

Chet Wilkinson & George Masters

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Chet and George are a dedicated couple who have been involved with JASMYN since its early days on Roselle Street, where George would often lend a hand by mowing the lawn. Their unwavering support for LGBTQIA+ youth stems from a deep emotional connection. Chet spent his younger years living in fear of being known as gay, a fear that persisted into adulthood. He calls the change that came about when he came out at 56 a “rebirth”. George recognizes his connection to our work as emotional, with the payoff being the progress he sees for our youth.

Married in 2013, prior to the Marriage Equality Act, the couple draw on mutually held visions of community, to support it in every way they can, to show up when asked and to share their time, talent and treasure with organizations they have personally witnessed make a difference in it.

George tells the story of mowing JASMYN’s lawn and encountering a young person sleeping on the small porch, awaiting services. He engaged her, offering to help right then, but instead she shared her story of being rejected by her family and forced to leave her home. Many years later,

George had the opportunity to reconnect with her and learned about her inspiring journey, including pursuing higher education and working in Africa. His joy at hearing about “her wonderful life” brought his work with JASMYN full circle.

Chet recognized immediately at JASMYN that our success would depend on the community’s philanthropy. He started giving and then joined the Board, then moved into the Board Chair role, and has been a JASMYN ambassador ever since. “Philanthropy was the foundation of my effort to help JASMYN” be here for young people far into the future.

They agree that JASMYN is a great investment, having seen the tremendous results for many youth who have been welcomed here over the years. Chet and George view their capital investment in JASMYN’s Safe Place Project as a nod to both what lies ahead and what might have been. Chet recalls “How I wish I could have had a program like JASMYN when I was growing up!” We do too, Chet. Thanks for making it happen here today for others.

To discuss the intersection of your philanthropic goals and the great work at JASMYN, contact Loretta Prescott, Chief Development Officer, lprescott@jasmyn.org.