



## Session 2 Program & Participants

July 29 at 1:00 pm ET

### Opening Remarks

**Barbara Ann Richman**, Executive Director of the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

### Humanitarian Panel + Q&A

Panelists will discuss their humanitarian projects and offer advice to young people hoping to make a difference in their own communities.

Participants include:

**Michaella Gallina, moderator.** *When she was a teenager, Michaella helped create a rodeo for children with disabilities called the Exceptional Rodeo. She worked with her local 4-H Club over nearly a decade to raise money and organize the rodeo, which included “bucking” broncos made of hay and barrels, calf roping, and stick horse barrel racing. As a result of Michaella’s accomplishments, thirty-five local children with physical and developmental disabilities were able to experience the thrill of being a cowgirl or cowboy, each year, alongside their families. Today, Michaella lives in Denver and works with the Barron Prize as an awards submission judge. She continues to help children through her work with the Temple Grandin Equine Center (TGEC).*

**Jahkil Jackson, panelist.** [Project I Am](#) was created by 8-year-old Jahkil Naeem Jackson. Jahkil, now 12, has a heartfelt desire to help those in need. Jahkil’s mission is to build awareness of homelessness and to help the homeless population by offering “Blessing Bags,” a giveaway filled with wipes, socks, deodorant, hand sanitizer, granola bars, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bottled water, and more. In just a few years, Jahkil’s efforts have touched over 40,000 men, women and children across the world. Along with the help of friends and family, Jahkil has organized distribution to those in need in Chicago, Los Angeles, Oklahoma, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Virginia and Idaho. He has also provided Blessing Bags to orphans in Mbabane, Swaziland, as well as volcano victims in Guatemala, and hurricane survivors in Florida, Houston, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas. Most recently, Jahkil hosted a virtual packing party with 40 youth from 28 different cities, creating 3,000 blessing bags. Jahkil has been named a Youth Ambassador for Heartland Alliance, the WE International Youth Council, a member of Independent Youth and has been listed as one of BET’s 15 under 15. Most notably, Jahkil was acknowledged as one of three most influential people of 2017 by Barack Obama. Jahkil was also tapped to participate in multiple campaigns with Disney (Be Inspired), Cartoon Network (Drawn To Helping Others), LeBron James (Always Believe), Nike’s 2019 Future Varsity Program and most recently was named a CNN Hero Young Wonder and a Marvel Hero! Jahkil’s story is featured on [Inspiring Young Heroes](#).

**Khloe Thompson, panelist.** Khloe started her project [Khloe Kares](#) to help homeless women in downtown Los Angeles. Over the last several years, Khloe has sewn and distributed more than

6,000 tote bags filled with toiletries and other daily essentials. Khloe has convinced sponsors like Dove Soap and Zappos to join her cause, and she's also invited groups such as Girl Scouts to help fill bags. Khloe also installs water pumps and bathroom facilities in Ghana once a year in schools with no access to clean safe water. Just as important as material needs, Khloe works to create community and provide emotional support for women dealing with homelessness, whether that's through a conversation, hug, or simple acknowledgement.

**Grace Callwood, panelist.** Grace founded [The We Cancer Movement](#), a non-profit that creates ways for youth to help other children who are homeless, sick, or in foster care. Her group has donated more than \$20,000 in cash grants and another \$300,000 in products to youth-serving organizations across Maryland, Delaware, and Ohio. Grace began her work when she was 7, following her diagnosis with Stage IV Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Unable to attend school because of chemotherapy treatments, she donated her new back-to-school clothes to young girls whose family had lost everything in a fire. When she heard how excited they were at receiving these gifts, Grace decided to do more to help children in difficult situations.

#### **"Where Are They Now?" Panel + Q&A**

Senior Barron Prize winners will reflect on what they have learned throughout the years and how their work has evolved.

Participants include:

**Ashley Shuyler Carter, panelist.** Ashley Shuyler Carter is one of the earliest winners of the Barron Prize, receiving the honor in 2001. As a teenager, she founded AfricAid, a nonprofit organization with offices in Denver and Tanzania that supports women's education and entrepreneurship training in East Africa. She led the organization for ten years as the Founder and Executive Director and continues to serve on AfricAid's Board today. The combination of her time working with leaders in the business world and building educational and training programs for students has led to Ashley's passion for investing in youth and cultivating the next generation of talent for Colorado's businesses. Ashley now serves as Strategy Consultant for CareerWise Colorado, a non-profit that is developing the country's first state-wide youth apprenticeship system.

**Josiah Utsch, panelist.** In 2013, Josiah was awarded the Barron Prize in recognition of his work to protect the nautilus, which is one of Earth's oldest creatures. He and a friend founded Save the Nautilus, raising over \$11,000 dollars to support much-needed research and advocate for the protection of this endangered species. These days, Josiah attends Colorado College.

**Madi Vorva, panelist.** Madi Vorva is the Earth Optimism Coordinator at the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and 2011 recipient of the Barron Prize. At 16, she was honored as a United Nations "Forest Hero" for leading a successful eight-year campaign to get Girl Scouts USA to source responsible palm oil in its cookies. Partnering with Climate Advisers, the Rainforest Action Network, the Packard Foundation and the Union of Concerned Scientists, she grew her middle school project to a national media campaign that reached 10 million consumers. In 2014, Girl

*Scout cookie baker Kellogg, Cargill (largest US palm oil supplier) and Wilmar (trader of 45% of the world's palm oil) adopted deforestation-free commitments. Over the years, she has traveled to 10 countries, exploring the politics and economics of different environmental development conflicts. Additionally, she hosted "FabLab," a STEM education TV show airing nationwide on FOX affiliate stations. Notable shoots included the White House Science Fair, COP 21 UN Paris Climate Negotiations and the Women's March Los Angeles. Today, Madi is the Committee Chair for the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots program.*

**Shawn Henry, panelist.** *When Shawn was a student, he started an initiative called Garden Angels. He transformed a vacant, overgrown lot near his school in Brooklyn, New York into a vibrant and beautiful community garden. Shawn is now a Program Director for Voyages Preparatory High School, located in South Queens. Voyages is a small, academically rigorous, full-time high school designed to re-engage students who have dropped out or who have fallen behind in credits at their previous schools. Voyages serves 315 students annually and Shawn supervises a staff of eight counselors. Shawn still works with the Barron Prize to this day, helping us judge all the wonderful submissions we receive.*

**Michaella Gallina, panelist.** *When she was a teenager, Michaella helped create a rodeo for children with disabilities called the Exceptional Rodeo. She worked with her local 4-H Club over nearly a decade to raise money and organize the rodeo, which included "bucking" broncos made of hay and barrels, calf roping, and stick horse barrel racing. As a result of Michaella's accomplishments, thirty-five local children with physical and developmental disabilities were able to experience the thrill of being a cowgirl or cowboy, each year, alongside their families. Today, Michaella lives in Denver and works with the Barron Prize as an awards submission judge. She continues to help children through her work with the Temple Grandin Equine Center (TGEC).*