



impossible | possibilities

2023

YEAR IN REVIEW



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## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

More than 16 years have passed since Justin and I co-founded Impossible Possibilities (IP) in August 2007. I left my job at that time and told my boss my plan to start a nonprofit. He thought I was crazy. Justin did, too, but he eventually came around, and, together, we got to work. We had very little money and no nonprofit experience, but what we did have was faith. As new believers at the time, I remember telling Justin, “If somehow this all works out, then we know that God is real.”

Those early years were some of the hardest of our lives. We were 23-year-old kids with big dreams and a whole lot of naivety, who co-founded a nonprofit six months before the start of the Great Recession. To pay for the original logos, for example, I wrote a personal check for more money than I had in my account at the time, knowing that my overdraft protection would cover the difference. Justin and I mostly self-funded the organization the first two years with the little we had, all while building the organization’s infrastructure and developing its programs.

Whenever we fell short, God always provided for us and, oftentimes, in the most unlikely of ways, whether through a timely financial contribution or a critical introduction. No matter how difficult the road became, we were comforted by the thought that we were not alone. Early on, we volunteered at, teamed up with, made appearances at, and presented any time an opportunity lent itself. Instead of hiring a staff, the two of us managed the day-to-day operations of the organization as unpaid volunteers and have continued to do so ever since.



This volunteer setup meant that nearly 100% of the organization's annual donations went directly to impact students within the local community. In time, others started to recognize our vision for the organization, allowing us to build a loyal Board of Directors and, later, an Advisory Board that would help fund the organization. As a result, IP would go on to provide financial grants to struggling school programs, host a youth poetry open-mic night for a handful of years, help build a primary school in a remote village in Kenya, support thousands of underserved students through our reading-achievement program that spanned more than a decade, and provide college scholarships to 120 local students to help them achieve their dreams.

Justin and I have also fulfilled our own personal dreams of marriage and starting our respective families during this time. Our latest additions are a pair of baby boys, Samuel and Michael, who were born one day apart this past September and who we look forward to raising during the next chapters of our lives.

After much thought and prayer, and with the support of our Board of Directors, we would like to announce that 2024 will be our final year in our respective roles within the organization. Thank you to every supporter, volunteer, Board member, and intern through the years. Whether this is the end of Impossible Possibilities, or if the organization will continue under the supervision of another caretaker, remains to be seen. What Justin and I do know after 16 years of service is simple: God is real. He's been good to this organization, and He's been good to the two of us.

God Bless,

Joshua and Justin Hernandez



# 2023 SCHOLARSHIP CLASS

Since 2009, IP has awarded scholarships to 120 students totaling more than \$230,000. The IP Scholarship Committee completed a two-round selection process last March and held online Zoom interviews with the finalists on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

**Clayton Dao**

*James Martin H.S. in Arlington*

**Antoniya Davis**

*Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center in Dallas*

**Paula Fregene**

*International Leadership of Texas Keller-Saginaw H.S.*

**Kruz Hernandez**

*Arlington College and Career H.S.*

**Reaghan Jones**

*Chisholm Trail H.S. in Fort Worth*

**Alyssa Martinez**

*Marine Creek Collegiate H.S. in Fort Worth*

**Elijah Mhrous**

*Central H.S. in Keller*

**Meh Mo**

*Haltom H.S. in Haltom City*

**Sierra Nguyen**

*James Martin H.S. in Arlington*

**Janet Rivas Reza**

*North Dallas H.S.*

**Michael Scott**

*Central H.S. in Keller*

## CONGRATS!

# SCHOLARSHIP PARTY

## *IP Hosts 2023 Party at TopGolf*

IP awarded 11 scholarships to high school graduates on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at TopGolf in Fort Worth. The students and their families attended a scholarship party in their honor and networked with former scholarship recipients and members of IP's Advisory Board.

"This was another great event and our largest turnout to date," said co-founder Justin Hernandez. "We have a wonderful class this year. The students are bright, hard-working, and determined, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work with them and make a positive impact in their lives."



The students also have access to the organization's "Scholarship Network," a user-friendly platform that allows past and present recipients to connect with one another based on university, major, and common interests. Recipients can also connect with members of the IP Advisory Board for potential mentorship, internship, and employment opportunities. The AB is comprised of business professionals in the DFW area who share a common interest in education and who provide strategic and financial support.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



## *Kimberly Stevens*

Kimberly Stephens (IP Class of 2017) graduated summa cum laude in May 2021 with a Bachelor of Kinesiology from the University of Texas at Arlington.

She is currently pursuing her Clinical Doctorate of Occupational Therapy at Texas Woman's University and is expected to graduate in May 2025. Kimberly will specialize in either pediatrics or acute-care, and she hopes her passion for healthcare will help her future patients participate and regain meaning in their everyday activities.

In her spare time, she volunteers in the community with local non-profit therapeutic rehabilitation organizations. She is also a huge foodie and enjoys traveling throughout the DFW area to sample new cultural foods.



## *Leticia Garcia*

Leticia Garcia (IP Class of 2018) graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science in May 2021 from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC). Leticia graduated debt free in three years after successfully securing scholarships to cover the full cost of her education. While at TAMU-CC, she served as a peer mentor and provided mentorship to 20 first-generation college students during their freshman year.

Leticia is a state licensed certified nursing assistant and currently works as a scribe for a cardiologist in the DFW area. She will begin applying to universities this year in hopes of achieving her long-term goal of earning her Master's in Physician Assistant Studies. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and playing soccer.





# ADVISORY BOARD

Names in **orange** are Board of Directors

Names in **purple** are Senior Level Members

- **Michael Bache** - Meriton, Director of Strategic Finance
- **Johnathan Baker** - Sabre, Senior Manager, Financial Planning & Analysis
- **Kyle Barrie** - Reese-Jones Oil & Minerals, Director of Geology
- **Rhett Bennett** - Black Mountain Exploration, President
- **Jeremy Burton** - Select Interactive, President
- **Demi Butler** - Emerald Residential Property Management, Leasing Agent
- **Michael Elliott** - Lockheed Martin, F-35 Special Tooling & Test Equipment Program Manager
- **Jacob Ferguson** - Alexander Vineyards, Co-Owner
- **Guillermo Galindo** - Freedom in Worship Church, Assoc. Pastor
- **Erick Gordon** - Abbott Labs, Senior Engineer
- **Colin Grunewald** - ShopPalmTree.com, Head of Business Development
- **Celine Hernandez** - Louis Vuitton, Supply Chain Director
- **Joshua Hernandez** - Petra Home Lending, Senior Loan Officer
- **Justin Hernandez** - Rees-Jones Holdings, Chief Financial Officer
- **Katelynn Hernandez** - Mary Kay, Inc., Inventory Planning Manager
- **L. Kelly Jones** - Harrison Steck P.C., Attorney
- **Dr. Jessie Lemp-Hull** - Alcon Labs, Sr. Clinical Project Lead - Surgical Franchise
- **Duff Mahan** - Seacoast Bank, Managing Director, Loan Syndications
- **Luis Marrufo** - Lockheed Martin, Data Engineer
- **Adam Mscichowski** - Austin Industries, Senior Internal Auditor
- **Mason Orr** - TimelyMD, VP of Finance
- **Michael Quast** - Jasper Ridge Partners, L.P., Director
- **Shane Rooney** - Reese-Jones Oil & Minerals, Reservoir Engineering Manager
- **Travis Sapaugh** - CBRE, Inc., Senior Vice President - Advisory & Transaction Services, Occupier
- **Brennen Sawyer** - EY-Parthenon, Director
- **Lucas Sawyer** - Worthington National Bank, Senior Vice President
- **Justin Stasney** - Stasney Energy Partners, Managing Partner