

We Are
PROJECT
I AM

2025 IMPACT REPORT



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VOICES OF SUPPORT

Real words from the community we serve and stand with.

karenroselighthouse 93w So proud of youth today 🦩👏  
Reply

hollyanncoaching 93w Yesss  
lindablair777 94w I am so proud of you! What an amazing and needed project you have started! ❤️❤️❤️  
Reply

keka.harris_empressmaat 94w I love his soul! ❤️  
Reply

larrydaughery 94w This is a magnificent iniative. Congratulations!  
Reply

nattaliejames 94w Awwwww 😊😊🙏 You got a great big heart ❤️ I love these types of things. Maybe one day I will visit and volunteer 😊  
Reply

marysevaillancourtprescott 94w More blessings of health,protection and genuine love to you Jahkil  
Reply

double_bb77 94w A tremendous young man. He's an inspiration to all people of any age. Bravo!  
Reply

vkmjtupjdcnp 89w It's amazing to see a young kid ..from being a 10 year old helping people continue doing it ...the passion to help homeless is very amazing ...with the blessings of heavenly beings ..let him help people...to lessen their suffering  
Reply

YouTube

@gabriel_dof1848 Hi I'm studying English through your videos, I'm from Brazil :)  
Reply

@ThaisBrandao-v9x Ola, sou o Gabriel estou aprendendo ingles Assistindo seus videos.  
Reply

@7TheShootinGod Thank you so much! It's an honor, if you guys need anything just reach out. I'd be glad to help!  
Reply

mccowangregory 1w Don't look for a Hero B-1 ❤️  
Reply

sdewaele55 50m Bless you young man ❤️  
Reply

catrinathecreative 3h  
Reply

nanabarb_13 8h You Are Truly Amazing Dear 🙏🙏🙏  
Reply

gsneuma9 94w Wow. What an incredible and inspiring kid. I'm in awe.  
Reply

jannybranciforte 94w  
Reply

hatiice_nur_ay 94w  
Reply

eyalasseo 95w Jankil you are someone very special! Thank you very much for what yo did, do and will do! ❤️ I love you from my bottom of my heart ❤️❤️❤️❤️  
Reply

nineoclick 95w Kids changing lives ❤️👏❤️  
Reply

@GabrielDasdorespires Ola jahkil jackson estou aprendendo sobre voce na materia de ingles  
Reply

@vitoriaaquino7402 Hi I am learning about you Jahkil in English class I am from Brazil and your initiative is amazing  
Reply

YouTube

 **@gabriel_dof1848**
Hi I'm studying English through your videos, I'm from Brazil :)

 **T @ThaisBrandao-v9x**
Ola, sou o Gabriel estou aprendendo ingles Assistindo seus videos.

 **@7TheShootinGod**
Thank you so much! It's an honor, if you guys need anything just reach out. I'd be glad to help!

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

Jahkil Jackson



Dear Friends,

As the 18-year-old founder of Project I Am, I'm proud to share our 2025 Impact Report with you. What began at age five with one moment of compassion has grown into a global youth-led movement committed to uplifting those experiencing homelessness.

This year, we continued to expand our reach, with **Project I Am: Next Up** leading efforts across **Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Canada and France**. Over the years, we've impacted more than 250,000 people in need globally.

None of this would be possible without your support—volunteers, educators, partners, and donors who believe in youth power and community impact. Together, we're not only providing immediate relief and dignity but also working toward lasting solutions and hope.

As I prepare for college and continue leading this work, I'm more committed than ever to inspiring the next generation and building meaningful change.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

With Gratitude,

Jahkil Jackson

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

Phyllis "GG" Smith



Dear Family and Friends,

Each year, I find myself both amazed and inspired by the continued growth of Project I Am. What started as one child's question has evolved into a youth-powered movement that's touching lives around the world—and I'm so proud to witness it up close as both a grandmother and a team member.

Through Blessing Bags, awareness campaigns, and student-led initiatives, we're not just providing support—we're planting seeds of empathy, leadership, and hope. It's especially powerful to see young people stepping up, taking action, and proving that compassion has no age limit.

This year brought new milestones, including international youth engagement and exciting school partnerships in Dallas, France, Spain, and Canada. We are expanding not just our reach, but our impact—and that's thanks to every volunteer, educator, donor, and supporter who believes in our mission.

Thank you for walking alongside us. Your support fuels this work and makes every act of service possible.

With sincere thanks,

Phyllis Smith (GG)

WHO IS PROJECT I AM?

OUR MISSION

Project I Am builds 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, stable place to call home. Housing is more than shelter—it's the foundation of security, health, and dignity. Yet every day, far too many individuals and families live without it.

Some are in shelters. Many are unsheltered—sleeping in cars, on sidewalks, or in unsafe conditions, facing harsh weather, violence, illness, and uncertainty.

According to the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**, more than **771,000 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States on a single night in 2024**—the highest number ever recorded, and an 18% increase from the year prior.

At *Project I Am*, we're working to meet urgent needs while also empowering youth to raise awareness and take action. Because no one should be invisible—and everyone deserves to be seen, supported, and safe.

2025 MOMENTUM IN ACTION

We've reached 50,000 people worldwide

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

NBC Local Impact Grant Recipient

Honored for empowering youth changemakers and aiding those experiencing homelessness.

5th Annual Global Giving Tuesday Blessing Bag Packing Party

1,300+ youth, 45 cities, 3 countries, 20,000 blessing bags
Powered by Discover, Hormel Foods and Bomba Socks.

Youth Education & Empowerment

60 youth completed the Don't Wait to Be Great Social Entrepreneurship Class, developing leadership and business skills for community impact.

Next Up Program Growth

Growing Next Up in Canada, and France and preparing to launch in five new cities by 2026.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

AS WE NEAR OUR 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY
IN 2026, WE'RE FOCUSED ON:

• \$1M+ raised. 350K lives impacted.

• Expand Next Up to five cities

• Prove youth-led impact is unstoppable

1,500
Youth
Volunteers

25
Shelters
Serviced

2,000
Volunteer
Hours

50,000+
People
in need
serviced

50
Schools
Engaged

50
Cities
Serviced

LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED AT
WEAREPROJECTIAM.COM



ALL TIME IMPACT



PROJECT I AM PROGRAMS & EVENTS



NEXT UP

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 global organization, implementing Afterschool Community Service Clubs. In 2025, expansion was successful in New York and Canada.

<https://officialprojectiam.com/project-i-am-next-up-service-club/>



DON'T WAIT TO BE GREAT 2.0

Due to the overwhelming demand for guidance, Jahkil created Don't Wait to Be Great Social Entrepreneurship Workshop Series which brings community service and entrepreneurship together into one program designed to educate and enrich youth using classroom instruction and hands-on activities focused on the importance of philanthropy and entrepreneurship. In 2025, 60+ students from Heritage Elementary School participated in the on-going workshop series, creating service-oriented businesses around poverty, animal protection and the environment.

https://youtu.be/pvh_YV2DEGw?si=Aj_Ik8zc3hyAjZb3

EVENTS

9-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Project I Am Celebrated 9 years of service at the annual anniversary service event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aoade-eWq3c>

HOLIDAY GIVE BACK

Project I Am partnered with Donald's Toy Shelter and Meals the Write Way for the annual holiday event to provide toys, blessing bags and dinner to families at the Primo Center for Women & Children.

<https://youtu.be/xFRI-WM751M>



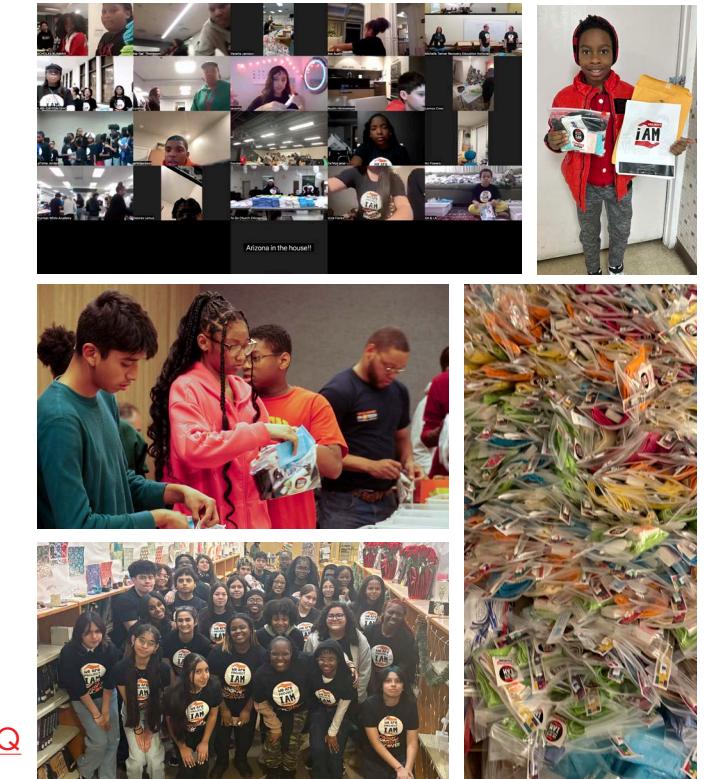
GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is 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.

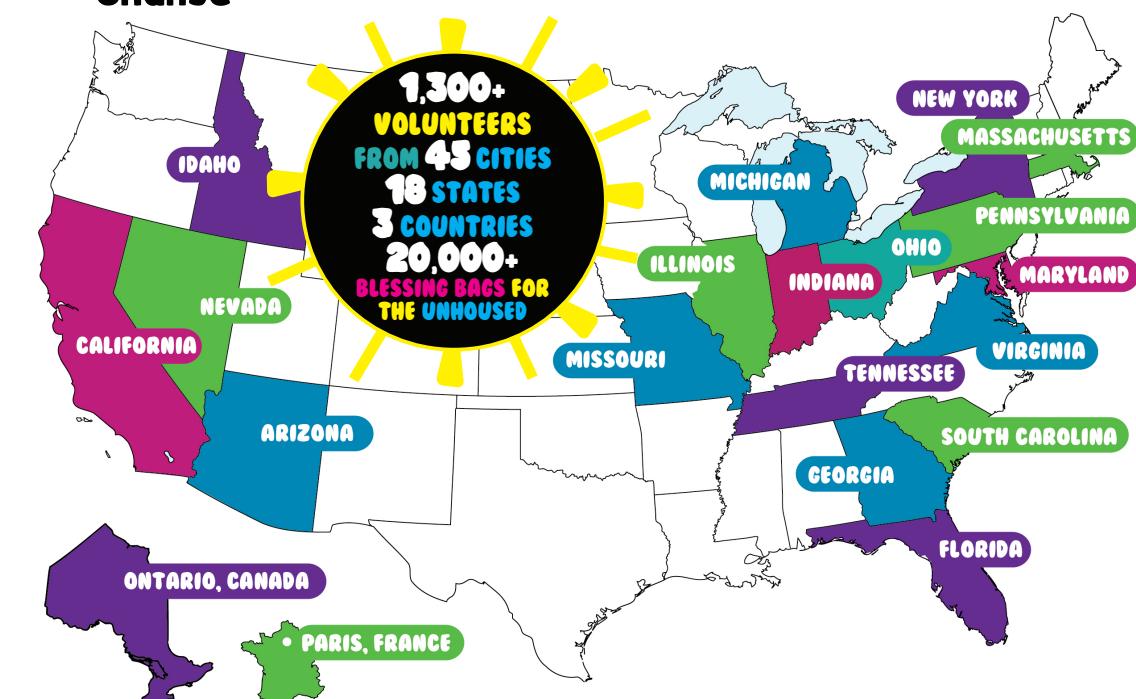
2025 saw the largest Giving Tuesday impact so far with 1,300+ volunteers from 45 cities and 3 countries creating 20,000 blessing bags for those in need. To date, Project I Am's Giving Tuesday initiative has created 77,500 blessing bags for the unhoused globally.

<https://youtu.be/-xgeuPgNffU>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stN_fxzVTpQ



GIVING TUESDAY VIRTUAL PACKING PARTY 2025



POWERED BY
DISCOVER
BOMBAS
Hormel Foods

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS



CLICK ON IMAGE TO VIEW **MEDIA**



FOX NEWS



WGN DAYTIME CHICAGO



WGN



NBC



WGN



Meet Jahkil Jackson

February 19, 2025
We were lucky to catch up with Jahkil Jackson recently and have shared our conversation below.

Jahkil, so good to have you with us today. We've always been impressed with folks who have a very clear sense of purpose and so maybe we can jump right in and talk about how you found your purpose?

I never thought that I would be sitting and living in my purpose at such a young age. Luckily my parents exposed me to a lot of things early on with the hopes of me understanding that I have options in life. I stumbled upon my purpose which grew and



PITCH LABS



MOMENTUM WITH MARKAYLE



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