



# JOCKEYS' GUILD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*“Empowering Jockeys Through Education”*

A Partnership Between The Lavin Family Foundation, Glen Hill Farm, and the Jockeys' Guild

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## **Executive Summary**

The Jockeys' Guild Education Foundation (JGEF) is a new initiative established through a partnership between The Lavin Family Foundation, Glen Hill Farm, and the Jockeys' Guild. JGEF is designed to address a critical and longstanding gap in the horse racing industry — the lack of structured educational support for the jockeys.

JGEF operates with 501(c)(3) status pending under the Guild's infrastructure, maintaining independence while leveraging established organizational resources.

Jockeys begin their careers as young athletes with limited formal education and few pathways to financial security beyond the racetrack. JGEF offers an opportunity to change that by providing personalized guidance to help select the proper educational experience, scholarships, and practical skills training. This program aims to jumpstart jockeys' lives by offering alternative career options for success.

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## **The Challenge**

Jockeys face unique challenges that extend beyond the racetrack. Many begin their careers as young athletes from large families with limited financial resources, prioritizing training and competition over formal education. This often leads to limited opportunities outside the sport, with many riders continuing to compete well into their 50s and 60s due to a lack of qualifications for alternative careers. Issues such as irregular income and physical injuries exacerbate financial uncertainty and restrict access to skill-building resources. By addressing these education gaps, the JGEF can empower jockeys to achieve greater stability and fulfillment. This initiative aligns directly with the Jockeys' Guild's advocacy for rider well-being, extending support beyond immediate needs to long-term empowerment.

These challenges are addressable with the right resources, the right structure, and the right commitment. That is what JGEF hopes to provide.

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## **Our Mission**

To advance and encourage career opportunity and personal growth through professional guidance and educational scholarships for qualifying active and retired members of the Jockeys' Guild and disabled jockeys.

JGEF operates with three foundational principles:

- **Accessibility** — Programming will primarily be delivered online, allowing jockeys to learn flexibly without interfering with their professional commitments.
  - **Personalization** — Evaluation and advisory services to ensure jockeys receive guidance tailored to their background, academic starting point and individual goals.
  - **Commitment** — Jockeys that follow through on this opportunity earn a chance to build skills that can jumpstart their lives.
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## **Leadership & Oversight**

JGEF has assembled a leadership team that combines deep industry credibility with proven organizational expertise:

***Ramón Dominguez*** — Executive Director

Three times Eclipse Award winning jockey and member of the National Hall of Fame with nearly 5,000 career victories, Ramon retired following a traumatic brain injury in 2013, he remained deeply connected to the racing community through his invention of the 360 GT humane riding crop, his podcast Among Champions and dedicated support of fellow riders. Dominguez additionally serves the equine community as an Ambassador of Brooke USA.

***Craig Bernick*** — Chairman of the Board

President and CEO of Glen Hill Farm and founder of the Thoroughbred Idea Foundation, with extensive experience in equine welfare and industry philanthropy.

***Rachel Jacobson*** – Vice Chairman

Seasoned sports and media executive whose career spans the NBA and the Drone Racing League. She brings deep commercial expertise and a genuine passion for the sport, rooted in a lifetime of family ties to horse racing.

***Terry Meyocks*** — Treasurer

President and CEO of the Jockeys' Guild, bringing institutional knowledge and a direct connection to the rider community JGEF serves.

***Johnny Velazquez*** — Secretary

Hall of Fame jockey, former Chairman of Jockeys' Guild, George Woolf and Mike Venezia Award recipient elected by his peers, and one of the most accomplished jockeys in the history of thoroughbred racing.

***Jack Wolf*** — Director

Owner of Starlight Stables and founder of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance. with extensive experience in equine welfare and industry philanthropy.

*\*Additional board members may be added as need or opportunity arises.*

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## **Educational Services**

JGEF will provide guidance and support to help participants make a personal assessment of their existing skills, attributes and interests to jumpstart a post racing career path primarily by providing guidance and scholarships for online and traditional courses in four categories of learning.

### **Program Area / Description & Expected Outcome**

<b><i>Life Skills</i></b>	Financial literacy, resume writing, job interview training, nutrition, and health management.
<b><i>Core Education</i></b>	GED program, English as a second language, communication skills Microsoft Excel, Word and Google Workspace
<b><i>Vocational and Equine Related</i></b>	Real estate license, veterinary technician, CDL license, farrier, racetrack maintenance, construction trades, computer programming
<b><i>University Education</i></b>	Associate's degree (two years) or a bachelor's degree (4 years)

Initial participant interviews will be handled by the Executive Director and Academic Counselor with scholarship payment and processing managed through the Guild's existing channels, ensuring eligibility verification and progress tracking. Prior to launching, a survey is being circulated to current Guild members to assess academic levels and gauge interest, ensuring programming is precisely tailored to the community's needs.

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## **Expected Outcomes & Impact Metrics**

JGEF is committed to transparency and accountability. Annual reports will detail fund allocation and measure impact across the following success metrics:

- Enrollment rates across all program areas
- Course completion statistics and credential attainment
- Participant feedback and satisfaction scores
- Post-program career outcomes and economic impact

The long-term vision is transformative: a racing industry where jockeys build skills and credentials, creating options, with better financial futures.

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## **A Legacy of Impact**

2026 marks the 60th year of horse ownership for Glen Hill Farm, making this an especially meaningful moment to launch JGEF.

This initiative extends Glen Hill Farm's decades-long commitment to jockey support and long-standing partnership with the Guild, beginning in 1989 with funding a pivotal injury research study at the Rehab Institute of Chicago, now known as the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. The Lavin

Family Foundation has consistently supported the PDJF for injured riders, as well as provided donations to the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab and the University of Kentucky SMRI Jockey and Equestrian Initiative.

JGEF also aligns with The Lavin Family Foundation's core mission of expanding educational opportunities for underserved communities. The Foundation's portfolio of impact includes:

- ***Enchanted Backpack*** provides essential school supplies and learning tools to under-resourced elementary and middle schools across Northern Illinois, Northwest Indiana, and Florida. *For more information, please visit [www.enchantedbackpack.org/video](http://www.enchantedbackpack.org/video)*
- ***CC's Wish List*** donates brand-new clothing, shoes, and household items to nonprofits serving children and families across Illinois and Florida. *For more information, please visit [www.ccswishlist.org/video](http://www.ccswishlist.org/video)*
- Educational initiatives at multiple universities and not-for-profit organizations
- These efforts have collectively impacted over 200,000 individuals — reflecting a deeply held belief that education is the most powerful pathway to empowerment.

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## **Funding & Sustainability**

Initial funding for JGEF, covering setup, scholarships, and administrative costs, will be provided by the Lavin Family Foundation. Upon receipt of 501(c)(3) status under the Guild, JGEF will be positioned to accept tax-deductible contributions, opening the door to sustainable growth through future grants, donations, and industry partnerships.

JGEF will seek support from industry participants and stakeholders, as well as outside resources, who share a commitment to jockey well-being through educational empowerment.