



YEAR IN REVIEW
2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT
JGBS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INC.

PREPARED BY KEITH HICKMAN



OVERVIEW

Founded in 1990, the JGBS Alumni Association Inc. of Louisville, Kentucky, connects former students and staff while honoring the heritage and values of the J. Graham Brown School. The Association fosters lifelong relationships, volunteerism, scholarship support, and community engagement, reflecting the school's commitment to kindness, confidence, and a love of learning. Guided by the vision of founder Martha Ellison, who championed an inclusive and student-centered education, the alumni community continues to celebrate diversity, nurture connections, and strengthen ties between the school and the broader community.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The JGBS Alumni Association Inc. manages its financial operations with care and transparency to support scholarships, alumni events, community projects, and operational needs. Strategic fundraising—including annual giving, alumni contributions, and corporate matching—ensures sustainable resources. This year, the Association raised over \$12,000 from alumni donors and achieved a milestone by becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, expanding its fundraising capabilities. Prudent fiscal management and regular reporting ensure funds are effectively allocated to maximize impact for students, alumni, and the broader community.



REVENUE BREAKDOWN

- **Individual Donations:** \$6,030 (up 34% from last year)
- **Corporate Matches:** \$1,000 (down 41% from last year)
- **Fundraising Events:** \$4,978 (up 65% from last year)

EXPENSES

- **Scholarships Awarded:** \$10,000 (down 16% from last year)
- **Operations/Expenses:** \$2008 (up 112% from the previous year)
- **Materials & Supplies:** \$377 (increase from last year)

FUTURE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

FUTURE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Looking ahead to 2026, the JGBS Alumni Association is positioned to navigate a dynamic fundraising landscape shaped by both opportunities and challenges. National trends show a decline in donor participation, particularly among smaller donors, underscoring the need for enhanced donor engagement strategies.

In response, the Association will focus on diversifying fundraising strategies and strengthening donor relationships. Emphasizing donor retention, leveraging digital platforms for engagement, and creating innovative fundraising events—such as online auctions and interactive community experiences—are pivotal in sustaining and expanding our donor base.

By aligning with these national trends and adapting to the evolving philanthropic environment, the JGBS Alumni Association aims to ensure continued support for scholarships and community initiatives in the coming year.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

The JGBS Alumni Association is embracing technology to enhance engagement and outreach. Plans include updating the alumni website with a modern design and improved functionality, expanding social media presence, and leveraging additional services from Better World to streamline operations. Efforts will also focus on growing the donor database and broadening reach through platforms like LinkedIn, ensuring stronger connections with alumni and supporters while maximizing fundraising and community engagement opportunities.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

The JGBS Alumni Association is committed to strengthening connections across generations of Brown School graduates. This year's efforts focus on deeper involvement with alumni homecomings, alumni-led community service projects, and new initiatives like an online silent auction. Additionally, the Association is planning smaller, class-based gatherings to foster cross-generational relationships and expand opportunities for alumni to engage meaningfully with one another and the broader community.



GOALS

The JGBS Alumni Association is committed to financial stewardship, modernized digital tools, and dynamic alumni engagement—through scholarships, fundraising innovations, and community connections for sustainability.

PARTNERSHIPS

This year, the Alumni Association is committed to strengthening partnerships through expanded alumni events, collaborative service projects, and building stronger connections with our professional community on LinkedIn.

GROWTH

The JGBS Alumni Association is intensifying fundraising efforts to provide greater financial support to Brown School students, helping them stay competitive amid the rising costs of colleges and universities.

IMPACT SCHOLARS

The JGBS Alumni Scholarship Awards honor graduating seniors who exemplify academic excellence, leadership, creativity, and service. From celebrating achievements in STEM, athletics, and the arts to recognizing dedication to civic engagement, education, and social justice, each award reflects the Brown School's values and legacy.

Over \$90,000 has already been awarded to our Brown School future leaders, empowering them to make a difference in our world.

“Thanks for this opportunity to give back! I received this scholarship in 2017, and this is part of the reason I was able to afford to go to college. I’m so grateful for having received a \$1000 scholarship and I’m happy to give someone else the chance they need to further their education.” ~ Kim M. Meyer – Class of 2017

2024-2025 Scholarship Recipients

- **Martha Ellison Legacy Scholarship**
Austin Feign
- **Diane Porter Excellence in Education and Service Award**
Chaya Cunningham & Shelby Geraghty
- **Athletic Scholar Achievement Award**
Kyan Hardison & Jacob Mattingly
- **The STEM Achievement Award**
Mason Schneider & Paul Rademaker
- **Literature, Arts, and Creative Expression Award**
Victoria Grazette
- **Civic Leadership and Engagement Award**
Chabely Perez-Tolon & Elizabeth Rademaker

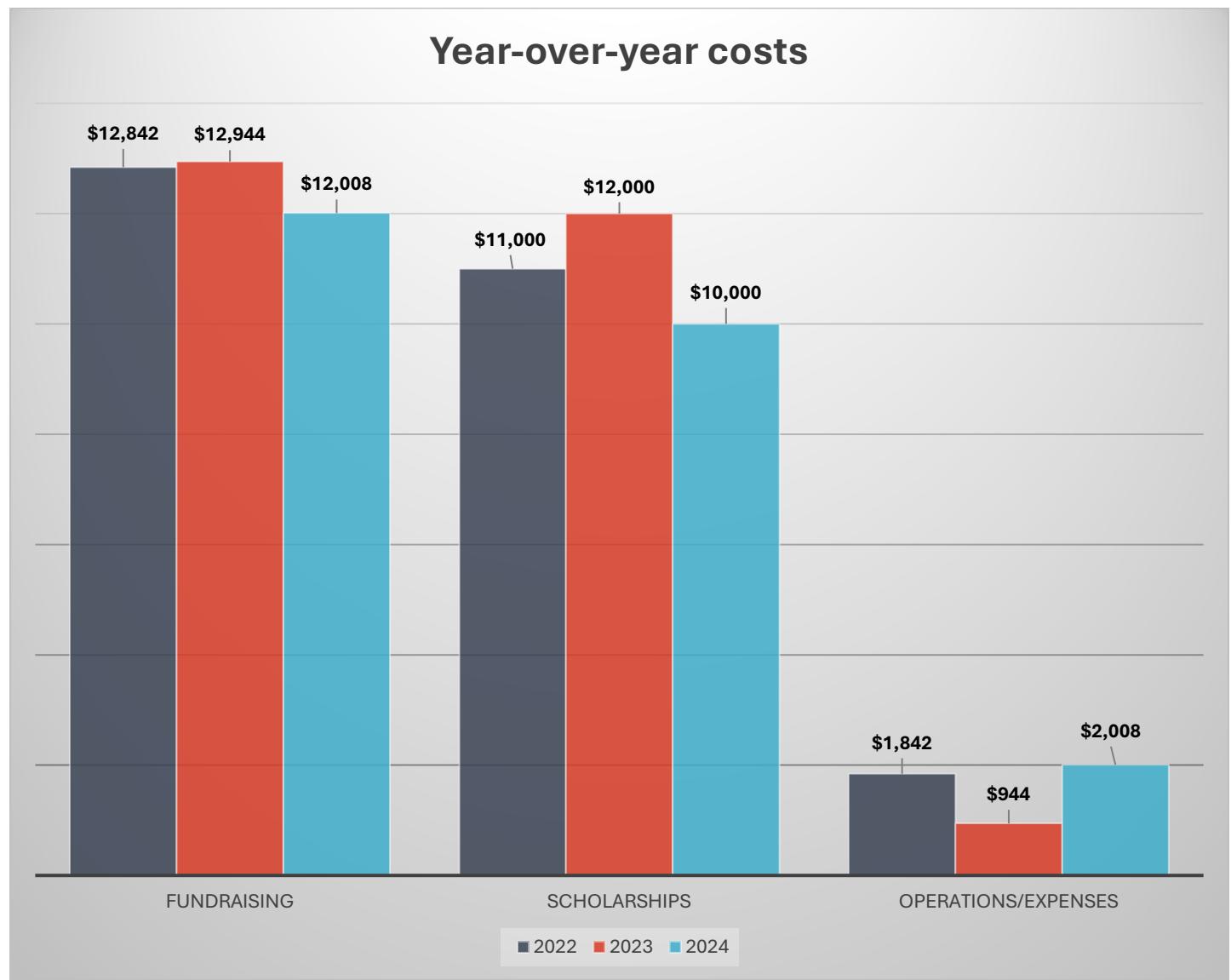


SUSTAINABILITY

In 2024–2025, the JGBS Alumni Association raised \$12,008, driven by sturdy growth in individual donations and fundraising events, offsetting a decline in corporate matches. Scholarships totaled \$10,000, with operations and materials carefully managed. Over the past three years, consistent fundraising and prudent financial oversight have ensured the Association's continued ability to support students, alumni, and community initiatives, maintaining long-term financial sustainability.

	2022	2023	2024
Fundraising	\$12,842	\$12,944	\$12,008
Scholarships	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$10,000
Operations/Expenses	\$1,842	\$944	\$2,008

Year-over-year costs



OUR SUPPORTERS

We are deeply grateful to our donors whose generosity sustains the JGBS Alumni Association. Funds go to support scholarships, service projects, and alumni engagement that strengthen the Brown School community. We especially thank **Fidelity Charitable Trust** and **Thrivent Charitable** for their corporate match donations, and we also honor the lasting impact of our anonymous donors.

🏆 Clarice Rowe	🏆 Evan Riley	🏆 Linda Klarer
🏆 Corey Shircliff	🏆 Jessica Gholson	🏆 Lori Wolf
🏆 Dr. Jacqueline Pope-Tarrence	🏆 Kate Mansfield	🏆 Lorn Edwards
🏆 Gerry Tyrrell	🏆 Kim Davis-Johnson	🏆 Resa Roberts
🏆 Jane Tyrrell	🏆 Kim Dunn	🏆 William Kolb
🏆 Jamie & Carla McMillin	🏆 Laura Matheny	♥ Andrea Kelly Smethurst
🏆 Keith Hickman	🏆 Lisa Hicks	♥ Bridget Dewson
🏆 Mark Russell	🏆 Michael Bunzel	♥ Gretchen Boyd
🏆 Noel Saltzman	🏆 Sharon Williams	♥ Kristie Noe
🏆 Teresa McShane	🏆 William Carl Lathon	♥ Lisa Billings
🏆 Wendell Williams	🏆 Angela Hardison	♥ Molly Mayo
🏆 William Pitney	🏆 Antwan Turner	♥ Stephen Nance
🏆 Anne Goodwin	🏆 Cury Jerico	♥ Stephanie Letson
🏆 Carol Cummings	🏆 Debbie Brashear	♥ Tara Schneider

The JGBS Alumni Association thanks our 2024–2025 members for their dedication and leadership in supporting a vibrant alumni community. We especially recognize our founding members and officers: **Cassye Gholston (President, Class of 1979)** and **Jamie McMillin (Treasurer, Retired Teacher 1972–2001)** for their vision and commitment to this work.

- Carol Cummings (Class of 1979)
- Jane Tyrell (Class of 1983)
- Sonya Payne (Class of 1982)
- Keith Hickman (Class of 1984)
- LaSonya Johnson (Class of 1989)

- 🏆 **Legacy** - Honoring those whose giving leaves a lasting mark. (*Gifts above \$200*)
- 🏆 **Cornerstone** - Recognizing donors who provide essential support. (*Gifts above \$100*)
- 🏆 **Changemakers** - Donors who open doors and create opportunities. (*Gifts above \$50*)
- ♥ **Pathfinders** – Supporters committed to sustaining our community (*Gifts above \$25*)
- **Stewards** – Dedicated alumni members guiding the way with service and giving. (*time, talent, and treasure*)

The JGBS Alumni Association, Inc. is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please visit our website at www.jgbshalumni.com and stay in touch by sending us a message at jgbshalumni1972@gmail.com

