

Jin-A Child Care Center of New Jersey's Flapjack Fundraiser and Alumni Reunion

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February 12, 2020



In 2018, Jin-A Child Care Center celebrated 30 years of serving the children and families of New Jersey. The center was incorporated as a nonprofit agency in December 1987 and opened its doors for the first day of classes on January 20, 1988. For three decades, the property at 77 Jay Street in Clifton has served as a home away from home for thousands of children.

Jin-A was founded by Mrs. Mamiko Rattley, an educator with experience in early-childhood development. Mrs. Rattley had a vision for a high quality, multicultural and multi-religious child care center for the wider Clifton community. Since then, the center has grown to include children, parents, and staff beyond the City of Clifton.

Mrs. Rattley named the center Jin-A, based off a Chinese character. "Jin" means advance and "A" means child. So, Jin-A means 'advance the child.' The center's name serves as a daily reminder of its ever-present mission to educate the child's whole body, mind, and heart in order to support their development of respect, tolerance, love, and compassion for all. Since then, hundreds of children have graduated from Jin-A. Many have gone on to accomplish high academic degrees and honors in various fields and still carry fond memories of their time spent at the center.

Over the years Jin-A has developed strong community partnerships. The center's membership in the National Association for the Education of Young Children and NJ Grow Kids helps connect it to research and best practices in the field. It also partners with Passaic Community College to provide fieldwork for student teachers and with Rutgers University for research.

In celebration of Jin-A's 30th birthday in 2018, the center organized a series of activities and events that took place over the course of several months. During the summer, Jin-A invited alumni to celebrate with fair games and swimming. In January 2018, Clifton's Mayor, James Anzaldi, joined Jin-A staff and parents at a luncheon to help commemorate this milestone. Looking toward the future, Jin-A's plan is to keep celebrating milestones, keep advancing children forward, and to keep building a better community.

Jin-A Flapjack Fundraiser, Alumni Reunion



Are you a Jin-A Child Care Center or New Hope School alumnus? If so, you can support a special reunion for a good cause!

"Short Stacks for a Tall Cause" is a pancake fundraiser happening Saturday, February 15 at the Applebee's restaurant in Totowa, New Jersey. A \$12 ticket gets you a stack of flapjacks from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and the opportunity to reconnect with other alumni from decades past. Mingle with former classmates while enjoying a syrupy breakfast that is sure to leave you satisfied. Come hungry, leave happy! Proceeds will go toward both schools for various expenses.

Applebee's is located at 465 Route 46 West.

Contact jinaschool@verizon.net for more information.