# Jan Koum- Founder of WhatsApp

# 8 Stories of Successful Entrepreneurs that Will Inspire You on Your Journey

For most people around the world, WhatsApp has become a very important part of their lives. In fact, many of us cannot imagine life without it. Even though there are other platforms that can be used to maintain long-distance relationships and day-to-day conversations between family and friends, a lot of us rely on the brilliant social media platform WhatsApp. However, you may not know the entrepreneur success story of Jan Koum, the founder of WhatsApp.

Koum comes from a small village in Ukraine. He was not born with abundant wealth. In fact, his struggling family moved to California when Koum was young as they were unable to make ends meet in Ukraine. When in California, Koum started to read more about computers whenever he got time. His interest started to develop, and by the age of 18, he had some brilliant skills computing skills. By 1997, he joined Yahoo! ‘s team as an infrastructure engineer. It is important to note that Koum educated himself and turned his hobby into a profession that could earn him billions someday.

Koum stayed a part of Yahoo! For a total of 10 years before he started to notice the boom of the app industry in 2009. He took a leap of faith and used his knowledge, skillset, and experience to launch WhatsApp Inc. Within just a few years, mainly by 2014, WhatsApp became one of the most popular social media applications known to mankind. Soon, Facebook purchased Koum’s application for a total of $19 billion.

The legendary founder of WhatsApp has a successful entrepreneur’s story because he was able to make the most of his circumstances. He did not have his father’s income or family money to fall back on. Instead, he studied and pursued his passion, and his hard work paid off.