



Junior
Appalachian
Musicians

2019/2020

ANNUAL
REPORT

*In Memory of
Our Founder,
Helen White
September 8, 1950 -
October 14, 2019*



Thanks to Helen and her tireless work, we cannot even begin to count the number of young people who have experienced music for the first time through a JAM program. There has never been any doubt that Helen fully believed in her mission of bringing music education to communities throughout Appalachia. She burned the midnight oil and thousands of miles doing all she could do to make sure JAM was successful. She gathered people and funding, started the regional parent organization as a way to offer resources and help to others, and she was never afraid to stand up for what was right. Helen wanted each JAM program to be effective, sustainable, and good. As we continue the work of Junior Appalachian Musicians, we will do our best to remain true to her wishes.

Helen White JAM Instrument Scholarship Fund a program for high-quality instruments to become permanently available to current JAM students who have a dedication to old time and bluegrass music.

Helen White JAM Higher Education Scholarship Fund As many JAM students are choosing their future paths after high school graduation, scholarships will be available on an annual basis for those learners interested in pursuing a field of study in traditional music or Appalachian studies.

A MESSAGE FROM JAM'S DIRECTOR

Before so many dreams were cut short in the spring of 2020, Junior Appalachian Musicians, Inc. (JAM) helped to facilitate learning, opportunities, resources, financial support and a love for traditional Appalachian music to 55 communities.

During the summer and fall of 2019, JAM helped start new programs in areas such as Grundy County, Johnson City, and Tellico Plains, Tennessee, as well as Yadkinville, North Carolina and Rockbridge County, Virginia. This means we were working in those communities with musicians, parents, arts organizations and school leaders to organize, fund and begin musical and cultural opportunities for kids in rural areas. This work in Tennessee was strongly supported by our partnering organization, South Arts.

Through another ongoing partnership with national nonprofit, Hungry for Music, we provided these new programs and many existing affiliates with free instruments on loan. Countless guitars, fiddles, banjos, mandolins, basses and occasional dulcimers and autoharps have been loaned to programs in the past decade, leaving a lasting impression (and perhaps finger calluses!) on hundreds of children through the years.

JAM also partnered with several major music festivals, such as FloydFest, International Bluegrass Music Association's Wide Open Bluegrass, and many community organizations throughout Central Appalachia to provide performance opportunities for current and past JAM kids. JAM was also featured at WDVX Knoxville's Blue Plate Special, and the Southwest VA Cultural Center.

When schools were closed in March 2020, many JAM programs were left wondering how to keep their students engaged. Some areas moved straight to online lessons, or videos of instrument instruction from their teachers. Others faced limited connectivity for this option, with schools placing priorities on feeding families and keeping students engaged academically. JAM gathered as many online instructional resources as possible to distribute to kids everywhere. JAM also gathered teachers and program directors to discuss successes, challenges and ideas for getting through the troubled times. Original grant funded plans for professional development training, regional learning and performance events for students, and other fun projects for spring 2020 were postponed or revamped.

We are very grateful to our individual donors, private funders, and national, state and local funders for support during the year, especially as we navigated the beginning of the pandemic. When there is a will, there is a way for **building community, one tune at a time.**

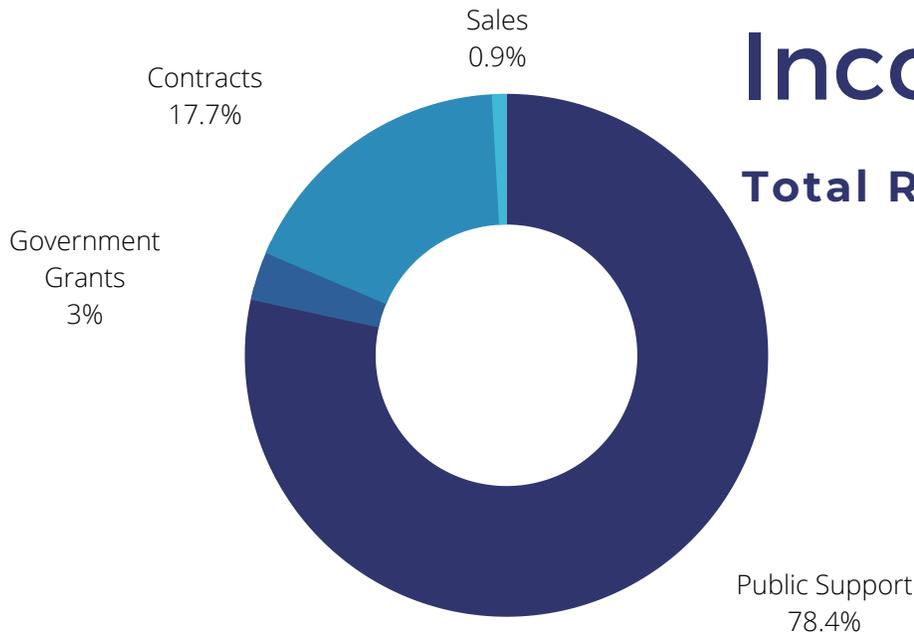


FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

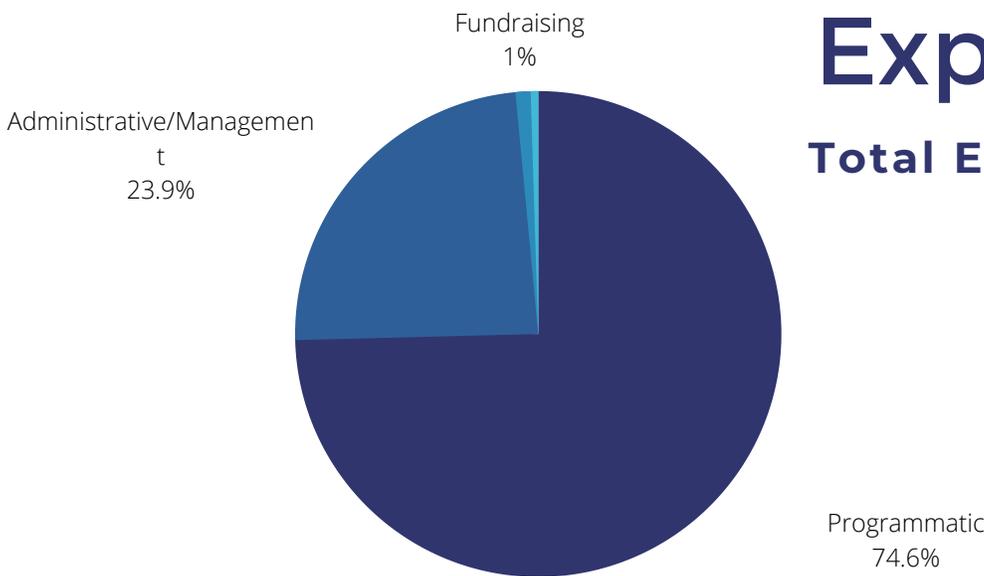
Income

Total Revenue \$113,118



Expenses

Total Expenses \$111,274



For more financial information, please visit guidestar.org/profile/26-3375902 or contact JAM at 276.773.0573 or brett@jamkids.org

Our Funders & Community Partners



Carlyle Adams Foundation



Harris and Frances Block Foundation

