

# Meet an RSPA Scholarship Program Recipient: Jordan Jacobs

*The RSPA Scholarship Program has awarded nearly \$3 million to families of RSPA member companies, and that tradition continues. Employees of all RSPA members (and their families) who meet the minimum requirements can apply for scholarships to help ease the costs associated with higher education. Take a moment to learn more about one of the many incredible students the RSPA Scholarship Program has benefited via their application essays. Meet Jordan Jacobs.*



About six years ago, I met a boy named Jack Posnack. Jack has a genetic disease called Familial Dysautonomia

(FD), which requires nursing care 24/7. He is fed through a tube, has difficulty breathing, and has a compromised immune system, and the average life expectancy for someone with FD is 15 years.

As I got to know Jack better, I discovered we had similar interests. We talked quite a bit, including about Jack's perspective on his own life and condition. More than anything, Jack wanted to be normal and grow up like other kids his age. Jack's desire to be more normal sparked my ambition to do something for him, and in February of 2019, I co-founded a 501(c)(3) non-profit called Jack Attack LTPF ("Level the Playing Field").

The goals of this organization were to support events geared towards helping Jack feel ordinary, as well as to solicit donations to purchase gaming systems for deserving children and raise money for the charitable Familial Dysautonomia Foundation.

One of the foundation's events was a weekly livestream on YouTube where Jack played Fortnite with players from around the world. During every weekly livestream, Jack's family and I invited people over to Jack's house while he played.

In 2019, I organized the Jack Attack Fantasy Football League so Jack could participate. I recruited eight of my friends for the league, and we completed our third season in January 2022. The league provided unexpected benefits during COVID-19 because Jack could compete online without being near other people. In August 2021, ESPN filmed a feature on Jack and the fantasy league, which aired on SportsCenter.

Jack turned sixteen last December, surpassing all expectations. This experience and my relationship with Jack have taught me the true meaning of inclusion, acceptance, and survival, as well as the generosity of others. I have learned that anybody can make a significant impact on the lives of others as long as they are truly committed to making it happen **c**

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