Leaders are made, not born.

The core of the Jack and Jill of America philosophy is that every child - if given the proper guidance and opportunity - can be developed into a leader. It is this commitment to youth that drives the organization and its growing roster of members in communities from coast to coast.

Passionate about its mission, Jack and Jill of America dedicates its resources to improving the quality of life for children, particularly African-American children. Each year, children participate in chapter programming and activities that are guided under a national theme in adherence to fulfillment of the organizational goals. Individual chapters embrace a plan of action geared toward a united commitment to address and help alleviate the many disturbing community problems which have a dramatic effect on children.
Our roots

It all began in Philadelphia in 1938, with a loving mother and a simple idea. Marion Stubbs Thomas approached a group of mothers with a vision for a new kind of club - one focused not on the mothers themselves, but on stimulating social and cultural relationships among their children - and instilling the values and leadership skills that would serve them well into adulthood. The concept was so inspiring it soon spread to other cities and other states. In 1947, Jack and Jill of America was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware as a non-profit organization.

Today, Jack and Jill of America is a nationwide organization with over 225 chapters in seven geographic regions encompassing 35 states and the District of Columbia. Membership has grown to over 10,000 mothers and associates, and more than 30,000 family members.
Youth leadership and development is the heart and soul of everything we do, from our programming to our philanthropic giving and service to our communities.

“To us as mothers, Jack and Jill has become a means of furthering an inherent and natural desire …to bestow upon our children all the opportunities possible for a normal and graceful approach to a beautiful adulthood.”

Marion Stubbs Thomas, Founder
Our objectives and aims are simple.

To create a medium of contact for children which will stimulate growth and development.

To provide children a constructive educational, cultural, health, recreational and social program.

To aid mothers in learning more about their children by careful study.

To seek for all children the same advantages which we desire for our own.

To support all national legislation aimed at bettering the conditions of all children.
**A Family Organization...**

**MOTHERS**
Mothers who serve as the official members are responsible for keeping their children involved in the organization, planning and chaperoning events, serving as officers and on committees, supporting fund raising and sponsoring community service projects.

**YOUTH (AGES 2-12)**
Youth are engaged in activities planned by mothers that emphasize cultural, social, educational and civic activities, which set the foundations for successful leaders.

**TEENS (AGES 13-19)**
 Teens interact in a self-governing environment strategically aligned with the mothers’ program, aimed to develop and nurture leadership skills. Additionally, teens are encouraged to hold elected offices, chair committees and further develop their understanding of the value of community service. Following high school graduation, teens are eligible to participate in the nationwide young alumni group.
ASSOCIATES
Associates are mothers who have successfully completed their tenure as a member. Associates enjoy continued participation without the demands of active membership such as planning activities, attending chapter meetings, etc. An associate can seek lifetime membership depending on her years of service to the organization. Associates sponsor programs such as Mothers Away from Home (MAFH) for alumni Jack and Jill members and the annual Associates Day of Service.

FATHERS
Fathers play a vital role in both the nuclear family structure as well as the Jack and Jill family. Fathers’ participation is not mandatory in the organization, however fathers who do participate assist the chapter membership by offering ACT/SAT training, financial literacy seminars and chaperoning teen dances as Pops On Patrol (POP).

...with Something for Everyone.
Jack and Jill is an organization of dues-paying mother members. Membership is gained through sponsorship by an active mother in good standing. Membership has many advantages and together we create a resourceful network of mothers raising productive citizens.

At the national level, the National Executive Board is comprised of seven members - President, Vice President, Program Director, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Editor that sets policies and directs the operations of the organization.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, the Executive Director oversees the daily operations and supervises a staff responsible for the administrative functions of membership, document-processing, financial record keeping and other duties as directed by the National Executive Board.

Children are granted legacy status at the time of their graduation if their mother is in good standing. They may automatically become a member upon submission of an application.
Regions

Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated is organized into seven geographic regions - Central, Eastern, Far West, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-Western, South Central and Southeastern. The regions serve as the administrative arms of the national organization for purposes of implementing national programs, policies and projects. This system allows for greater collaboration and communication between chapters, while assisting in chapter programming enrichment.

Each region elects four officers: the Regional Director, Regional Treasurer, Regional Secretary and Regional Foundation Member-at-Large. The Regional Officers serve as the management team and direct the efforts of their assigned region. Chapters report directly to regions and regions report to the National Executive Board.

CENTRAL REGION
Spanning the heartland of America, the Central Region extends from the banks of the mighty Mississippi to the majestic Rocky Mountains. The Central Region covers the largest geographic territory of any region in the organization.

EASTERN REGION
The Eastern Region enjoys the distinction of having been the birthplace of Jack and Jill of America. The founding members hailed from the East, which has grown exponentially over the past years.

FAR WEST REGION
The Far West Region extends from sunny California and the desert states all the way north to Alaska. Living up to its nickname, the Fabulous Far West has been a vibrant and active contributor to the vast history of Jack and Jill of America.
**MID-ATLANTIC REGION**
The Mid-Atlantic Region embodies four states rich in history and tradition: North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Jack and Jill chapters throughout the eastern seaboard are making a rich contribution to the mission of this organization.

**MID-WESTERN REGION**
The Mighty Mid-Western Region is the embodiment of Mid-Western values, truly reflecting the core values of Jack and Jill of America. Committed to excellence, leadership and innovative programming, this region was the site of the first Teen Conference Service Project.

**SOUTHERN REGION**
The Sensational South Central Region is rich in culture and unique geology. Everything grows big in Texas, so it’s no surprise that the 90% of chapters in the South Central Region are in the Lone Star State. Chapters are also flourishing in Louisiana.

**SOUTHEASTERN REGION**
Known as the Sweet, Sweet Southeast, this region lives up to its reputation for southern hospitality in everything it does - whether it’s a step show at Teen Conference, a hat luncheon to raise funds for needy families or literacy programs.
PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Since Jack and Jill was founded in 1938 it has evolved into a strong national organization as a result of strong programming. Our founder, Marion Stubbs Thomas had a simple idea of bringing together children in social and cultural relationships and this idea avalanched into a strong national organization. Our story of growth is one of amity and felicity. As new members are welcomed and new chapters are formed, the aims and ideals of Jack and Jill have strengthened, always with our children and civic service as the focal points.
Programmatic Goals

Chapter programs are primarily centered around leadership development, awareness of cultural heritage, and community service. To these ends, we have established multifaceted initiatives such as STE’A’M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math), the Healthy Living Initiative (centered on lifestyle improvements and healthy development) and various special projects with our national and local partners. The philosophy we embrace is one of holistic enrichment of our youth, and by extension, our communities. Our national theme is “Power and Potential: Parents Empowering Youth.”

Youth Leadership Programs

One of the hallmarks of Jack and Jill is its emphasis on youth development with our youth leadership programs. Whether it is through skill enhancement, financial literacy or volunteer opportunities, this organization has become a national icon in creating effective programs. Jack and Jill has taken ownership in responsibility for developing future leaders who possess the skills to lead America.

TEEN LEADERSHIP SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The Teen Leadership Guide, designed to develop the leadership skills of youth across America, is currently comprised of fifteen modules. Introduced in 2006, the leadership modules have provided the necessary skills required to effectively lead in a constantly changing society.
CIVIC INVOLVEMENT
We represent 30,000 families, 10,000 members who serve their community and families in 35 states. We work in a variety of capacities to include stay at home mothers, teachers, lawyers, doctors, ministers and leaders of industry with the belief that we can make a difference in the lives of children and families. We achieve the goals of Jack and Jill of America through volunteerism - we serve to make a change. We actively engage in coalition efforts and are currently partnering with the American Heart Association, Association of Black Cardiologists, Habitat for Humanity, March of Dimes and the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition.

PHILANTHROPIC GIVING
All layers of the organization give philanthropically. Mothers, youth, teens and associate members are responsible for raising funds annually to support the organization’s philanthropic efforts. Loose Change, a program designed for children ages 5-12, was implemented across the country to teach our youth at an early age on the value of helping others through charitable giving. One-third of all the monies raised by local chapters is sent to the Foundation to support leadership initiatives. The remaining two-thirds is contributed to a local charity of each chapter’s choosing.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE
Annually, Jack and Jill members and their families log thousands of hours of volunteer service. Both mothers and children support and participate in efforts such as annual walks, marathons, beautification projects, youth mentoring and other initiatives focused on making a difference in the communities they serve.

FINANCIAL LITERACY
It is important that youth learn fiscal responsibility at an early age. Similar to the Teen Leadership Skill Development Modules, the Financial Literacy Modules offer youth ages 6-19 an opportunity to participate in mock stock market simulations, basic financial training and real world opportunities to learn the principles of responsible money management first-hand.
The Thompson Quintuplets

On May 8, 1997, America’s first black sextuplets were born to Jacqueline and Linden Thompson at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. One daughter, Allison, was stillborn, but the five surviving siblings were born healthy. In 2000, Jack and Jill of America became deeply involved with the Thompson family, providing extensive support. The organization has supplied the children with computers, funded camping trips and tutoring sessions, made home repairs and sponsored a trip to Disney World. Today, Jacqueline Thompson is a single mother and continues to need support from organizations like Jack and Jill. Jack and Jill of America is one of five organizations that have collaborated to provide support, mentoring and parenting skills.

Legislative Advocacy

Since its inception, we have been committed to legislation aimed at bettering the lives of all children. Past and present legislative advocacy focus have been on violence in the media, health and wellness initiatives, and efforts to increase general civic participation, especially with regard to voting. We mobilized our membership to successfully participate in a call to action on the SCHIP legislation, and engaged in coordinated grass roots efforts in support of HR 1688 and S 1564, The All Healthy Children Act, which focuses on strategies to ensure the provision of health coverage to all children. Biannually, Jack and Jill mothers and teens participate in the On the Hill Summit in Washington, DC, creating awareness among congressional leaders about our mission and issues that affect American children and their families.
Our Foundation

In 1968, Jack and Jill sought to further emphasize its commitment to community and created a 501c3 entity chartered in the state of Illinois, the purpose being to support programs that not only create opportunities for youth to learn and practice leadership skills, but also build character. Each year the Jack and Jill of America Foundation financially supports efforts such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and programs for at-risk youths in addition to a National College Scholarship Award administered by the United Negro College Fund.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors that includes officers from Jack and Jill, Incorporated as well as prominent civic and community leaders. Located in Washington, DC, the Foundation is one of the first Black Foundations chartered in America. For more information, visit our website at www.jackandjillfoundation.org. Private donors, corporations and others who have given to the Foundation are eligible to receive a tax deduction per IRS regulations. Chapters of Jack and Jill support the Foundation by giving one-third of their annual fund raising proceeds to the Foundation.

Since building tomorrow’s leaders is at the core of the Foundation’s principles, we have developed a five-point strategy for achieving this goal. The strategy, along with the community service agenda, sets the framework upon which the Foundation’s grant criteria is predicated.
Foundation programs must embrace at least one of the following five points:

1. Seek to foster the building of character within children
2. Aim to instill cultural consciousness and intellectual, moral, practical and emotional responsibility in children
3. Cultivate and promote projects that provide children with the opportunities and challenges to learn about leadership
4. Target Foundation resources toward grant proposals that emphasize listening, learning, thinking and problem-solving
5. Design, implement and support programs that provide leadership training for children
DID YOU KNOW?

SPECIAL DATES

Black Family Day: Celebrated the first Saturday in May

Founders’ Day: Celebrated in January, honoring our founders Louise Truitt Jackson Dench and Marion Turner Stubbs Thomas

Jack and Jill Day: Celebrated in September

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Scope: Annual publication highlighting the programming activities across the nation

ExecuCom: Quarterly communications from the National Executive Board

Up the Hill: Annual yearbook chronicling Jack and Jill activities

Member Manual: Publication that sets forth the history, objectives and policies of the organization

Teen Leadership Guide: 15 modules of learning used across the nation for teen programming

HONORARY MEMBER

Marian Wright Edelman is a lifelong advocate for disadvantaged Americans and is the Founder and President of the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF). Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation’s strongest voice for children and families. We are proud and honored to be associated with this remarkable woman.
Power & Potential

Our national theme for 2012-2014 is “Power and Potential: Parents Empowering Youth.” Following in the tradition of the Founders, this theme captures my vision as the National President to firmly establish Jack and Jill of America, Inc. as the premier African American family organization by:

- Embracing the power of our role as mothers and parents in raising world leaders;
- Embracing the power of our cultural heritage;
- Effectively leveraging our power to create positive change in our communities; and
- Raising awareness of the organization in the community as parenting experts.

It is in this spirit that we continue to forge and cultivate strategic partnerships that reinforce our core values and allow us to best serve our communities. This sustained civic engagement increases our visibility and viability as an organization, and augments a template of achievement for years to come. Our National Executive Board is a team of exceptional mothers who are resolute in developing dynamic and enriching initiatives to address issues related to children’s rights, leadership development, cultural awareness, financial literacy and philanthropic giving.

TAMARA TURNLEY ROBINSON
23rd National President