

2020

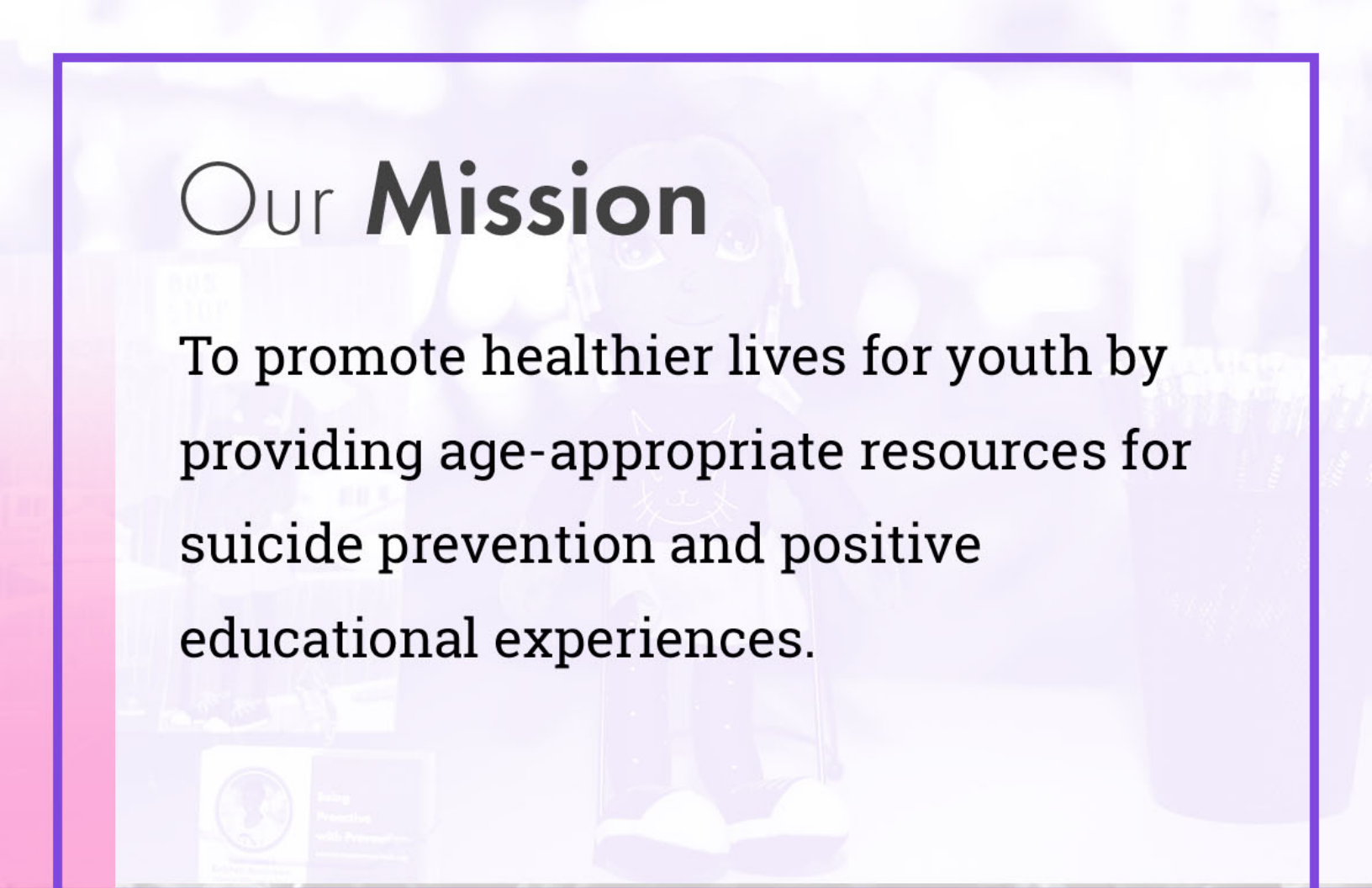


Kristen Amerson
Youth Foundation
ANNUAL REPORT



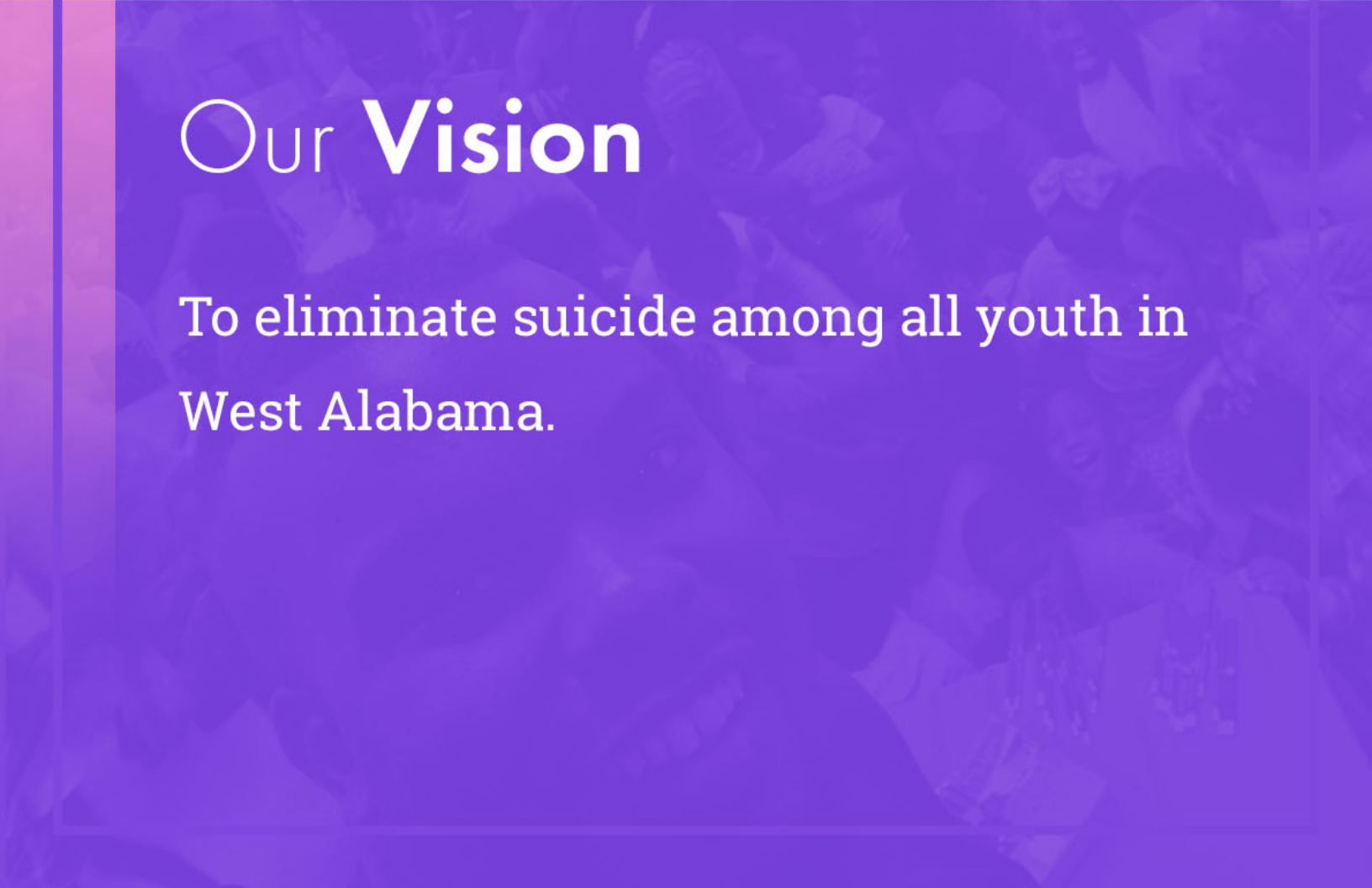
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The background of the top section features a child in a costume, possibly a cat or a character with large ears, standing in front of a display. The display includes a book titled "MS Youth" and a poster that says "Being Proactive with Prevention" with the website "www.alabamaprep.org".

Our **Mission**

To promote healthier lives for youth by providing age-appropriate resources for suicide prevention and positive educational experiences.

The background of the bottom section is a solid purple color with a faint, repeating pattern of diverse youth, likely representing the target population of the organization.

Our **Vision**

To eliminate suicide among all youth in West Alabama.

Letter from **Executive Director** JacQuan Winters

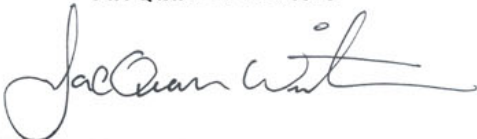
Hello Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation supporters, volunteers, and interested community members! As the Executive Director of the Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation, I am excited to present this annual report for 2020's calendar year. Over these next few pages, we outline foundation information, our impact, and report our financial standing. We value each and every supporter and we would like to take the opportunity to be transparent. It is our hope that you find this report as exciting as we do.

We are all aware of the Covid-19 pandemic that impacted every single life in some way or another. As a foundation, we used the pandemic as an opportunity to evaluate and strategize the future and identity of the Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation. We are excited to inform you that the Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation is working on our first ever strategic plan because we feel that there is value in knowing where you are going as an organization. Who would have thought that something as valuable as a strategic plan would come out of a pandemic?

Although this pandemic caused us to change how we provide services, we remain dedicated to serving the youth, their families, and the Tuscaloosa community. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, a new initiative was introduced from the Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation. The initiative, Mental Health Backpacks, was formed as a mental health resource for children. Mental health backpacks supply children with resources to help them through their personal issues while waiting for access to a mental health professional. The mental health backpacks include journals, journal prompts, pen/pencils, coloring books, crayons, stress toys, stuffed animals, list of coping skills and positive affirmations. We are excited to see the positive impact that the mental health backpacks have on the children and families we serve.

The Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation is excited for what is to come. The dire need of suicide prevention and mental health awareness continues to be constant in our communities. It is our hope that we continue to make a positive impact in the Tuscaloosa community, and we anticipate expanding our services to the entire West Alabama community. On behalf of the foundation, I would like to thank each of our supporters. It is because of you that we are able to empower our community. Thank you for all that you do! As we continue into another year, it is our wish that you will continue to support our vision and mission.

JacQuan D. Winters

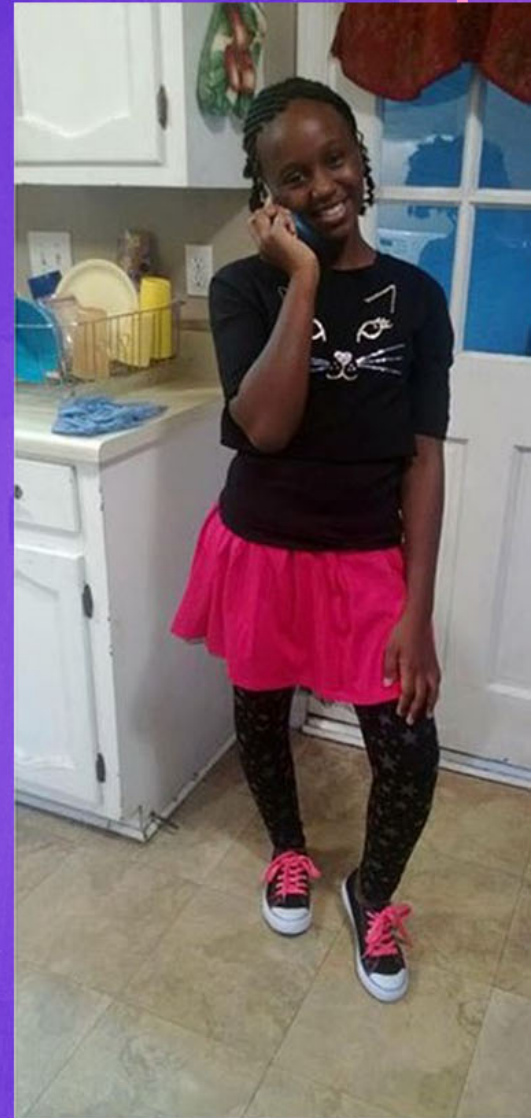
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JacQuan Winters', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kristen's Story

Kristen Amerson was a beautiful young lady who loved experimenting with fashion, make-up, and hairstyles. She was the only girl in a household with three brothers and one of her favorite activities was playfully teasing her brothers. Anyone who knew Kristen could see how gifted she was, and how much of a gift she was to both her family and her community.

Kristen ended her life on Thursday, April 10th, 2014, at the young age of 11. Suicide amongst youth always leaves the family and loved ones wondering what more could've been done, and Kristen's family is no different. There was never a point when Kristen's family pictured life without her, she was a given, and they never thought she wouldn't be with them. With increasing awareness of youth suicide, it is understood that no one can know the truth of what an individual is experiencing.

Kristen's life was just beginning, and she never got the chance to meet her potential or find her purpose, but her life has inspired the formation and work of the Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation to spread awareness of issues including youth suicide, mental illness, trauma, and bullying. The hope of the organization lies in its ability to impact the lives of the local community and underserved youth who need support.



Initiatives

Spreading Prevention & Empowering All Kids (S.P.E.A.K.)

S.P.E.A.K. is a school based program created to prevent suicide, bullying, and other struggles endured by youth through an evidence-based learning curriculum.

My Happy Place Children's Book

Written by JacQuan D. Winters, *My Happy Place* was written to help children cope with and handle bad emotions in a healthier way. The Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation uses *My Happy Place* as a resource to help children explore different coping skills.

Kristen's Rainy Day Children's Book

Kristen's Rainy Day was written by JacQuan D. Winters to continue the legacy of his younger sister, Kristen Amerson, and teach children to remain positive through negative situations. The Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation uses *Kristen's Rainy Day* as a resource to help children learn the valuable lesson of positivity at an earlier age.

Presentations

Per request, the Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation is able to conduct presentations on topics such as suicide and bullying prevention. Presentations use factual information, statistics, and real-life experiences to raise awareness of suicide and bullying and their negative effects on students. Presentations are available for upper elementary students (3rd – 5th grade), middle school students, high school students, college students, parents and community members, administrators and educators, and other professionals.

QPR Gatekeeper Training

QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention is a 1-2 hour educational program designed to teach lay and professional "gatekeepers" the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond.

Mental Health Backpacks

As a response to COVID-19, the KAYF created mental health backpacks as a mental health resource for children. Mental health backpacks are meant to supply children with resources to help them through their personal issues while waiting for access to a mental health professional. The mental health backpacks include journals, journal prompts, pen/pencils, coloring books, crayons, stress toys, stuffed animals, and lists of coping skills and positive affirmations.

2020 Facts

From January 2020 to March 2020, the Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation was actively serving in the community before the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to change how we provide services.



3 News
Appearances



1 Read
Aloud



2 Speaking
Engagements



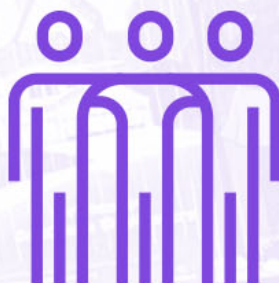
1 Outreach



48 Empowerment
Sessions



500+ Mental Health
Backpacks



1000 Individuals
Impacted

Financial Report

Income

Cash Receipts - without Donor Restrictions	
Book Income	\$0
Fundraiser Income	\$20,277
Grant Income	\$50,500
Individual donations	\$4,774
Interest income	\$18
School program income	\$0
Total Cash Receipts - without Donor Restrictions	\$75,569

Expenses

Grand Total	\$22, 344
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Annual **Strike Out Suicide** Bowling Night



21

Sponsors

125

People in attendance

\$15,000

Raised to support our mission

The Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation

is thankful for our amazing sponsors:

Bailey Tabernacle CME

Bryant Bank

Carrie Fitts Real Estate

Cornerstone Full Gospel Baptist Church

Derek Daniel: State Farm Insurance

Gillis Jeweler

McGiffert & Associates

Mercedes Benz US International, Inc.

Michelle Coley: Allstate Insurance

Nucor Steel

People Optimum Consulting

Printworks on Main

Steven Fikes: Allstate Insurance

SSAB Wear Solutions

Teens of Tuscaloosa Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated

The Alberta School of Performing Arts – National Junior Honor Society

The House – Tuscaloosa

Tiber & Hew Home Restoration

Tools of the Trade Consutling

Turner Law Group

University General Dentistry

Board of **Directors**

Mary Turner Roberts | President

Kathy Brunot | Vice President

Whitni Molden | Treasurer

Santana Sanders | Secretary

John Dixon-Goodson | Member at Large

Diva Hall | Member at Large

Annette Smallwood | Member at Large

Quinton Poole | Member at Large

Stacy Zenitz | Member at Large

Leslie Dancer | Member at Large

Constance Pewee-Childs | Member at Large

Brett Booth | Member at Large

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO STAYING PROACTIVE WITH PREVENTION IN 2021!

Connect with us on social media



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