is a tax associate with KPMG and a volunteer at Wade Hampton High School in Greenville, South Carolina, teaching students about interviewing, resumes and interpersonal skills. “To show my 10th and 11th graders these are skills they will use in the real world,” said Jennings. “JA strengthens connections between what they’re learning and what they will do in real life.

Volunteers embody the heart of Junior Achievement, inspiring young people to succeed—in school and in life. From an inspired JA alum to a dedicated classroom volunteer, Chris Jennings is JA in action.

Becca Cacioppo
Educator
JA of Akron Area

Becca Cacioppo was first introduced to Junior Achievement five years ago. She was so impressed by the dedication and commitment of the volunteers that she decided to implement JA programs at her school. Now, as principal at Akron Central Elementary School in Akron, Ohio, Cacioppo has carried her passion for JA to her school in the form of a five-week comprehensive program designed for students in grades K-5.

“I think this program is one of the most positive ways to bring the community into our schools,” said Cacioppo. “It exposes children to real good people and changes the way the community looks at our schools.”

Stansilav Andreev
Student Volunteer
JA of Bulagria & JA of South Eastern New England

Stansilav Andreev’s JA involvement began in his sophomore year of high school where he participated in Bulgaria’s Business Ethics pilot program. As one of the top students in his class, he was nominated to participate in the National Business Ethics Competition, in which he earned a third-place finish. He soon began frequent visits to his local JA office. Having discovered the purpose of JA, and realizing that his future could be whatever he chose, Andreev deepened his involvement with the organization. He participated in Bulgaria’s Job Shadow Day, the European and Global Business Challenges, became a member of the JA Alumni Club, and helped the JA of Bulgaria office with several projects and events.

Recently, Andreev decided to pursue post-secondary studies in the U.S. and was accepted into Connecticut College. Focusing his studies on business and international relations, he plans to lessen his JA involvement with Junior Achievement. Andreev was recently invited to speak at JA of Southwest New England’s award meeting, where he received the Governor and the Connecticut National Assembly. He is currently the JA Coordinator for Connecticut College, working with the school to recruit JA volunteers.

Andreev’s success truly demonstrates JA relevance on a global scale. When asked how the organization has impacted him, Andreev said, “Through empowering young people and giving them an opportunity to discover and nourish their potential, JA creates lifelong experiences that truly change the lives of many students across the globe.”

Kosakowski Appointed to President Bush's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy

Jack E. Kosakowski, JA Worldwide executive VP and COO and president, Junior Achievement USA, has been appointed to serve on President Bush’s Advisory Council on Financial Literacy.

The formation of the Council was announced earlier this year by the President at the White House.

The Council’s mandate is to “help keep America competitive and assist the American people in understanding and addressing financial matters.” During his remarks, President Bush referenced the sub-prime mortgage crisis as an economic event exacerbated by the lack of financial education.

Council members will work directly with U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson to devise recommendations for President Bush about how to better educate Americans from all walks of life about matters pertaining to their finances and how to invest.

Specifically, the Council’s duties include improving financial education efforts for youth in school and for adults in the workplace, and strengthening and coordinating public- and private-sector financial education programs.

“Junior Achievement’s representation on the Council reinforces the importance of the work we do every day to give young people the tools to effectively manage their finances and help them participate fully and successfully in our economy. Junior Achievement graduates can participate in the National Business Ethics Competition or the National Business Ethics Bowl, and JA Company Program students can participate in the National Business Ethics Challenge. JA’s National Career Readiness Certificate teaches students about the workplace, and JA Shadow Day, the European and HP Global Business Challenge, offers an international experience. JA’s JA Financial Literacy Program offers students a voice in our nation’s financial literacy policy,” Kosakowski said.

President George W. Bush shakes hands with Jack Kosakowski and greets members of the President’s Advisory Council on Financial Literacy last January in the Oval Office.

JAStudentParticipatesinBritishCouncil’sRoadtoDavosProgram

Amudalakhi Shilubane is a JA of South Africa student who recently participated in the Road to Davos program. This British Council-backed program fosters youth activists on global issues such as climate change, intercultural conflict and poverty. Students selected to attend the program come from various backgrounds, but each one possesses a thirst for knowledge and the belief that an individual can truly help make a difference in the world.

Shilubane was among a group of young people ranging in age from 16 to 19 that met prior to the conference in Greenwich, England—where they deliberated and discussed global economic issues which were eventually presented to the G8 at the 2008 World Economic Forum in Davos. The annual World Economic Forum is comprised of thousands of the world’s top academic and business leaders, NGO representatives, U.N. agency chiefs and politicians who come together each year “to change the state of the world.”

Shilubane is a student of tremendous achievement. His involvement in JA programs in South Africa include JA Company Program and JA Job Shadow, each giving him first-hand knowledge of what it takes to be successful in the workplace.

“Having gone through Junior Achievement has opened a world of opportunities for me,” said Shilubane. “This is the first time I have been afforded an opportunity like this, and I would like to thank JA of South Africa and the British Council.”

JA Heritage Society Founding Members Profile

Ronald and Karen Moderski

Ronald Moderski joined the board of JA of the Great Lakes in 1992 where he served for more than 15 years. He was a vice president and general manager of Aerospatiale-Vickers, Inc. (now Eaton Corp.), and now owns RAM Management Group, doing consulting for health care, manufacturing and higher education.

In choosing to include JA as a beneficiary, Moderski said, “Junior Achievement has an excellent vision and model that is appropriate for the future as it has been and is today. Educate and inspire young people to prepare and be better prepared for the real world.” This collaboration with business benefits young people, their parents, business volunteers, the local community, regional, national and global economies. Everyone wins. For that reason, we want to continue to support this vision by including JA in our plans.”

Founding Members Profile

• Tahira Hira, of Iowa
• Theodore R. Daniels, of Maryland
• Theodore Beck, of Colorado
• John Bryant, of California, and upon appointment, Designate Chair
• Charles R. Schwab, of California, and upon appointment, Designate Vice Chair
• Robert V. Losi, of Florida
• Laura Levine, of the District of Columbia
• Donald MacNeil, of Wisconsin
• Don J. McGrath, of California
• David Mancl, of Wisconsin
• Robert W. Lee III, of Florida
• Robert W. Lee III, of Florida
• Ignacio Salazar, of Michigan
• Laura Levine, of the District of Columbia
• Laura Levine, of the District of Columbia
• Ronald and Karen Moderski

For editorial information or to subscribe to the online edition of Futures please mail futures@ja.org

Designer: Jody Conditt

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Campaign For Connections
Program Needs Your Help

Junior Achievement is doing something about the need to connect students. We are working with kindergarten students in Cleveland, Ohio, junior high students in Moscow, Russia, and college students in São Paulo, Brazil—all at the same time. In fact, during the 2006-2007 school year, more than 8.3 million students in 119 countries experienced JA life-enhancing programs. But with more than 1.6 million students around the world, there is much left to do.

The Campaign for Connections program was launched to help all links reach their dreams. It will provide the financial resources to facilitate the most significant improvement in nearly 50 years to Junior Achievement’s productivity. The result will be a dramatic increase in the number of students we will be able to reach annually. This critical project will use state-of-the-art technology to unite JA students, volunteers, board members, staff and the additional communities that benefit from involvement in our educational opportunities. But we can’t do it without your help.

Become JA’s financial partner in the Campaign for Connections. Through an individually tailored investment plan designed to meet your corporate or personal goals, you will help JA reach more students around the world. To learn more, contact Tom Dewar, tdewar@ja.org or 719-540-6257.

Pizza Anyone?

Papa John’s, the U.S. pizza restaurant chain, is partnering with Junior Achievement to help local JA offices deliver work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy lessons to U.S. students. Papa John’s will donate two dollars to JA for each customer who places a pizza order at www.papajohns.com and uses the online coupon displaying the Junior Achievement logo. In addition, Papa John’s franchises and corporate-owned restaurants will conduct job shadow events at which JA students can experience firsthand what it is to own and run a Papa John’s restaurant. Papa John’s employees will be encouraged to volunteer to teach JA classes at schools in their communities.

As a new member of the Junior Achievement family, I can say without hesitation that I have never seen the commitment and dedication to helping create a better future for young people than what has been exemplified by the JA community. In my initial travels, conversations and observations, it is clear that we are truly changing the world, instilling a sense of belief and unlimited potential in the young people we reach with our programs.

This commitment is on full display each spring as JA recognizes a class of distinguished businesswomen and men with its U.S. Business Hall of Fame, which is currently home to 240 laureates. Six individuals were inducted this year in a special ceremony held in Nashville, Tennessee. Each of our laureates truly demonstrates what it means to be successful, and embodies what JA works so hard to instill in more than 8 million young people annually.

As we recognize these six industry leaders, while continuing to inspire leaders of the future, I want to stress that the success of our organization is also based on leadership. It is the tremendous leadership of our collective staff and boards that keeps our vision clear and our values strong. Through our tireless hard work with donors, volunteers, educators and students, JA will remain vital to those who build the future.