


impact report



2021

BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS



The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of various educational and professional icons in a light gray line-art style. These icons include books, graduation caps, diplomas, laptops, people at computers, speech bubbles, pencils, and classroom settings. A large, light blue speech bubble with a dark blue outline is centered on the page, containing a testimonial. The speech bubble has two dark blue circular accents at the top left and bottom right corners.

I feel beyond proud knowing I was the first in my family to graduate college and also know that I am certainly not the last. It brings me so much joy knowing that I am a role model to the younger teens and children in my family who all aspire to attend and graduate college as well. I know that being a first-generation college student will continue to forever open doors of opportunity and greatness for my family.

STEPHANIE LOPEZ

BREAKTHROUGH IMPACT

In 2021, community members and partners invested \$6,847,454 in Breakthrough Central Texas to help us create a path to and through college for students who will become the first in their families to earn a college degree. Your support of Breakthrough helped provide Central Texas children with the guidance and support they need to persist toward their dream of becoming a first-generation college graduate and change the trajectory of their family forever. Here is how your generosity made a difference for our community:

THE 12-YEAR EXPERIENCE

2,289

STUDENTS SERVED IN CENTRAL TEXAS

645

middle school
students

1,062

high school
students

582

students pursuing
postsecondary pathways



HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2021

160

graduates

93%
graduated high
school on time

COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS

CLASS OF 2021



30

COLLEGE
GRADUATES

DEGREES

20

Bachelors

5

Associates



An independent study confirmed that **Breakthrough students**, even when compared to students with similar demographics and academic standing, **are twice as likely to graduate from college as their peers.**

228

FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE GRADUATES
...& COUNTING

CONTINUING TO BREAKTHROUGH COVID-19 RESPONSE

In 2021, we continued to face the biggest educational challenge in recent history. Students from under-served communities lost significant learning time due to the pandemic. Breakthrough students and families were among the hardest hit by the pandemic—facing unemployment and food and housing insecurity. School closures meant not only social isolation but losing access to needed learning supports, computers, school supplies, and quiet spaces to complete schoolwork. These setbacks add to the inequities already faced by communities who are more likely to attend economically segregated schools with fewer resources.

Because of our 12-year commitment and the trusting relationships our staff and AmeriCorps members have established with families, Breakthrough is uniquely positioned to respond to these very real and critical needs. Our advisors continued to work rapidly to deploy resources to families by allocating emergency financial assistance (for housing, food, utilities, and other basic needs), as well as connecting families to mental health resources through a newly launched partnership with Vida Clinic. Additionally, we continued to distribute technology to help families access the internet and online learning resources as virtual learning continued, and we continued to provide wraparound virtual support to meet the academic and social and emotional needs of our students and their families during this educational crisis.

STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT FUND

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES



\$182,470

in basic needs support provided in the form of grocery gift cards, rent, and utility assistance



40 new devices provided for online schooling (laptops, iPads, and Chromebooks), along with 80 internet hotspots



\$82,733

in tuition gap funding provided to college students

HOSTED 2 COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS for students and families in partnership with Central Texas Allied Health Institute (CTAHI)



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

\$59,986 spent on mental health services

97 REFERRALS

65 INDIVIDUALS actively working with a mental health professional

FINDING A RHYTHM AGAIN

During the summer, we launched our Virtual Plus model to build in opportunities for students to connect in-person with each other and Breakthrough staff. Programs were designed to respond to the pandemic's ongoing impact on our community, helping students successfully re-enter their school setting in the fall and recover academically and socially/emotionally as they rebound from the disruption of the last school year.

Curriculum provided virtual instruction centered on supporting student and family well-being, developing academic competencies for success, building community and authentic connections, and engaging students in meaningful activities that build experiential capital and support their goal of becoming first-generation college graduates. While the majority of the program was delivered virtually, students had an opportunity to attend two in-person events to rebuild social connections and enrich their summer experience.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE WERE ABLE TO...



Offer our five-week Summer Academy for **582 middle school students**. Students attended 2 in-person field trips and engaged in over 60 hours of virtual instruction.



Engage 225+ high school students through **Professional Skills and Leadership workshops**.



Transition **160 graduating seniors** to our College Completion Program, with 80 of them participating in Thrive Summit



Provide paid internships to **49 college students** at companies around Central Texas as part of our Future Focus Internship Program



REFOCUSING ON THE PATH

As we approached the fall semester, staff worked in partnership with schools to plan for a return to in-person advising to offer the engagement that our students need to feel connected, inspired, and refocused on their college path.

DURING THE FALL, WE WERE ABLE TO...

- Engage in outdoor, in-person advising
- Focus on re-connecting with students who, because of pandemic challenges and restraints, had been less engaged or disengaged with Breakthrough and their educational path
- Continue to utilize new tools to connect with students and families virtually

“The past 20 months have had a striking effect. The uncertainty, the disrupted learning, and the isolation left many students shaken. Some are still in the thick of it, figuring themselves out again. But our students still have their goal: to graduate from high school and then achieve postsecondary success. It's our job to be caring adults walking alongside them in their journey, knowing that it is not a one-size-fits-all approach.

Tiffany Hung
Associate Director of High School Programs

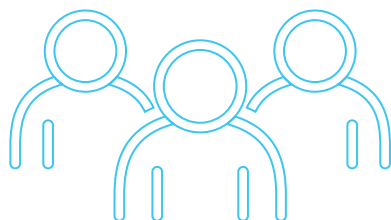


Breakthrough gave me just the right amount of resources I needed to be even more successful. It made way for my family to be more involved in my educational endeavors, which made me believe I had a strong team behind me. It feels amazing and rewarding to be a first-generation college graduate. I'm thankful for the amazing people and programs such as Breakthrough that really stayed by my side and made sure I had everything I needed to be successful.

BIJOU KANYAMBO

Since graduating from Bates College in May 2021 with a degree in Politics, Bijou is settling into her career as an Analyst for Citigroup's municipal banking division in New York City.

STAFF SNAPSHOT



51

Full-Time Staff

27

Full-Time
AmeriCorps Members

17

Summer
Instructional Coaches

136

Summer AmeriCorps
teaching fellows



216

volunteers supporting
staff & students

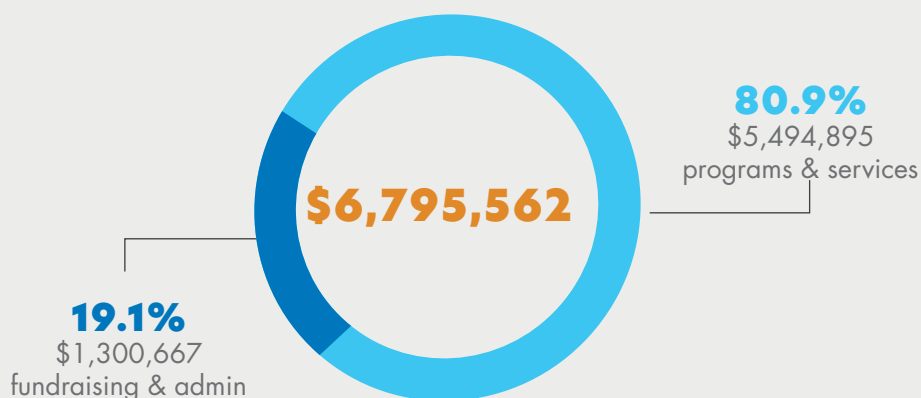
FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE BREAKDOWN

Individuals	\$2,828,900
Foundations/Organizations	1,534,505
Corporations	452,385
Government & fee for service	2,031,663

Total **\$6,847,454**

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



AmeriCorps

Breakthrough is proud
to be an AmeriCorps
program.

the **BREAKTHROUGH** **CHALLENGE**

CAMPAIGN YEAR TWO REPORT

In 2019, Breakthrough launched The Breakthrough Challenge - a \$10 million campaign to propel the organization toward an ambitious new North Star: to double the number of college graduates from low-income communities in Central Texas.

Central Texas has one of the lowest college graduation rates in the state among students from under-resourced communities. We challenged the community to join us in changing that...and you accepted our challenge!

186 generous community members came together to invest \$10.5 million in The Breakthrough Challenge campaign.

With this generous investment, even the pandemic has not derailed our long-term plans. The Breakthrough Challenge campaign funds are providing the critical launch capital to help Breakthrough achieve growth, scale programs, and build capacity for greater impact by 2023.

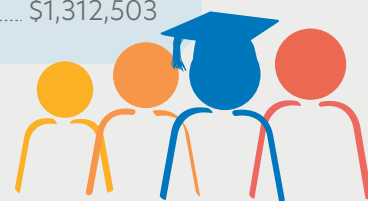
We are pleased to share the following highlights. While this report reflects the short-term impact of our community's investment, we know that every new first-generation college graduate creates an enormous ripple effect that lifts the hopes, dreams and ambitions of their immediate and extended families and their communities.

THE PROMISE FUND

Approximately twenty-percent of the funds raised through The Breakthrough Challenge campaign are being used to establish The Promise Fund, an endowment to help ensure Breakthrough can always fulfill the 12-year promise we make to our students.

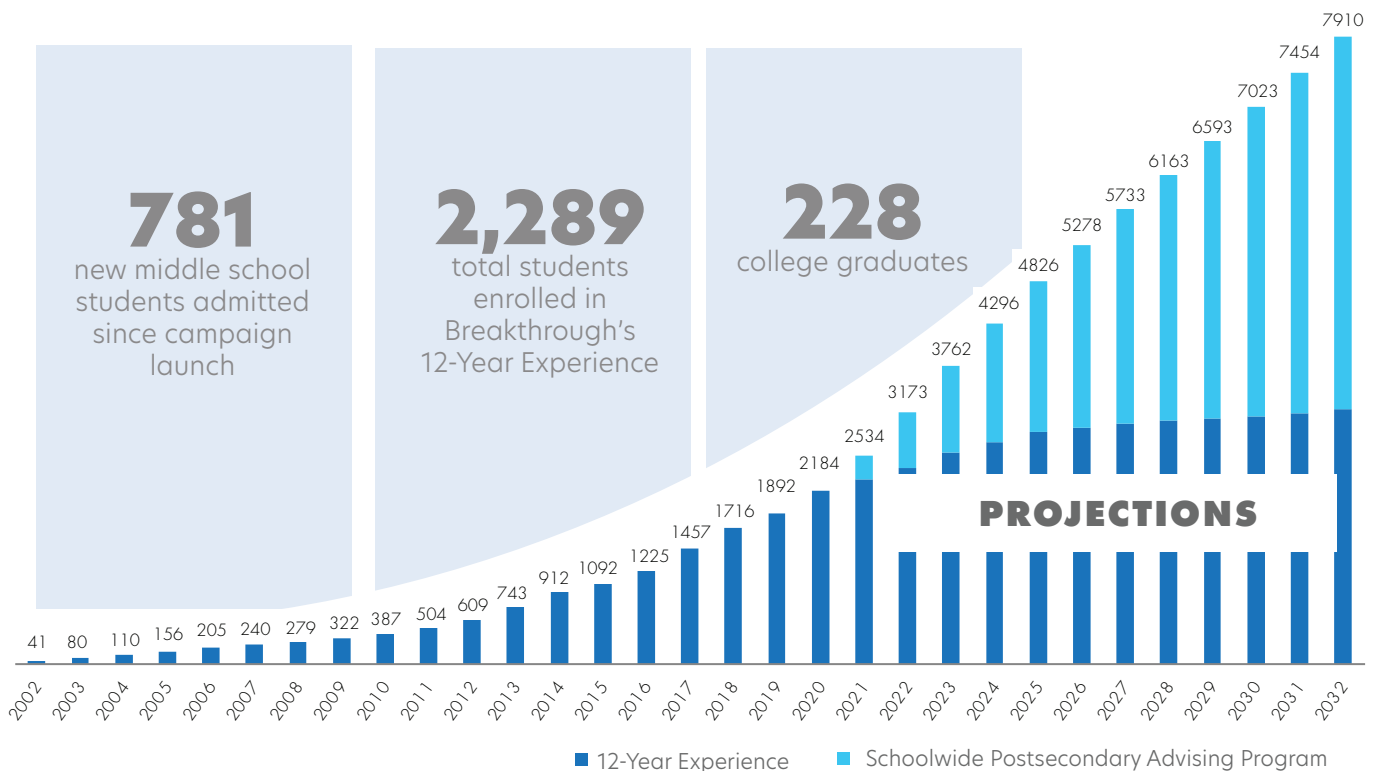
Endowment Fund Financial Report for December 31, 2020 through December 31, 2021:

MARKET VALUE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020	\$946,558
GIFTS RECEIVED.....	\$230,330
INCOME AND INVESTMENT GAINS/LOSSES	\$135,615
MARKET VALUE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021	\$1,312,503



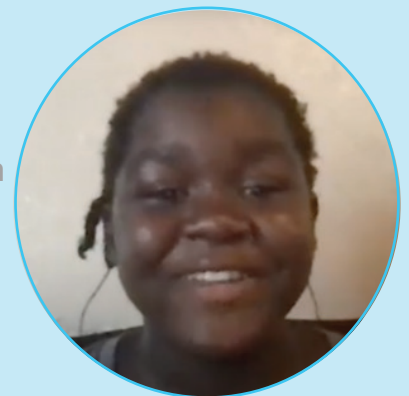
ACHIEVING GROWTH

While recruitment efforts in 2021 continued to be challenged by the pandemic and limited opportunities to connect with prospective students and families in a virtual setting, we are now more than halfway to our goal of enrolling an additional 1,400 middle school students into Breakthrough's 12-Year Experience by 2023. In addition, the number of college graduates has more than doubled since the launch of the campaign.



One of my favorite things about this summer was being able to talk about what's happening in the world that impacts us, like racism and social justice. I also liked learning more about the country I'm from in an Exploration Class. I'm from Cameroon, Africa, and in our Exploration Class, we were taught about the different countries in Africa. It was cool to be able to learn more about my country and culture.

SHEILA, 7TH GRADE



SCALING PROGRAMS



HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

During the 2020-2021 school year, Breakthrough successfully launched our Del Valle High School program guiding our first pioneering class of Del Valle students through their freshman year, 10th Grade Summer Leadership Institute, and transition to their sophomore year, all while navigating the return to in-person classes.

COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS PROGRAM

With the addition of the Class of 2021, Breakthrough's College Completion Program grew to serve 582 students - a 100% increase since the campaign launch in 2019. Breakthrough increased the number of peer student mentors and piloted a new co-advising model for students at St. Edward's University that we hope to scale to other in-state partner schools. The College Completion Program was renamed the College & Career Success Program to better represent Breakthrough's inclusive approach to supporting students to find success in a variety of postsecondary pathways, including 4-year, 2-year, and certificate programs.

Staff added in 2021 to scale high school and college completion programs:

1

full-time advisor

3

full-time
AmeriCorps leaders

6

Summer College
Completion Fellows



HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2021

536

unique admissions

102

colleges & universities

160

students transitioned to
College & Career Success
Program

81%

began their college journeys
virtually & in-person at
institutions around the
country



Emily Jaimes is a graduate of Manor Senior High School. She attends Houston Baptist University on a full-ride academic and athletic scholarship.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR GREATER IMPACT

In order to achieve our long-term vision for greater regional impact, The Breakthrough Challenge has allowed us to expand from one program strategy focused solely on direct service to students and families to three program strategies that seek to increase educational equity at the student, campus and policy level.

POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLWIDE ADVISING PROGRAM (PSAP)

In February 2021, Breakthrough formally launched the pilot for the Postsecondary Schoolwide Advising Program (PSAP), serving our first class of juniors - the Class of 2022 - at Manor New Tech High School. Through this new model, Breakthrough is now offering personalized postsecondary advising for all juniors and seniors on campus, as well as capacity building services for the entire high school. The goal: shift focus from simply high school graduation to success after high school. Students will have the option to continue receiving services for six years beyond graduation through Breakthrough's College & Career Success Program. One full-time staff member and two full-time AmeriCorps members were hired in 2021 to support the design of programs and services for seniors and the addition of our second class of juniors.

245
students served

Increase campus financial
aid application
completion from
50% to 90%

Decrease campus school
counselor-to-student
ratio from approximately
1:300 to 1:75



POLICY ADVOCACY

Breakthrough's policy advocacy practice is driven by a core belief: youth and practitioners, the individuals who are navigating and being personally impacted by inequitable educational policies, should be the leading voices in the construction and reform of those very policies.

Since the inception of our policy advocacy practice in 2020, Breakthrough has developed a policy agenda that leverages our 20 years of practical expertise and elevates the voices of students, families and community partners to advocate for public policymaking that helps all young people and their communities to thrive, especially those most vulnerable.

4

coalitions in which Breakthrough actively participates

The Austin College Access Network (ACAN)

NATIONAL COLLEGE ATTAINMENT NETWORK

TEXAS PACE

TLEEC
Texas Legislative Education Equity Coalition




Breakthrough's Executive Director is proud to serve as chair of the Policy Committee for ACAN, a coalition of 15 community-based organizations and institutes of higher education committed to advancing educational equity in the Central Texas region.


12

educational/advocacy events Breakthrough helped host


EXAMPLES OF BREAKTHROUGH'S POLICY ADVOCACY:




Creating a Student Policy Fellowship to advocate alongside other National College Attainment Network (NCAN) organizations to increase the federal Pell grant and make college more affordable for low-income students



Providing Comment and Testimony on municipal and state policy that more equitably serves all students, especially students of color, first-generation college students and students from historically underrepresented backgrounds



Informing and mobilizing community members, students, advocates and lawmakers around issues like educational funding and equitable advising practices



Building internal processes and trainings for staff to better serve and advocate with immigrant and refugee students, families and communities



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