



PROJECT iAM

2023 IMPACT REPORT



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Dear: Jahkil Jackson
I am grateful that you think something special in everthing their are people all around the world and people ignore the Homeless people and you care about them and thank you and i love that about you!

By: Fizza

Thank you Jahkil Jackson we appreciate the you been helping the community and also thank you for helping the homeless people we leared a bt from you Thank you for teaching us thing



16/11/23
Dear Jahkil thank you for being a good human and thank you for just trying to make the world a better place overall

from marley | at madison / in miss wilkoms class

KID NOTES



November 14, 2023

Dear Jhakil,

Thank you for helping
the homeless, without you,

I don't know what is going
to happen, you a super leader.
I am inspired me to be a great
leader like you!

Sincerely, Angela

Thank you for helping
are community, me and my class
made cards for you to thank
you for being nice to others.
hope you go to my school.
Madison school Illinois. I'm in Ms
Wilkins class in 4th grade.
we really appreciate you
helping others.

Jahkil



Hope you like it
😊

Dear Jahkil Jackson,
Thank You for helping The
Community. You inspired me that
you can be a leader right now
any age. You can get to know
how the homeless FEELS.

Thank you,
Zayan



Dear Friend, May god bless you, and
make it a great day. From, Elliott

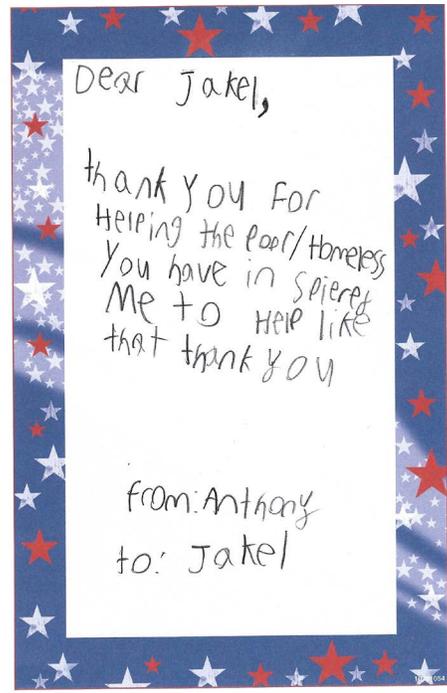


Dear, Jahkil Jackson

I really appreciate everything you
do for the homeless and taking time out
of your day and make blessing bags for
the homeless. ALSO Thank You
for inspiring people to help and be nice to
the homeless. Our class was learning
all about you and I thought it was
super cool that you raised money for
homeless people and we read some of your
book I really liked it.

Thank You,

Lilly



Dear Jake,

thank you for
helping the poor/homeless
you have in spired
me to help like
that thank you

from: Anthony
to: Jake

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Jahkil Jackson



Hey everyone, it's Jahkil here. I have the pleasure of being the Founder of Project I AM. As an 8-year old kid, now 16, I had a vision that became a reality! I could have never imagined Project I Am growing to its current magnitude. Riding down the Chicago streets with my aunt, I recognized people living outdoors, a new experience that immediately granted me empathy. In action mode, I asked my parents if we could buy them all houses. Unfortunately, that wasn't feasible and led us to start Project I Am, a temporary support for a worldwide problem!

Welcome to our world! The past eight years have been incredible! We've connected thousands of youth volunteer leaders, their families, and organizations to further our mission worldwide, creating blessing bags for the unhoused community. We're grateful to have raised funding and clocked thousands of volunteer hours, making a life-changing impact and bringing awareness to an ongoing issue.

Big thanks to organizations, schools, and companies for their invaluable contributions in time, money, and in-kind donations. Their support has been instrumental in helping us reach our financial goals, enabling us to persist in addressing societal challenges. Our main aim is to provide long-term solutions, like the concept of tiny homes, and we're dedicated to achieving this goal through collaborative efforts with our partners who continue to support us.

Ushering out the Jordan '23 and welcoming the Kobe Year '24 is so exciting as we reflect on Project I Am's growth and potential. As you read through our Impact Report, you will see a timeline of our progress and testimonials from friends of Project I Am (community partners), including Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Shower Up, and Imani Development Corporation. I am proud to serve and lead all of my partners, volunteers, and the community, by continuing to build awareness.

I look forward to the future,

Jahkil Jackson

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

Phyllis "GG" Smith



Contributing towards a greater purpose that's bigger than me is the reason I wake up every day. Witnessing my grandson, Jahkil Jackson, grow into a dedicated leader and youth activist alongside our Project I Am team is priceless. The compassion and determination our organization has towards the community of Chicago and worldwide are the driving forces behind our impactful accomplishments. The unhoused community is underrepresented and in need of more support. We are grateful to provide the essential items such as toiletries, coats, cold weather accessories, and food that they need.

As a part of the Project I Am leadership team, I have recognized how giving back and making a positive contribution to the community is of extreme interest to current generations compared to previous decades. Therefore, we are committed to consistently providing a platform for our youth volunteer leaders to further their community outreach and impact, helping make the world a better place while building their leadership skills for success in the future. This experience builds empathy and shows them the power of caring for others during difficult moments.

The positive impact we've accomplished throughout Project I Am's lifetime would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, along with the support of our community, organizational partners, and sponsors. In this Impact Report, you will witness the results we've achieved as a community and what Project I Am has in store to continue improving and making a larger difference in unhoused communities, through future collaborations with schools in Chicago, IL, Atlanta, GA, Baltimore, MD, Normal, IL, and across the world.

The feedback from our volunteers has highlighted the impact that volunteerism and community service has on building youth community leaders. Their experiences with Project I Am have truly made a difference and mean the world to our organization. Here are a few testimonials: "It only takes one person to start a movement," "Through leadership and collaboration, our generation can make a huge difference in the world," and "The power of community is making a large impact on social change."

The best is yet to come,

Phyllis Smith (GG)

Who is **PROJECT I AM?**



OUR MISSION

Project I Am creates awareness and provides temporary support and long-term solutions for the unhoused.

OUR VISION

To inspire a generation of servant leaders, community builders, and social entrepreneurs.

OUR PURPOSE

Project I Am is a leading service organization that celebrates and cultivates Youth Change Agents to create global impact.

OUR WHY

Everyone deserves a safe and reliable place to call home. It's a matter of security, stability, well-being and basic dignity. Yet many people live each day without safe or stable housing. Some are in emergency shelters while others live on the streets, exposed to the threats of violence, adverse weather, disease and so many other dangers exacerbated by homelessness.

*The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

On a single night in 2022, roughly 582,500 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States alone.

*United States Interagency Council on Homelessness



ALL TIME IMPACT

135,000
PEOPLE
IN NEED
SERVICED

300
SCHOOLS
ENGAGED

6
COUNTRIES
SERVICED

\$550,000+
RAISED FOR
THOSE IN NEED

3,000+
YOUTH
VOLUNTEERS

75+
CITIES
SERVICED

12,000+
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



2023 IMPACT

35,000
PEOPLE
IN NEED
SERVICED

50
SCHOOLS
ENGAGED

50
CITIES
SERVICED

1,300
YOUTH
VOLUNTEERS

2,000
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

20
SHELTERS
SERVICED

TIMELINE



- Project I Am introduced at WE Day
- Jahkil Jackson named 1 of 3 most influential people by President Obama
- 5,000+ blessing bags created and distributed

2016

2018

- Project I Am partnered with Chicago Bulls & Gatorade to make 5,000 blessing bags
- Jahkil Jackson named CNN Hero: Small Wonder
- Jahkil Jackson named Marvel Hero
- 15,000+ blessing bags created and distributed



- Project I AM NFP 501c3 Designation
- First 1,000 blessing bags created and distributed

2017

- Project I Am partners with Nike
- Project I Am featured by Forbes
- 12,500+ blessing bags created and distributed

2019



Forbes

MAR 26, 2018 @ 09:19 AM 112

Meet The 10-Year-Old Social Entrepreneur Helping The Homeless Across The Nation

Robyn Shulman, CONTRIBUTOR
I cover the intersection of education and entrepreneurship. FULL BIO





- Recruited 100+ youth volunteers nationally for Giving Tuesday to create 5,000 blessing bags
- Holiday Giveback serviced 410 youth



- Reached 100,000 people impacted for the Seven Year Anniversary
- Power Pillow partnership launched with Crate & Barrel
- Recruited 1,150+ youth volunteers nationally for Giving Tuesday to create 15,000 blessing bags
- Project I Am: Next Up Community Service Club introduced

2020

- 17,000+ blessing bags created and distributed
- Joined YBK Day as the Chicago Ambassador for the national day of youth entrepreneurship.

2022

- Holiday Giveback serviced 100 youth
- 135,000 people in need impacted

• Project I Am introduced Virtual Packing Parties

• Recruited 50 youth volunteers nationally for Giving Tuesday to create 500 blessing bags

• Holiday Giveback serviced 575 youth

• 16,000+ blessing bags created and distributed

2021



• Recruited 500+ youth volunteers globally for Giving Tuesday to create 10,000 blessing bags

• Holiday Giveback serviced 600 youth

• 28,000+ blessing bags created and distributed

2023



PROJECT I AM PROGRAMS



Project I Am: Next Up aims to assist hundreds of youths nationwide with becoming change-makers, starting with volunteerism. The goal is to help youth see their potential, expose them to new opportunities and ultimately

help shape productive society members as they enter adulthood.

This project is designed as an expansion initiative for Project I Am to become a national organization, implementing Afterschool Community Service Clubs. Thanks to the support of Riley's Way Foundation and DTLR, three schools in Atlanta, GA, Baltimore, MD and Normal, IL, had launched Project I Am: Next Up by the end of 2023.

7-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Project I Am celebrates 100,000 people being impacted for the 7 year anniversary blessing bag stuffing event. Project I Am partnered with the Chicago White Sox Ace program.



[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=5JGZCP9UFG8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JGZCP9UFG8)

DON'T WAIT TO BE GREAT 2.0

Project I Am was a grantee of the Obama Foundation's Freedom Summer initiative. Led by Jahkil Jackson and subject experts, the safe summer program took a holistic approach to exposing 20 youth of color on the South and West sides of Chicago to leadership through social entrepreneurship and sports.

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/49UCX_KEAWQ](https://youtu.be/49UCX_KEAWQ)

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/JFUTBGDBQMW](https://youtu.be/JFUTBGDBQMW)

HOLIDAY GIVE BACK

Project I Am partners with True Star Media to distribute coats, toys, socks, and lunch to families at the Primo Center for Women & Children.

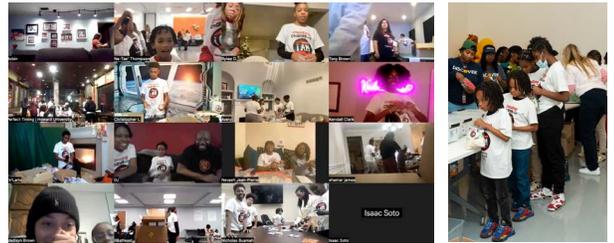


[HTTPS://YOUTUBE.COM/SHORTS/JQ7Q0UCTCUK?FEATURE=SHARE](https://youtube.com/shorts/JQ7Q0UCTCUK?feature=share)

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is known as a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. Project I Am introduced Virtual Packing Parties in 2020 when the world was in COVID quarantine with 50 volunteers creating 500 blessing bags simultaneously via Zoom.

2023 saw the largest growth and engagement so far, with over 1,150 volunteers from nearly 50 cities creating 15,000 blessing bags for Giving Tuesday. To date, Project I Am's Giving Tuesday initiative has worked with over 2,250 youth volunteers from over 75 cities, creating a total of 37,500 blessing bags for the unhoused in their cities..



CLICK HERE 2023 RECAP

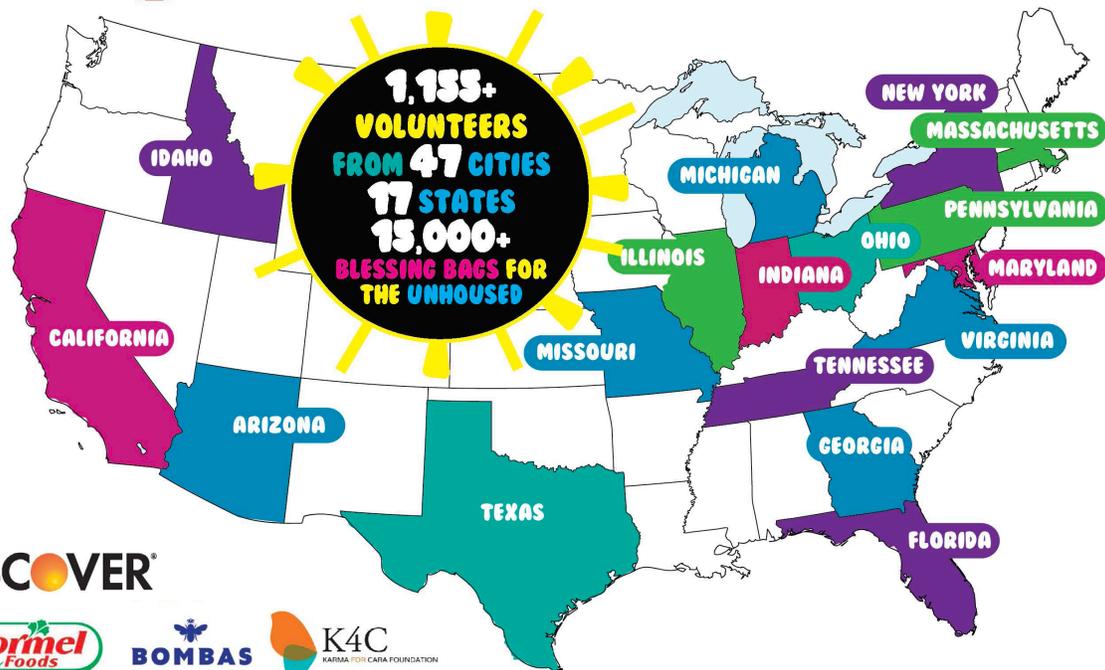
[WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=I3CTPGOLR_G](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3CTPGOLR_G)

[HTTPS://Youtu.be/k7EHOSJVZCG](https://youtu.be/k7EHOSJVZCG)



GIVING TUESDAY

VIRTUAL PACKING PARTY 2023



Powered by **DISCOVER**



FRIENDS OF PROJECT I AM

“It is an honor and a pleasure to work with Project I Am. They have been a blessing to our organization and to the members of the South Shore community.

So many lives have been touched through your work.”

-Imani Community Development Corporation
King of Glory Tabernacle C.O.G.I.C.



“Project I Am team provides hundreds of wonderful gift bags and comfort items to our Veterans in need. This generous program lets the Veterans know that they are not forgotten and it provides them with a sense of dignity by connecting them with the community. Thank you Project I Am for remembering our Nation’s Heroes!”

-Patrick E. Gleason
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center

“Project I Am has demonstrated a shared commitment with Shower Up to provide essential hygiene services to the homeless community, and this partnership holds significant value in our collective effort to address the needs of those experiencing homelessness.”

-Christian Peyret
Shower Up



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



ADDELYN SEPEGA **11 YEARS OLD (FLORIDA)**

Addelyn has been helping those less fortunate since she was 7 years old. In addition to making over 200 blessing bags with Project I am, she has led her own mission feeding over 750 people and bringing Christmas wishes to over 100 kids living in the Trinity Rescue Mission.



DJ, 8 YEARS OLD (MICHIGAN)

DJ is an 8-year-old Actor, Model, Kid-Influencer and Dancer. DJ loves to entertain through acting and his toy reviews. DJ also looks for ways to give back and has been a great friend to Project I Am.



MARIE PENNY **(ILLINOIS)**

Marie has been active in the community for many years and has been a volunteer for Project I Am for the past 5 years. Marie is also the founder of Blocks 2 Cities, an organization to support the less fortunate.



AJ BIGGS, **9 YEARS OLD (MISSOURI)**

AJ enjoys to bake cupcakes, swim and play with her build-a-bears. AJ says "It felt really good to give to the homeless because it makes me feel like I'm doing the right thing. I love that my friends like to make blessings bags with me."



MCLEOD FAMILY **(ILLINOIS)**

The McLeod family are true community leaders and servants. Led by mom Never McLeod, this family has volunteered at countless Project I Am events for the past few years.



AUSTIN **HIMMELSTEIN** **10 YEARS OLD (ILLINOIS)**

Austin loves fishing, skiing, computer programming, and playing the drums. Austin first met Jahkil a few years ago, and loves spending time whenever he can to help pack blessing bags with Project I Am.



SYDNIE COLLINS **19 YEARS OLD (MARYLAND)**

Sydnie is a student at Howard University, an entrepreneur, social influencer, mental health advocate, author, and founder/host of Perfect Timing Podcast! She is passionate about coaching and mentoring girls globally. In her 5+ years of social impact work she has created experiences and exposures for over 2,000 young people.



CHARISMA BOLER **17 YEARS OLD (ILLINOIS)**

Charisma is a student of the arts. An honor roll student that loves musical theater, Charisma has been a member of Walt Whitman & The Soul Children of Chicago for 10 years and has been a Project I Am volunteer since 2016.



TONY BROWN **9 YEARS OLD (VIRGINIA)**

Tony is an inspirational young leader who was born with a special heart. He loves spreading joy and positivity to everyone around him.

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS



CLICK ON IMAGE TO VIEW VIDEO

MEDIA



FOX



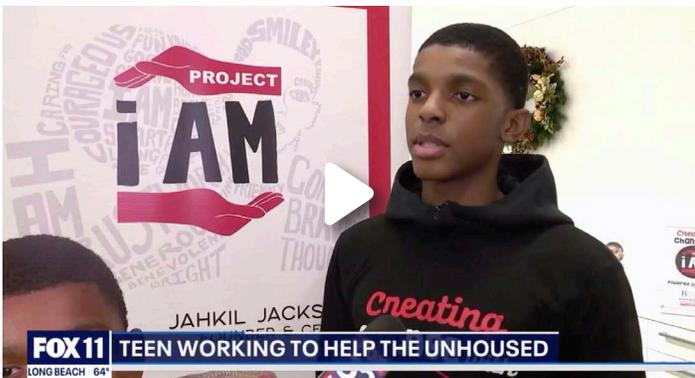
WGN



CBS



FOX 32



FOX LA



JENNIFER HUDSON SHOW



ESSENCE ARTICLE



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