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CREATIVITY

JA'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

JA UNCORKED RETURNS TO HELP STUDENTS THRIVE

WRITER MADELAINE K. BOYER

Throughout her high school career, Jonerra Henrisnor has soaked up financial literacy, entrepreneurship skills and career readiness through several programs at Junior Achievement of South Florida.

The Stranahan High School senior, who aspires to attend Florida A&M University and eventually become an orthodontist, has been involved in different JA programs, including its career bound and summer internship programs. She has even gone on to get a job at State Farm as part of their youth employment program where she has already gotten her Florida 4-40 Customer Representative license and is working toward getting her life insurance license.

Henrisnor is one of 54,000 students that the South Florida organization reaches each year.

"It's amazing to see how far she's come," said Kenneth Hart, one of her teachers at Stranahan High School. "I had her as a ninth grader and she was always intelligent and just very bright even before she was put into the Junior Achievement Program.

"But now, as a senior, after getting involved in their programs, I can see how it helped her harness her abilities and put them towards her life outside of school. It gave her something new to work towards," Hart said.

Attending JA of South Florida has been a positive experience, Henrisnor said.

"Junior Achievement is a perfect program," she said. "If you see any opportunity in life that you feel like it's going to benefit you, do it. Don't look back, don't question yourself, do it. I did not question myself when I had the opportunity to apply to the JA internship program and I don't regret it one bit," she said.

JA programs teach students in kindergarten through the 12th grade financial literacy, entrepreneurship skills and career readiness.

Since its founding by members of the Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club in 1959, JA of South Florida has positively

impacted more than a million students through their programs. However, the non-profit organization would not be able to continue bringing these lifechanging programs to the now 70,000 students they reach yearly without their annual fundraising event, JA World Uncorked.


The annual event hosted by the Circle of Wise Women offers guests the chance to sample dishes and drinks from more than 35 different restaurants and beverage partners while they experience firsthand the organization's interactive learning environments – JA BizTown and JA Finance Park.

When they are not exploring the 60,000 square foot venue, guests can also enjoy live music, participate in the raffle and silent auction. Yet, it goes without saying that the most rewarding part of the evening is seeing how the funds raised directly impact the future of their various programs.

The money raised from the event goes directly toward funding programs like JA World, Career Bound, JA Summer Employment, and much more which all continue to positively change the lives of each student involved for the better.

"I've had many students who have been involved in Junior Achievement programs over the last few years and I love to see not only the big achievements but even the small wins like the confidence they gain," said Hart, the teacher at Stranahan High School, "You truly see these students who come in initially very shy and reserved, not really knowing what to expect and by the end they have truly blossomed. By the end of the program, they are JA advocates."

With 20 different programs offered by JA, students are given the opportunity to gain a new sense of confidence to navigate their futures, have successful careers, and set higher standards for the goals they wish to achieve.

JA World Uncorked will be returning this upcoming Jan. 28 and tickets are on sale now. 



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JA WORLD