



BREAKTHROUGH'S STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT FUND

Formalized in March of 2020, the Student & Family Support Fund provides mental health services, gap tuition assistance and financial assistance to students and their families who suddenly find themselves without means to pay rent, mortgage or utility bills or buy groceries.

Since 2020, the Student & Family Support Fund has provided \$1,010,751 in supports.

2020

STEPPING UP IN A TIME OF CRISIS

COVID-19 RESPONSE

When the COVID-19 pandemic took hold of our community and nation, Breakthrough families found themselves faced with unprecedented challenges. As they navigated campus closures and loss of access to school-based supports and resources, many experienced lost wages that pushed them into financial distress.

Because of our 12-year commitment and the trusting relationships our staff has established with families, Breakthrough is uniquely positioned to respond to these very real and critical needs. Our advisors worked to rapidly deploy resources to families by allocating emergency financial assistance (for housing, food, utilities, and other basic needs), as well as connecting families to other resources for support. We also distributed needed technology to help families access the internet and online learning resources, many of whom reside outside of broadband access regions. And we pivoted to provide ongoing, wraparound virtual support to meet the academic and social and emotional needs of our students and their families during this challenging time.

STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT FUND

Direct Assistance to Families



\$166,000 in basic needs support provided in the form of grocery gift cards, rent, and utility assistance between March and December



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



300+ families received emergency financial assistance and technology access



\$64,192 in tuition gap funding provided to college students

2021

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

2022

SUPPORTING STUDENTS & FAMILIES IN TIMES OF NEED

The profoundly disruptive and life-altering pandemic affected all students across Central Texas. The effect was amplified for students and families in our region's under-resourced and marginalized communities. Many students' families found themselves unemployed or facing vastly reduced income and in need of emergency support. A significant number of families were ineligible for unemployment benefits. Many faced housing and food insecurity. Others could not afford or lived in rural areas without access to reliable internet at home or technology devices to provide their children with online learning. Given Breakthrough's role as a trusted advisor to our students, our families reached out for support in navigating the financial fallout of this pandemic.

In 2022, while the world and our community had largely returned to "normal," the economic fallout was still very real for many of our students and their families. Coupled with our region's soaring affordability crisis and devastating inflation, many families continued to struggle – their livelihood, well-being and dreams of becoming first-generation college graduates threatened. Our students and families relied on Breakthrough to help them navigate this crisis in both the short and long-term.

Formalized in March of 2020, the Student & Family Support Fund provides mental health services, gap tuition assistance and financial assistance to students and their families who suddenly find themselves without means to pay rent, mortgage or utility bills or buy groceries.

STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT FUND

\$455,370

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES



\$160,192 in basic needs support provided in the form of grocery gift cards, rent, and utility assistance



\$1,270 spent on technology devices for online schooling (laptops, iPads, and Chromebooks)



\$132,887 in tuition gap funding provided to college students



\$9,545 in legal aid for students & families



\$7,908 in testing, applications, admissions and transcript fees

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

\$143,568

spent on mental health services

155 REFERRALS

100 INDIVIDUALS

actively working with a mental health professional

