



Junior Achievement[™]
of the Michigan Great Lakes

2025-2026

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

395,134 CONTACT HOURS
A 15% increase from 2024-2025

62,051 STUDENTS
A 19% increase from 2024-2025

2,257 UNIQUE VOLUNTEERS
A 15% increase from 2024-2025

2,208 EDUCATORS
A 67% increase from 2024-2025

JA BIZTOWN SUMMER CAMP

At the inaugural JA BizTown Summer camp, **63** campers got to be "adults" for the week, participated in hands-on activities, and met with community members from **11** organizations to hear about their career journeys.

BRAND NEW!

3,777 students in JA Finance Park

students in JA BizTown **5,085**

"JA taught me how to apply business skills to everyday life and life skills to my everyday business life."

-Ariella
Winner of the 2026 Pitch Day Competition

Hear more from her and other JA students



Children get to **feel important.** They get to actually see **how the real world works** I think it's really cool to experience.

LEYLAND
JA BIZTOWN
MAYOR

Watch his full interview here:



"My experience at Finance Park became such a **turning point for me**. It wasn't just another classroom setup filled with computers; it felt like stepping into the future." -JA Finance Park Student

JA programs taught **TRANSFERABLE SKILLS**

Gen Y and Z JA Alumni Said JA:

91%

Motivated Them to Be Lifelong Learners

90%

Helped Them Improve Their Critical Thinking Skills

89%

Helped Them Improve Their Communication Skills

\$176,515

raised through community fundraising via pin pad campaigns

That's equivalent to

10,000

students receiving JA programming!

Thanks for supporting JA!

HEROES & HOPE
A C&S Foundation

MARCO'S PIZZA FOUNDATION

Staples

GROWBIG
START SMALL THE UPS STORE



JA Worldwide nominated for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize





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IMPACT AT A GLANCE

This year, Junior Achievement of Mid Michigan launched its first JA High School Heroes program, bringing together students from Sexton and Everett High Schools to learn about leadership, mentorship, and the power of giving back.

Through the program, high school students stepped into new roles as leaders, mentors, and teachers, delivering JA lessons to kindergarten through second-grade students. This experience gave students the opportunity to discover strengths in themselves they may not have known they possessed.

One student reminded us why these experiences matter. Each day, he arrived with his hood pulled over his head, his eyes down, and his earbuds in. It was difficult to tell what he was thinking or whether he felt connected to the experience at all. As staff, we wondered if we were reaching him.

Then came the day when the high school students were asked to teach.

Something changed.

He arrived dressed for success. He stepped into his role with confidence and embraced the opportunity to teach the younger students. He didn't simply participate—he ran with it.

At the end of the program, he quietly waited for the JA team to finish. When he finally approached us, he shared something we will never forget:

“I didn’t think I would like this. I saw myself in some of those little kids, the ones that get in trouble, and I knew I could make a difference. I think I want to become a teacher now.”

In that moment, we saw the true power of JA High School Heroes.

We didn't just teach a student about leadership. **He discovered that he could be a leader.** He didn't just mentor younger children. He saw his own potential reflected in them. And through the experience, he began to imagine a future for himself that he hadn't considered before.

That is the impact of investing in young people. Sometimes, the greatest outcome isn't measured by the number of students served or lessons delivered. Sometimes, it is one student realizing, perhaps for the first time, **“I can make a difference.”**

