



# BEING JAY

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**IT'S ANOTHER WEEKDAY MORNING** and you're getting ready for your routine work day. You're wearing your business attire, your briefcase is packed, your Blackberry is handy, and your skateboard is ready to roll. Yes, that's correct—your skateboard. For inspirational entrepreneur, Jay Mandarino, this is a reality.

Jay is the Founder and CEO of Toronto-based C.J. Graphics Inc., Printers and Lithographers. He is also Founder and CEO of 16 different companies. By the age of 30, Jay had made his first million. Constantly being honoured and recognized for his hard work, C.J. Graphics has received more than 6,500 awards internationally for outstanding performance of quality printing. But his ride to success was not a simple one.

As a child, Jay was unable to focus. He was constantly getting into trouble: he was involved in fights, kicked out of school, and different than most kids. This led to a deep depression and one suicide attempt, which in turn led to a major turning point in Jay's life. Upon recommendation, he enrolled at the Gow School in Buffalo, New York—a specialized school for young men with learning disorders. It was at Gow that Jay was diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia. With the guidance of Gow's staff, Jay excelled academically and overcame his life challenges with immense success. After three years, he graduated at the top of his class with honours.

Jay has always had a strong passion for helping others conquer their own human challenges. It is this passion that drives him to give so much back to the world. In addition to his business successes, Jay is the Founder and CEO of a non-profit indoor Skateboard, In-Line, and Scooter park in Toronto.

The CJ Skateboard Park and School (CJSPS)—the fourth largest not-for-profit indoor skate park in the world—offers children and youth a place to escape. It is not only a place to grow and succeed, but a place to have fun while leaving all insecurities behind. CJSPS is open to children both with and without disabilities or learning challenges. Being a skateboarder himself, Jay truly believes that every individual is entitled to a healthy and happy childhood and life; with the help of 4 wheels, this can be possible.

Jay's philanthropic work with kids is unsurpassed and in 2012 he was awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, marking her 60th anniversary to the Throne as Queen of Canada.

Along with his very important role with the CJSPS, Jay is also involved with over 200 charities, including the Herbie Fund. Soon to be seen in action during this year's Oceana Ball, he is an outstanding charity auctioneer whose motto is to, "Lend a hand, by raising yours."

Jay gives so much back to society and regards the positive changes he gets to see in youth as the most unbelievable, magical and rewarding moments of his life. Thankful for the love and support of his parents and wife (Lorena), he has battled on with them on his side even when he was told he was never going to amount to anything. From the boardroom to skateboarding, Jay is a true inspiration—offering hope, support and positivity to the world. "If we all work together, we can accomplish great things!" We must remember to contribute positively to society and start making a difference ✦



“IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS.”

JAY, AGE 15, WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO JUMP OVER A FERRARI (TORONTO EATON CENTRE 1976)