

THE MILTON JAYCEES

Jaycees history dates back to 1910 in St. Louis, Missouri

Jaycees founder, Henry "HY" Giessenbier wanted to develop the business skills and the reputation of young men, in 1910. He felt that young men could make a difference in business and in the community. This approach was unusual, because during this period most young men were out of school by the age of fifteen, and their first jobs were the jobs they died in. If they were lucky, they might work their way into an executive position by the time they were in their forties. But Hy knew that twelve signers of the Declaration of Independence were under 35; Thomas Jefferson was only 33 when he wrote the original draft of the document.

Hy Giessenbier felt that in order for young people to improve their prospects for social and career advancements they would first have to join forces socially. The Herculaneum Dance Club became the most popular in the city. This progressive attitude, that young men can make a difference, became the hallmark of the Junior Chamber.

In 1914, the Herculaneum Dance Club merged with six other socially minded groups to form the Federation of Dancing Clubs; Hy was elected president. In this capacity, he led a meeting of the Federation on October 13, 1915, at the Mission Inn in St. Louis, Missouri. It was at this gathering that 32 young men agreed to form the Young Men's Progressive Civic Association (YMPCA), developing their skills as leaders by tackling difficult civic problems.

Giessenbier wanted young men to make an impression early in life, so development of business and leadership skills was offered to members of the early movement. Those skills and other benefits are still offered today.

Henry Giessenbier and a group of young men in St. Louis, Missouri established the Junior Chamber for personal reasons. They wanted to move ahead in their

careers and their lives, but they faced a classic "catch-22." To advance they needed more experience, but the only way they could get more experience was to advance. They found they faced similar problems and had different solutions. That diversity became their strength.

With the help and guidance of established civic and business leaders, the St. Louis group determined its own needs and set about meeting those needs. To advance in their careers, members needed skills in planning, budgeting, training, communication and supervision. To gain those skills they channeled their collective efforts in a unified direction. Committees were formed. Chairmen elected. Goals set. Timetables established. Resources marshaled. Management and workers trained. Manpower took action.

Coming from a variety of backgrounds, they discovered they possessed a wide range of talents, skills and abilities, with the natural leaders in the group able to find and use available resources. That same spirit of diversity and co-operation is alive and well in the Milton Jaycees to this day. This committed group of young men and women work to better the community by bettering themselves. They share their experiences, and work as a team, to develop the skills that the community need today and into the future.

THE JAYCEE CREED

We believe...

- That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;**
- That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;**
- That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;**

Our Vision

The dream and purpose of Junior Chamber are most clearly expressed in the words of founder Henry "Hy" Giessenbier who said:

"From within the walls of the soul of this organization, wherein the foundation of character and citizenship are laid, I hope a message will come forth in the sometime of tomorrow that will stir the people toward the establishment of a permanent and everlasting world peace."

Giessenbier had the foresight to believe that character and citizenship could contribute toward a permanent world peace. His dream and purpose for Junior Chamber were to offer the membership opportunities that would build strong, positive characters and a sense of citizenship, not only for communities, cities and countries, but for the world.

- That government should be of laws rather than of men;**
- That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;**
- And that service to humanity is the best work of life.**

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