



# 2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT



Transforming the lives of students and preparing the next generation of teachers in Houston since 1995



Dear Breakthrough Supporters,

In our first in-person Summer Program since 2019, our students and Teaching Fellows were excited to be back in a familiar setting. While COVID-related challenges remained; overall, it was a very successful summer. We had support from three separate school campuses: St. John's School, Sharpstown International, and Hogg Middle School.

There were a total of 338 students who participated in both the middle school and College Bound summer offerings. Middle school students took math, science, literature and writing classes, along with a variety of electives and activities. For high school students, rising 9th graders participated in an introductory College 101 course, and 10th graders took a course that included PSAT prep, as well as general College Knowledge workshops. For rising college freshmen, we offered a first-time BTH Bridge Program to help students transition

from high school to college. Other high school students participated in summer internships and outdoor learning opportunities, including the Student Conservation Association and World Learning.

Thanks to a joint grant between Breakthrough Houston and Breakthrough Central Texas, a total of 83 Teaching Fellows joined us as AmeriCorps members for the second year. These college students were overseen by Instructional Coaches (veteran teachers who came from excellent schools across the Houston area.) Instructional Coaches sign on to spend eight weeks of their summer vacation training and mentoring our novice Teaching Fellows.

The University of Houston and several generous supporters provided housing for our out-of-town Teaching Fellows.

As you read this report, please note the significant gains of our students at both the middle and high school levels, as well as the promising survey information gained from our Teaching Fellows. These results would not be possible without your extraordinary help. When we look at our incredible support, we are continually grateful that all of you clearly believe in our two-fold mission: to prepare underserved students for college and inspire and train the next generation of teachers for careers in education.

Our world today presents us with many challenges: the pandemic, inflation, teacher shortages, and low college graduation rates for students from under-resourced communities. Breakthrough continues to address these challenges with proven strategies and full confidence that our students and teachers will soon become community leaders working to make our world a better place for all.

With much appreciation,

*Kathy Heinzerling*

Kathy Heinzerling  
Executive Director

## STAFF

### Executive / Operations Team

Kathy Heinzerling - Executive Director  
Melinda Guthrie - Development Director  
Eileen Wolfowicz - Operations Manager

### College Completion

Kurchi Basu - College Completion Program Director  
Maryfer Rodriguez - Full Time AmeriCorps Member

### College Bound

Twenewaa Adu-Oppong - College Bound Program Director  
Joy Boakye - 9th Grade Program Manager

### Middle School

Linda Francis - Program Director, St. John's School Site  
Kelsey Julien - Full Time AmeriCorps Member  
Nolan Julien - Program Director, HISD Site  
Sarah Yockey - Program Director, Connect Community Site

## OUR MISSION

Breakthrough Houston works with highly motivated, traditionally under-represented students to achieve post-secondary success and empowers aspiring leaders to become the next generation of educators and advocates.



We envision a nation where **educational equity** and **access to excellent opportunities** propels aspiring students on their path to college and aspiring teachers on their path to the classroom.

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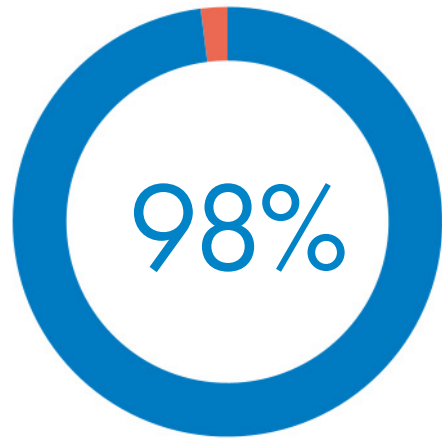
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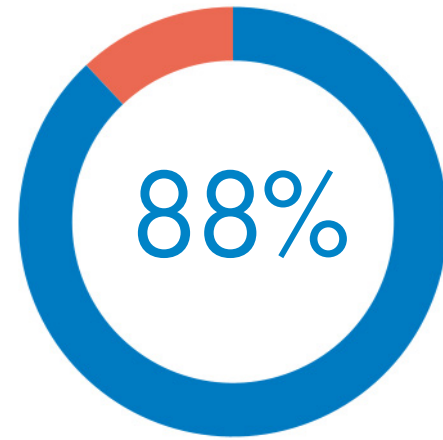
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## OUR STUDENTS

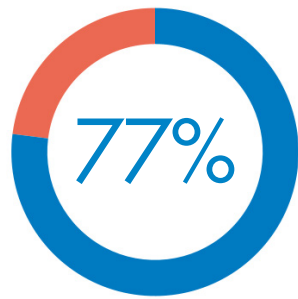
Breakthrough Houston students are motivated to pursue academic excellence. The program ensures traditionally under-represented students from low-income communities are able to attain a high quality education.



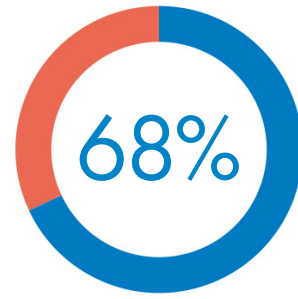
Self-identify as Students of Color



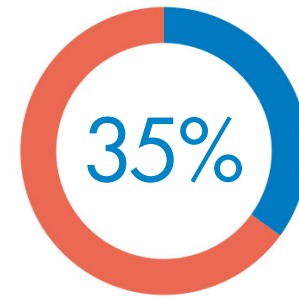
Qualify for Free or Reduced Price Lunch



Will be first-generation college students



Live in a household where English is not the primary language spoken



Are being raised in a single parent household



"I actually joke around with my friends that I did 'summer school' - but I say it's actually pretty fun because there is a variety of classes and activities and electives. The teachers make you feel special. Like you don't often see people crowd around you and cheer your name.

Breakthrough is helping me for my future because it balances both fun and education. That's the best because you can achieve more knowledge and more social skills."

**Habibullah Sayyed**

Rising 8th Grader  
Pershing Middle School (HISD)

## OUR PROGRAMS

Breakthrough Houston realizes a dual mission through student programming starting as early as middle school and a unique teacher residency program that prepares aspiring teachers for the classroom.

# FOR STUDENTS

### MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Success in high school and college begins with preparation in middle school. Rising 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students participate in a rigorous six-week Summer Program that includes instruction in literature, writing, math, science, and electives. In addition to academic enrichment, social-emotional learning, leadership skills, and character strengths are stressed in daily activities. During the school year, students continue to meet on Saturday mornings to receive tutoring support.

### COLLEGE BOUND PROGRAM

Throughout high school, Breakthrough Houston students receive resources, training, and support to prepare for competitive college admissions. The College Bound Program stresses the importance of resume-building activities such as internships, summer programs, and community service and also provides standardized test (PSAT/SAT/ACT) preparation, mentoring, and individualized career and college counseling.

### COLLEGE COMPLETION PROGRAM

To support students while they are enrolled in college, Breakthrough Houston established a College Completion Program in 2019. Students begin the program with a Bridge Program which prepares them for the academic, social, and emotional adjustments necessary for college. Follow-up support is provided to students throughout the academic school year to ensure the timely completion of their degree programs.



# FOR TEACHERS

### TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

Aspiring teachers are recruited from colleges across the country to participate in two weeks of intensive training and six weeks of teaching during the Summer Program. Teaching Fellows are supervised by seasoned teachers and provided regular feedback on lesson planning, classroom management, and instructional practices. Additional teacher training also takes place during the school year.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Students in the Middle School Program have three consecutive years of transformative summer programming that prepares them for the academic rigor and soft skills needed for high school success, as well as school year programming that provides remediation and enrichment services.

276 students enrolled

6-8 grades served

200 hours of programming

## ACADEMIC GAINS

Students master coursework and learning objectives for the upcoming school year in literature, writing, math, and science. Academic gains are measured through a nationally recognized and benchmarked academic assessment, Exact Path.

Students gained the equivalent of **8 months of learning** in math and reading.



"It's super fun! Even if you have to do work. The academic work is good for you- if you want to go to college, you've got to get prepared. This is the way to do it!"

Danny Gonzalez  
Rising 9th Grader  
Chinquapin Preparatory School

## NON-ACADEMIC GAINS

In addition to academic coursework, students gain critical leadership and socioemotional skills during their summer with Breakthrough Houston. Pre- and post- summer surveys are used to measure growth and mindset changes.

### COLLEGE-BOUND MINDSET

**90%** of students "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that they want to attend college after high school.

### SELF AWARENESS

**89%** of students "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that they developed new skills to help them academically.

### SECURITY & WELL-BEING

**87%** of students "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that they feel safe and supported at Breakthrough.

### SENSE OF BELONGING

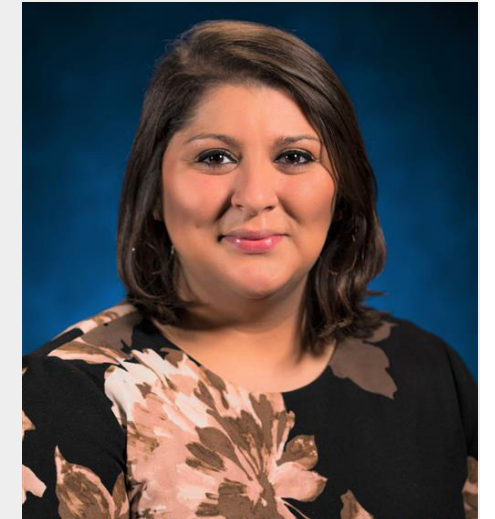
**86%** of students "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that they feel connected to the Breakthrough community.

## HOST SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Each summer, the Middle School Program relies on the generosity of school campuses across the city to open their doors for students and Teaching Fellows. This summer, Breakthrough Houston partnered with James Hogg Middle School (HISD), Sharpstown International School (HISD) and St. John's School to host programming on their campuses.

"I'm excited to partner with Breakthrough Houston because I believe in their mission and goal. By partnering with Breakthrough Houston, my students here at Hogg have access to an excellent opportunity for academic enrichment at their home campus."

Vanessa Saldaña  
Head of School  
James Hogg Middle School (HISD)



## SCENES FROM A BREAKTHROUGH SUMMER



Students are greeted each morning with enthusiastic cheers from Teaching Fellows.



Teaching Fellows bring learning to life through hands-on experiments and activities.



During Electives, students explore extracurriculars such as glass art making.



On Fridays, students gather for fun activities such as Olympics Day and Community Service Day.



Spirit sticks are awarded at the end of each day to students who exemplify Breakthrough core values.



Students, teachers, and staff are sad to say good-bye at the end of summer Celebration where students showcase their learnings.

# COLLEGE BOUND PROGRAM

After completing the Middle School Program, students begin their preparation for their transition to college through the College Bound Program. Students receive critical guidance on how to increase their application competitiveness through maintaining a high GPA, getting involved in extracurricular activities, and performing well on standardized tests.

<b>294</b> students enrolled	<b>9-12</b> grades served	<b>130</b> hours of programming
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## COLLEGE 101

Students first enter into the College Bound Program as rising 9th graders at the completion of their Middle School Summer Program. During the summer, they take College 101 that prepares them for the transition to high school and the rigors of building their resume and college applications.



“College 101 explains how to begin the year prepared and tells you about the social aspects of high school, what you need to learn, how to communicate your feelings with your teachers, and how to calculate your GPA.”

Maze Shelton  
Rising 9th Grader

## COLLEGE 201

Rising 10th graders participate in a two-week hybrid course that provides tailored PSAT preparation, activities led by current college students, and presentations from college partners, covering a range of topics from academic skills, mental health and wellness, and college affordability.

**105** average point growth on PSAT Math      **90** average point growth on PSAT Verbal

## STANDARDIZED TEST PREPARATION

Standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT remain core components of most college application processes. To ensure Breakthrough students are prepared, the College Bound Program offers several free test preparation opportunities including courses through University of Houston’s Aspire program and individualized tutoring.



## APPLICATION SUPPORT

The majority of Breakthrough students will be the first in their families to graduate from college. Through group instruction and individualized support, students receive guidance on how to complete financial aid applications, how to research and determine best-fit colleges, how to write a compelling personal statement, and how to analyze their financial aid awards and scholarship letters.

**98%** of students accepted into a four-year college      **70k** average scholarships and grants awarded per student\*      **68%** of average financial need met per student\*

\* Based on available student data

## RESUME BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Through the College Bound Program, students have access to a variety of resources to build their resumes and develop as leaders in their communities. Breakthrough Houston facilitates Rice University student mentors and tutors for students, publicizes summer internship and job opportunities, and coordinates community service events.



## TEXAS COLLEGE ROAD TRIP

In April, 36 students from the College Bound Program spent the weekend traveling to visit the University of Texas at Austin and St. Edward’s University. Highlights of the trip included a personal guest lecture from a professor and an “Ask Me Anything” panel with current college students.



**76%** of students who attended the trip will be first-generation college students

**91%** of students who attended the trip toured at least one new college on the trip

“I learned that there are more resources available than what we initially might think. Scholarships are available even after we apply and there are groups built around helping students adjust to college.”

# COLLEGE COMPLETION PROGRAM

Going to college is a big transition for all students but can be especially difficult for students from low-income backgrounds who may be traditionally under-represented on college campuses. Launched in 2019, the College Completion Program provides support to help students successfully navigate college processes and overcome obstacles.

**130**  
students enrolled

**13-16**  
grades served

**8-10**  
hours of programming

## BREAKTHROUGH BRIDGE PROGRAM

This summer, Breakthrough Houston offered a comprehensive Breakthrough Bridge Program for recently graduated high school seniors, covering a range of topics to better prepare students for the socio-emotional, financial, and academic realities of college.

Topics included:

- Building Academic and Study Habits
- Career Preparation and Planning
- Choosing to Live on Campus or Commute
- Conducting Research and Preparing for Graduate School
- Health Insurance 101
- Mental Health and Affirmative Consent
- Study Abroad and Fellowships
- What to Do When Things Go Wrong: Academic Probation



"The most enjoyable part of the BT Bridge Program for me was definitely how well-paced it was. I had a lot of time to jot down notes and ask questions. Also, I loved how there were many representatives from different backgrounds and colleges to give us their experience on the certain topic we were learning that day! It was truly a privilege being able to speak with these individuals who gave us their time.

The BT Bridge Program prepared me for college by reassuring me that it's okay for me to be reasonably selfish- by this I mean that it's okay to set boundaries and to speak up for myself. The program also allowed me to explore all of the resources my school offers, resources I never even thought existed!"

**Alexia Gonzalez**  
Challenge Early College High School (HISD) Class of 2022  
Incoming Freshman at Lawrence University

## COLLEGES IN WHICH BREAKTHROUGH STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED

- |                                 |                                    |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Augustana College               | Lone Star College                  | Texas State University             |
| Austin College                  | Middlebury College                 | Trinity University                 |
| Barnard College                 | New York University                | Tufts University                   |
| Baylor University               | Northeastern University            | University of Chicago              |
| Boston University               | Northwestern University            | University of Houston              |
| Brown University                | Oberlin College                    | University of Houston Downtown     |
| Bryn Mawr College               | Occidental College                 | University of St. Thomas           |
| Carleton College                | Oklahoma State University          | University of Texas at Austin      |
| Carnegie Mellon University      | Rhodes College                     | University of Texas at San Antonio |
| Case Western Reserve University | Rice University                    | Vanderbilt University              |
| Drexel University               | Sam Houston State University       | Washington and Lee University      |
| Fordham University              | Savannah College of Art and Design | Wellesley College                  |
| Houston Community College       | Swarthmore College                 | Wharton County Junior College      |
| Howard University               | Texas A&M University               | Yale University                    |
| Johns Hopkins University        | Texas A&M University Commerce      |                                    |
| Lehigh University               | Texas Southern University          |                                    |



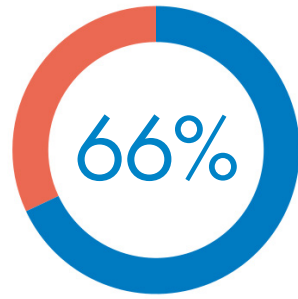
At the end of the Breakthrough Bridge Program, students were asked to respond to the question, "What no longer worries you?"

### "WHAT NO LONGER WORRIES ME..."

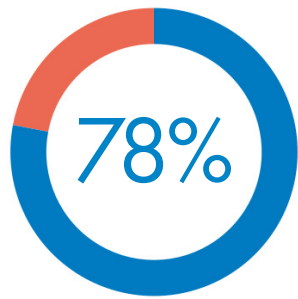
- "Being a first-gen student in college"
- "Applying for financial aid and socializing"
- "Finding a career path/future job that I would actually enjoy doing for the rest of my life"
- "How to choose a credit card best suited for me"
- "Knowing what to bring and how to bring it with me."

# TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM

Breakthrough Collaborative is the nation's largest pre-professional teacher training program and Breakthrough Houston utilizes this model to grow Houston's own teacher pipeline. By recruiting aspiring teachers from high school and college and providing both summer or school year teaching fellowship opportunities, Breakthrough Houston inspires many young professionals to pursue an interest in education careers.



of Teaching Fellows are non-education majors



of Teaching Fellows scored Proficient or higher by the end of the summer on the rigorous Breakthrough Teaching Excellence Rubric

## ORIENTATION WEEK

Teaching Fellows begin their summer with an intensive two-week training that covers topics such as curriculum design, classroom management, and student engagement strategies. The majority of Breakthrough Teaching Fellows are non-education majors, so Orientation Week is critical to prepare them for success, regardless of prior teaching background.

## ONGOING COACHING & SUPPORT

Each Teaching Fellow is paired with a veteran teacher (Instructional Coach) who provides feedback on lesson plans and classroom instruction. Instructional Coaches ensure Teaching Fellows are supported to apply research-based, effective teaching strategies in their content area of expertise.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Although the summer with Breakthrough increases many Teaching Fellows' desire to enter into the teaching profession, others decide to pursue other careers in education or to serve underresourced communities in other ways. Through seminars and panel discussions, Breakthrough provides networking and professional development opportunities for Teaching Fellows to explore future career interests.

## HOMESTAY SPOTLIGHT

Not all summer Teaching Fellows are local to Houston! This summer, 31 Teaching Fellows participated in Breakthrough Houston's homestay program in which BTH supporters provided free summer housing for Teaching Fellows. This allows Breakthrough to hire the best applicants from across the U.S.

"A highlight of our summer is the chance to meet Breakthrough Houston teachers as homestay hosts. It's always fun and interesting to learn about our guests, find out what drew them to Breakthrough, and share experiences across the kitchen table. Their enthusiasm and desire to make a difference in the classroom is a great reminder to us of Breakthrough's important dual mission.

**Bill Boyce**  
Breakthrough Houston Board Chair



Teaching Fellow Johnny Ly and Bill Royce, Breakthrough Houston Board of Directors, Chair

"I see so much of myself in my Breakthrough students. Students need teachers that come from the same background as them to inspire and empower them.

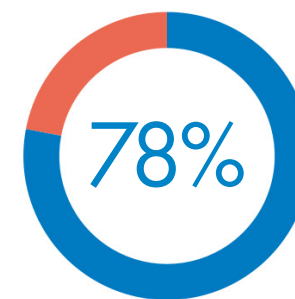
Breakthrough made me believe that this is truly what I believe in and this is what I want to do in education."

**Sarah Montero**  
2nd Year Teaching Fellow  
University of Houston Class of 2022

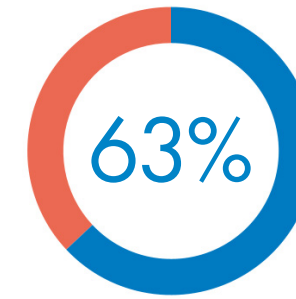


## BUILDING A DIVERSE TEACHER PIPELINE

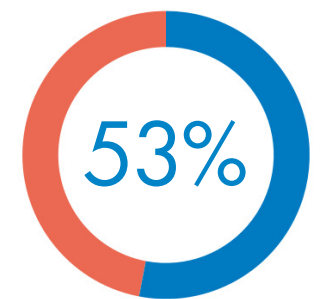
Breakthrough Houston is committed to recruiting, preparing, and supporting a diverse group of Teaching Fellows. Research has shown that minority students perform better on standardized tests, have improved attendance, and are suspended less frequently when they have at least one teacher that shares their race (Pew Research Center, August 2018). Often students rate their relationships with Teaching Fellows as their favorite or most memorable part of their summers with Breakthrough.



Self-identify as Teachers of Color



Receive Financial Aid for College



Are First-Generation College Students

## OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Thank you for providing more equitable education opportunities to Houston students. Your investment in these proven programs brings lasting, measurable change to Houston.

### \$100,000+

Arnold Ventures LLC  
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### \$50,000+

The Guill Family Foundation  
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### \$5,000-\$9,999

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Liz and Steven Bender  
Taylor Ford  
Ted Litton  
Todd Litton  
Tom Friedman  
Triton Energy  
Vicky and Tony Estrera  
W. Benjamin Moreland  
Williams Company

### \$1,000-\$4,999

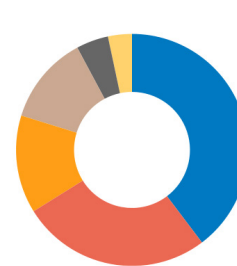
Alexandra Simotas  
Laskaris and Aris Papasakellariou  
Laskaris  
Alison Weaver  
Ann and Tom Kelsey  
Anne Whitlock  
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Chris Johnson  
Chuck Zimmerman  
David and Jamie Oliver  
Elizabeth and Andy Stepanian

### \$500-\$999

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Aldona and Damon Spiegel  
Allison O'Neill  
Amy and Gentry Lee  
Anindita Sen and Anirban Maitra  
Berthinia Brown  
Brent Newton  
Caroline and Rick Anderson  
Catherine Wile

## FINANCIALS

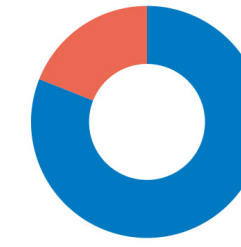
We proudly operate with efficiency and effectiveness and appreciate the continued investment from our various supporters.



### FUNDING SOURCES

40% Foundations  
26% Government\*  
14% AmeriCorps In-Kind  
12% Individual  
5% In-Kind  
3% Corporate

\* Funds received from the Paycheck Protection Program, ESSER, and Employee Retention Tax Credit



### EXPENSES

81% Programs  
• Summer Program: 50%  
• College Bound Program: 16%  
• School Year Program: 12%  
• College Completion Program: 2%  
19% Administrative, Management & Fundraising

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We enrich our programming through strategic partnerships with other community-based organizations.

Amigos de las Americas  
Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens  
Buffalo Bayou  
Beck's Prime  
College Greenlight  
Colorado Outward Bound School  
Connect Community  
Christian Community Service Center Food Pantry  
EMERGE Fellowship  
Etoile Academy  
The Experiment in International Living  
Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center  
Halo Agency  
HCC Honors College  
H-E-B  
Houston Area Urban League Young Professionals

Houston Baptist University  
Houston Botanical Gardens  
Houston Independent School District  
Joi Ross-Moore  
Keith Brown  
KIPP Connect  
Latinos for Education  
Lone Star Honors College  
McGovern Medical School - Heart to Soul in Action  
MD Anderson - Learn2Lead  
Mi Familia Vota  
Momentum Education  
Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees  
Pin Oak Middle School Community Garden  
The Posse Foundation  
Prompt.com

Rice University  
Riverside UMC Community Gardens  
St. Edward's University  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
St. John's School  
St. Thomas University  
Student Conservation Association  
Texas Outdoor Family  
University of Houston - ADAPT  
University of Houston Center for Student Empowerment  
University of Houston Cougar Village (for homestays)  
University of Houston School of Education  
University of Texas at Austin

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

We are grateful to our partners who donate their services and goods to increase opportunities that amplify student potential.

Alto  
Chick-Fil-A  
The Chocolate Bar  
Eighteen36  
The Fab Fete  
Heirloom Catering & Events  
Hilton Hotel  
Houston Interactive Aquarium & Animal Preserve

Houston Museum of Natural Science  
Houston Plant Market  
Jason's Deli  
Jennifer Laporte  
Josh Schaffer  
Kolache Factory  
Kindred Bookstore  
Little Caesars

Phoenicia Specialty Foods  
Raising Cane's  
Rusty Hardin  
Spanky's Pizza  
Speedy Printing  
Subway  
Trudy's



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## OUR MISSION

Breakthrough Houston works with highly motivated, traditionally under-represented students to achieve post-secondary success and empowers aspiring leaders to become the next generation of educators and advocates.

