



The JK Foundation Inc., Providing Support and Community in the face of Devastating Loss

BY ANNA BLAKE

When Jamie Kelly unexpectedly passed away from cardiac arrest at the age of 44, his friends and family were absolutely devastated. Jamie is survived by his wife Jacqueline, two kids, Elizabeth and Owen, and a community that misses him dearly. In the wake of his passing, A small group of friends wanted to help his family through this difficult time, and thus the JK Foundation was formed.

“Our mission is to honor the legacy of Jamie Kelly by providing support to grieving families,” said co-founder Shawn Darnell. “Our vision is to create a community of families united by loss and empowered by the memories and values of their loved ones.”

The Darnells are Great Bridge natives and are incredibly grateful to the community that raised and supported them throughout their lives, and who now support their important mission and vision for the community. Since Jamie’s passing, the Darnells have known several families in their network of friends who have suffered this same, unimaginable loss and they are in awe of this community and the way it has shown up in support of those families.

“Our roots run deep and continue to connect us. My wife, April, and I are graduates of Great Bridge High School and have been part of this community all of our lives. We love this area and have a great network of friends and family that keep us anchored here in the community,” he shared fondly. “The Great Bridge community is like a family. The connections that have been made within this community remain strong

through distance and time. There is so much kindness and willingness to help others.”

The JK Foundation works to provide financial support for housing and educational costs, travel, sports and anything else a grieving family might need in the wake of such a loss.

“After the sudden loss of a parent/guardian, there are so many changes to the family dynamic and those left behind may be struggling to cope financially,” Darnell said. “This is where we can step in and try to ease some of that financial burden and help in their time of need as they begin navigating their new normal.”

The foundation, which started as a memorial golf tournament, has blossomed into a valuable asset to those in need in the Great Bridge community, all in the name of Jamie Kelly and the lessons he worked to instill in his children.

“Jamie would say to his children, ‘be your best’. This saying is intertwined in everything we do as a foundation,” shared Darnell. “We want to be the best at supporting Jamie’s family, be the best at helping others in our community, and be the best at serving others. Our hope is that others will see what an amazing man Jamie was and that our love for him will continue to help connect us to families who need our support.”

To learn more about The JK Foundation and how you can help, visit thejkfoundationinc.org. ■

190+ Google ★★★★★ 5 Star LOCAL Customer Reviews
Unmatched quality and customer service.

\$300 OFF EPOXY FLOOR/STORAGE COMBO PROJECTS
CALL FOR DETAILS
Must present coupon at time of consultation.
Not valid with any other offer. Offer valid through 5/15/2023

COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATIONS / 3D DESIGNS CONTACT US TODAY
757-805-4456 GarageStorageVirginiaBeach.com

GORGEOUS GARAGE

SHelves AND RACKS
CABINETS
OVERHEAD STORAGE
FLOORS
LIFESTYLE SCREEN
MOTORIZED STORAGE

Scan for more information