Joseph James Morelli
LEGACY FOUNDATION

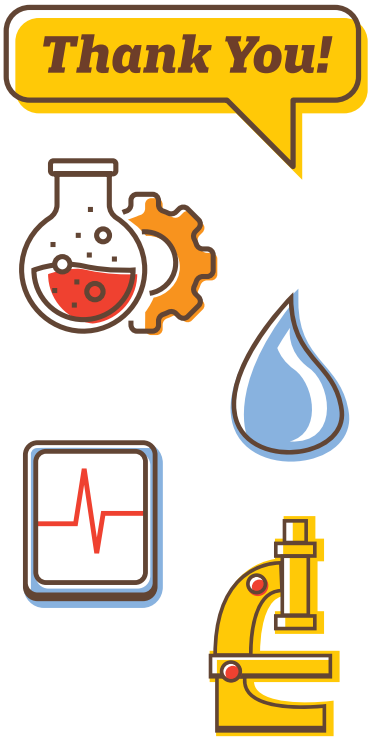
RECOGNIZE | EMPOWER | BELIEVE

2020-2021 Gratitude Report

OUR MISSION

Joseph James Morelli

The Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and our mission is to honor Joseph's spirit. Through the awarding of scholarships, we recognize students, who like Joseph struggle with dyslexia, and empower them to believe in themselves. The Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation supports high school and college students with dyslexia who wish to pursue a degree in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) field.



Dear Friends,

I invite you to enjoy this communication and celebrate the accomplishments we have experienced this past year and throughout our seven years as a nationally recognized nonprofit. This year we had the privilege of reviewing more than 200 scholarship applications, and as always, these individuals' courage and resilience in pursuing an education despite their learning challenges touch us deeply.

One theme that continues to emerge from our scholarship recipients is that being part of a community is equally as important as the financial support we provide. These young adults now realize that they are not alone and that there are so many others who are navigating the same challenges such as access to testing, receiving a diagnosis, and obtaining accommodations. Ashleigh, one of our awardees, has shared that "If it were not for the scholarship, I would not be attending college. This has helped me know I am not alone with dyslexia and yes I can learn."

The Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation strives to recognize dyslexic students and empower them to believe in themselves. Because of your generous support we have the privilege of positively impacting the lives of our scholarship recipients. Thank you for sustaining this opportunity.

Barbara Wirostko Morelli, MD, *Executive Director, President and Founder*

FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Launched a peer-to-peer mentoring program for scholarship recipients.
- Hosted a virtual Welcome Event for our 2021 scholarship recipients and their parents.
- Commenced a Buddy Program for scholarship recipients to share experiences and support one another.
- Partnered with PC READS to host a virtual event for parents and students on how to successfully transition from high school to college with an IEP or 504.
- Continued to partner with Montana State University on the "Dyslexia & Innovation Symposium – 2021," to increase awareness of the challenges and struggles students with dyslexia have, and how faculty can support them. Please visit the website for more details: **www.montana.edu/dxi/**
- Developed a partnership with Craig Wirth, *Adjunct Associate Professor, Communication,* of the University of Utah to create a documentary with our scholarship recipient students on the topic of being dyslexic.

SAVE THE DATE
for our annual
Thank You Event!
The Shed at Promontory
Saturday, August 14, 2021
5:00 – 8:30 pm
Invitation to follow

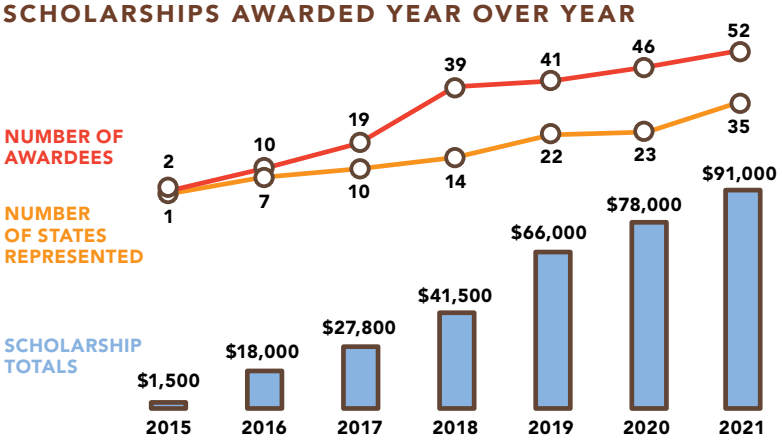
morellilegacyfoundation

SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

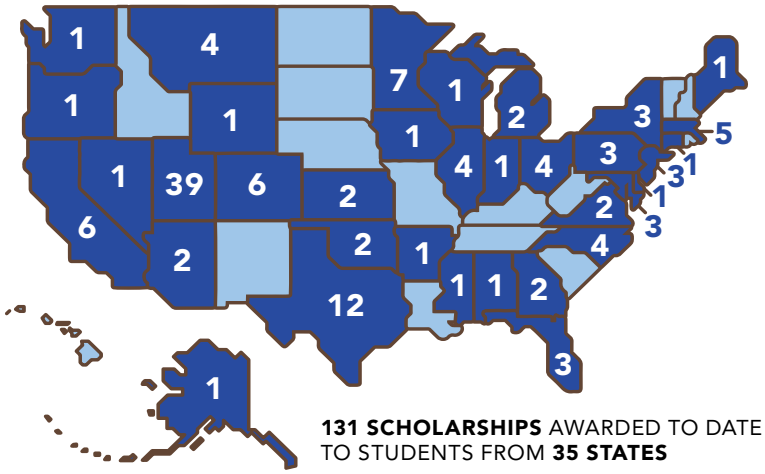
This year we received 207 scholarship applications from 46 different states. We ask our applicants to indicate how they heard about the scholarship and to our delight, there are a significant number of sources, in addition to the Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation website. In just seven years we have grown from awarding two scholarships in one state to 131 scholarships awarded in 35 states.

Each year we are overwhelmed and inspired by the words of gratitude so many of our recipients, like Jacen, share with us when they learn that they have received a scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED YEAR OVER YEAR



SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY STATE



131 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO DATE
TO STUDENTS FROM **35 STATES**

Wow, when I saw I was a recipient of the Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation scholarship it brought a great smile to my face. What was so special and exciting to me about this scholarship compared to others was the fact that it is so much more than just helping with the expenses of college, but an invitation to join others in their journey and become part of such an amazing-sounding community. I'm very excited to sign up for the buddy program and get to know the other amazing people who have gone through so much to reach their goals. The Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation scholarship has felt very personal and has given me more confidence knowing that others such as myself dealing with dyslexia have been so successful and have made it. Before Joseph James Morelli I have not heard of many other students with dyslexia attending S.T.E.M. schools and felt very intimidated. I thought I might be the only one and looked down upon for it, hearing that there are many others and it is more common than you might think gave me a lot of hope and helped me further know "I can do this"! From the bottom of my heart, I thank everyone at the Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation for all they do and for helping me realize I'm not the only one and making it more financially feasible to follow my dreams of working and creating with the knowledge I will gain learning to be a mechanical engineer.

—Jacen, *2021 scholarship recipient*

STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA DOCUMENTARY WITH CRAIG WIRTH

Craig Wirth, *University of Utah Adjunct Associate Professor, Communication, ABC4 UTAH, Reporter*

As a documentary teacher I have seen the power of film change the lives of those filmmakers who never thought anyone was listening to their voices or seeing them in the margins of society. I am always keeping my eyes wide open for the next story that needs to be told, which was especially the case when they were dilated under the care of Dr. Wirostko-Morelli. I don't know who started talking first — me about my passion for my 350 completed documentaries or Barbara about the incredible people who have been touched by the impact of the Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation.

I thought how amazing it would be to have students who have dyslexia do the most challenging of films, a documentary. To tell their own stories, discover that they are not alone, and enlighten the viewers to discover something they may have never understood about the complexities of dyslexia. Of course, I knew it could be done, this had to be done!

In our first month of film discussions with the Morelli Foundation scholarship recipients, I have discovered that is exactly what they have been doing to get through school… just doing it!

The film won't be easy, but it will be darn good and hopefully one of the most important things these students have done for telling who they are and why we need to listen. Stay tuned!

SCHOLARSHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE

Our scholarship review committee includes ten members who each have especially unique backgrounds and a vast amount of experience. What they all have in common is their passion for the Joseph James Morelli Foundation and the impact they are able to make in the lives of our scholarship recipients. Here are the thoughts of a few of our members.

I have participated in the review process for the past seven years because I like to think I play at least a small part in getting resources to very deserving students. This scholarship is unique in its mission and in the population of students it serves. I hope that I am able to aid in the identification of students that embody Joseph's spirit.

—Jack Mercer

I am inspired by these students who embrace adversity and challenges and seek out possibilities and aspirations with fortitude and grace. I immerse myself in their stories. I learn from these amazing individuals. I advocate for them, and I welcome them as a living continuum of the Joseph James Morelli Legacy.

—Judy Brownstein

I do this because it keeps the memory of my brother alive, I see him in all of our recipients with their kindness, resilience, and compassion for the world. It is a very emotional experience because just like Joseph, this scholarship has the biggest heart and wants to help everyone, but hard decisions have to be made. The community this scholarship has cultivated embodies all of Joseph's characteristics that I know he is proud of.

—Julia Morelli

Please visit **www.morelli.foundation** to learn more about each of our scholarship review committee members.

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MENTORING PROGRAM

Our mentoring program, led by Board of Director member Anne Ivanhoe, was launched in the Fall of 2019 with two mentor/mentee pairs. The objective of the mentoring program is to have peer mentors help scholarship recipients believe in themselves and realize their potential by "discovering their superpowers," an expression developed by Jake Sussman with Superpower Consulting, our partner in this endeavor. Our mentors help our mentees to discover their "superpowers" — how to use them to navigate their learning environment and manage ongoing challenges associated with having learning differences. Our program grew to five pairs in the Spring of 2020 and will double by Fall 2021.

Jake Sussman, *founder, Superpower Consulting*

For many students, the social and emotional impact of attending college can cause a heavy toll. If students also have learning differences, they have the additional challenge of having to navigate the ins-and-outs of academic and personal independence with enough self-awareness to advocate for accommodations that will support their unique individual learning style.

Superpower Consulting is a mentorship firm designed to virtually match students with Dyslexia, ADHD, or other learning and attention challenges to a mentor with similar learning differences. It was founded on one simple belief: to have mentors guide and advise.

The mentorship is designed to empower and equip mentees with the skills they need to confidently succeed in any environment. We believe that when students are given the space to safely communicate and express their emotions; explore their habits and behaviors; and feel confident about their hobbies, their confidence skyrockets. This success gives them strength to tackle more challenging tasks, and their academic performance increases.

Our first year in partnership with the Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation has already impacted the lives of five scholarship awardees. Students have reported seeing an increase in their grades and class participation. They have gone outside their comfort zone and have been given the space to safely reach out to a peer mentor who has surmounted similar challenges.

I am honored to be part of the mentoring effort that is helping the Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation grow in new and exciting ways to benefit the dyslexic community. This program is so important because students can share obstacles they encounter with people that have the same challenges and have found ways to get through college. As a bonus, I have made a friendship with my mentor because "we who learn differently" share traits we don't often find in others around us, and it is great to be with people who "get us."

I was three years old when my parents noticed dyslexic traits in their very bright child. I am the third known generation with dyslexia in my family. My grandmother was called dumb and put in the slow classes. She pursued her high school diploma in her twenties and later earned a degree in nursing. My mother was schooled in small parochial schools so avoided the labeling her mother was given and earned a bachelor's degree. I was homeschooled, which allowed me to be with tutors several times a week as I have dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia.

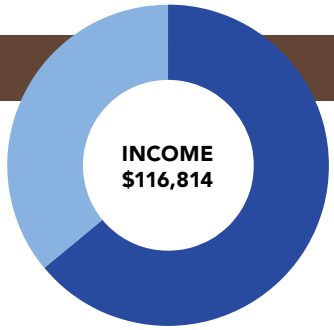
The support that I have received as a two-time scholarship recipient has made me feel worthy of the Foundation's time and effort. I received my bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering in 2020 and got a job as an Aerospace engineer at a large aircraft manufacturer. I will be starting graduate school this fall. Thank you for including me in work that is Joseph's Legacy.

—Matt McCool, *scholarship recipient and mentor*

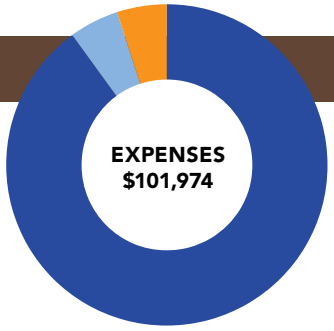
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation is deeply grateful to all our supporters who are changing the lives of our scholarship recipients. Thank you for sharing our passion.

Please visit the governance/finances page on our **www.morelli.foundation** website to see a list of the 338 generous donors who supported the foundation in 2020-2021.



INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS: 64%
GRANTS & FOUNDATIONS: 36%



PROGRAMS: 90%
ADMINISTRATION: 5%
FUNDRAISING: 5%

SPECIAL THANKS TO

- Beano Solomon
- Joe Blow Tees
- Park City Community Foundation
- Promontory Foundation
- Reading Horizons
- Sorenson Legacy Foundation

We are pleased that the Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation has earned the **Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Profile Seal of Transparency**, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar, the world's largest source of nonprofit information.

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE JOSEPH JAMES MORELLI LEGACY FOUNDATION

Thank you for your continued support and for making a significant difference in the lives of our scholarship recipients.

Please consider shopping at **AmazonSmile** and selecting the Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundations as your charity. Amazon will donate .05% of your eligible purchases at no additional cost to you.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

For more information on the Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation please visit our website, **www.morelli.foundation.**

DONATE ON 11.5.21!

LIVE GIVE PC
PARK CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

On November 5, 2021 we will once again join the Park City Community Foundation for Live PC Give PC, the annual day of giving.

Thank you to everyone who contributed this past November to our most successful fundraising effort to date. With your tremendous generosity we raised $47,000!

Joseph James Morelli
LEGACY FOUNDATION

7585 North Ranch Club Trail
Park City, UT 84098