

Donor Spotlight: Creating Art to Raise Funds

Ginna Traina loves to create beautiful things. “I’m a crafter,” she says. After finding out about B:E when her daughter Alison began her job as our Education and Employment Coordinator, Ginna decided to use her artistic talent to raise awareness about the challenges transition age foster youth face, and in turn, raise funds for B:E.



Advent Calendar with handmade ornaments & Succulent Planter Boxes created by B:E Supporter, Ginna.

During the holidays, she posted her crafts on Facebook, with all proceeds from sales going to B:E. After her friends clicked on the B:E website, Ginna says, “their eyes were opened.” They learned that foster care “is a real thing happening in every community... it’s never going to go away.” Given that services for transition age foster youth are sorely underfunded, Ginna says, she is happy to help drive awareness and donations to B:E. “B:E is a nonprofit that truly makes a difference,” Ginna says. “They really care about these young adults.”



beyond emancipation

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Two Spring Events: Please Join Us

B:E Open House & East Bay Gives Celebration
 May 3rd | 5-8PM FREE
 200 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza Oakland, CA 94612
 RSVP: beopenhouse16.eventbrite.com

b:e in the know newsletter
 Spring 2016

Beyond Emancipation



b2b students learn yoga as wellness activity during one of their weekly workshops.

Rashawn: The Focus to Finish Strong

At just 22, Rashawn Moore has a sparkling resume. In his New Beginnings internship at the Alameda County Education and Training Center, Rashawn used his love of digital design to create an internet logo for the center’s online courses, and organized their archive gallery “from A to Z.”

“That job was super fun and helpful,” Rashawn says. “It sparked a motivation to do different things in my life and built my professionalism.”

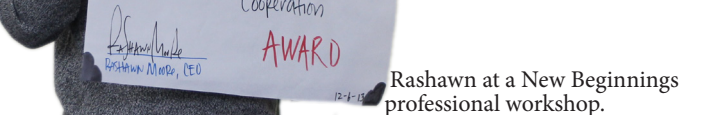
He found B:E’s CCRW coaching model, which he describes as being like “a conversation,” to be a great catalyst for pursuing his goals.

“I liked the fact that it was mainly about my goals rather than what I should do,” he says.

“It allowed me to think about what I wanted to get done in the next three to six months.”

After completing New Beginnings, Rashawn was hired by B:E as a program assistant for the program. In his new role, he helped youth build their job skills while honing his own facilitation and communication skills.

He also enjoyed writing a newsletter to showcase the good things happening in the program.



Rashawn at a New Beginnings professional workshop.

When New Beginnings ended, Rashawn joined B:E’s Elevate program, where he learned culinary skills at Town Kitchen.

Now a Youth Advocate at WestCoast Children’s Clinic, Rashawn motivates foster and probation youth by telling them: “You’re going to get knocked down but you have to stay positive with yourself and know where you’re going. Don’t forget that vision.”

Outside of work, Rashawn loves to do photography (in fact, B:E has hired him to take photos at many of our events), try out new restaurants, and help his 85 year-old great-grandmother, who was his guardian as he was growing up.

“She’s amazing,” Rashawn says. “She took care of me and all my brothers and sisters. She was always there for us.”

Rashawn plans soon to go back to college to study international business and psychology.

“I have that focus,” he says, “to finish strong.”

Our Impact

Over 900 Youth Served in 2015

Transition Services

699 youth were supported through 4630 contacts with transition specialists.



These contacts included crisis intervention, information and referral, connection to resources, and coaching.

Housing

94 youth were housed in our community or host housing.



75% of those who stayed more than 6 months were working and/or in school while in housing.

Education and Careers

549 youth were supported in their pursuit of education, and/or preparing for and securing employment.



62 youth participated in B:E's intensive programs.

Dear Community,

We at B:E are in an ongoing conversation about strengthening our impact. How do we design programs, allocate resources and develop partnerships that serve to positively transform young people's lives?

I am a parent of a 12-year old girl. My partner and I are keenly aware of – and at times overwhelmed by – the acceleration in her physical, emotional and social development and the intention required on our part to support her identity development, impulse control and behavioral maturity.

B:E's coaching model, Creative Connected Resourceful and Whole, is deliberately designed to make up for the fact that most of the youth we work with did not benefit from this degree of attentiveness during adolescence.

Through coaching, we encourage their identity development. We invite them to think about who they are – and what is important to them – and from that place of self-knowledge, to align their values, choices and actions.

Along with coaching, we connect young people to experiences and opportunities through which they can practice decision making and other aspects of adult roles, and learn from their mistakes. We want to go beyond supporting youth to manage short-term transitions by connecting them with pathways to long-term health and stability. Like good parents, we strive to help them enlarge their community of support, recognizing that it is actually this community that nurtures and sustains them beyond B:E.

We are holding ourselves to a high bar; and this bar would be unattainable without the support of people like Ginna and partners like Tender Greens. We hope their stories inspire your continued partnership on behalf of current and former foster youth.

With gratitude,



Kate Durham

Kate Durham
Executive Director

Ways You Can Help:

- + Donate *Go to beyondemancipation.org or use enclosed envelope*
- + Matching Gifts *Ask your employer if they match gifts*
- + Give a Gift of Stock or Real Estate
- + Volunteer

On a Path of Choice: Mori

During her New Beginnings fellowship at the Alameda County Social Services Agency office in Hayward, Mori developed her career goal. "I loved that job, and I met a lot of amazing people-- lawyers, judges, social workers," says Mori, who plans to go back to school to take classes in social work. "That's the career I'm working toward. I want to give back."

Her supervisor encouraged her to apply for a permanent position when one opens up, and in the meantime, Mori enjoys working at Safeway in a clerk position she got after gaining experience through B:E's Fresh Start program.

With three daughters under the age of seven and a five-to-midnight shift at Safeway, Mori doesn't get a lot of quiet moments to herself. Still, she finds time to pursue her love of writing, keeping a journal and writing poetry as often as she can. "That's something that's stuck with me always," she says.

Mori appreciates the support that B:E has provided to her over the years, especially since both of her relative foster parents, with whom she was close, have passed away. "B:E has given me a big helping hand," she says. "Since I didn't have biological parents to help me, I didn't think I'd be able to move into my own place since the rent is so high."

B:E connected Mori to the Family Unification Program (FUP) after she struggled to find housing when she was 19. After completing the FUP program, she was able to stabilize her

housing on her own, and now has an apartment for herself and her daughters in Alameda.

After her second daughter was born, Mori found the B:E parenting workshops very helpful, and appreciated the fact that B:E provided child care during each workshop so that young parents could concentrate on the class.

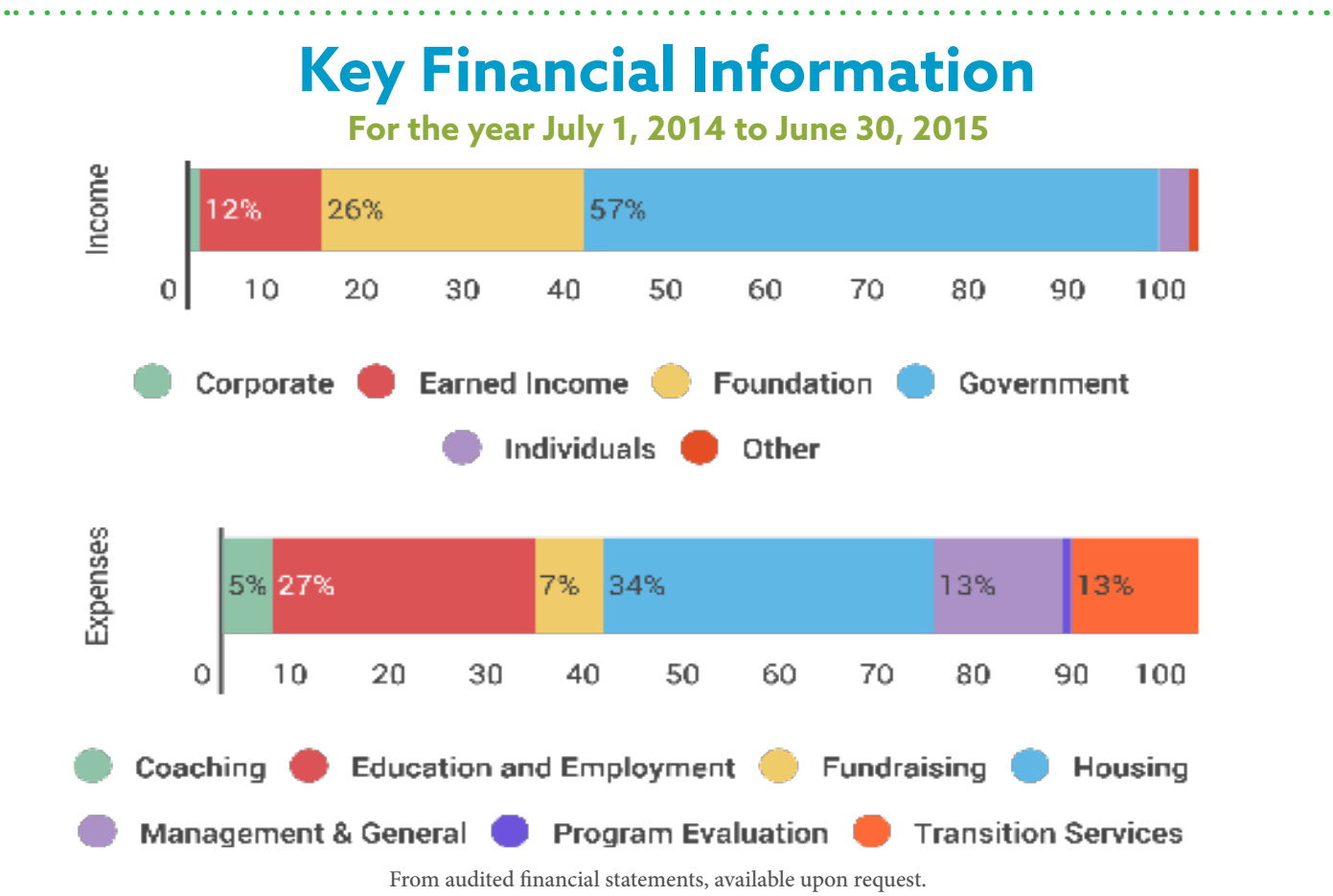
"I got to express myself the way I really wanted to," Mori says. "And I met other people going through the same things with their kids, just at different stages."

When she has a chance, this busy mom likes to take her daughters Alyece, Aubri, and Audrina on special outings like those her relative foster parents took her on—a current favorite is Pier 39, where the girls love to ride the carousel.

Asked what advice she would give to a young person in foster care, Mori says: "Don't make your circumstances the reason why you don't succeed because no matter where you come from, it's up to you which path you choose."



Mori, New Beginnings Fellow with two of her daughters, Alyece and Aubri.



Partner in Purpose: Tender Greens

With its mission to 'give back in meaningful ways,' beloved fast-casual restaurant chain Tender Greens is an ideal partner for B:E.

After years of handing out gift card donations for fundraisers, the company set out to do something that could create lasting change. "So our charitable dollars and time and effort go to a cause that can really make an impact, our Sustainable Life Project (SLP)," says Bay Area Regional Chef Sean Canavan.

The brainchild of Tender Greens co-founder Erik Oberholtzer, SLP offers six months of paid, supportive job training to young adults aging out of foster care with the chance to apply for full-time employment at Tender Greens upon completion of the internship.

Through B:E's partnership with the innovative company, Walnut Creek Executive Chef Sean Eastwood provides professional culinary skills training to youth completing GROW, our own 12-week culinary program.

"It's a natural fit," says Eastwood. GROW artisans are excellent candidates for the SLP program—so far, two GROW graduates have gone on to complete the rigorous SLP course, with more expected to enroll in the coming months.

The Tender Greens team appreciates the support that B:E provides youth. "They help with needs that we as an employer can't necessarily help with—housing or emotional support,"

says Eastwood. "So we find the partnership to be essential."

Tender Greens is leading the way for other businesses looking to make a difference. "I've worked for big hotel groups that would never dream of going down this road," says Eastwood. "The company supports us and allows us to do this outreach into the community which would simply be unheard of for most restaurant groups."

Tender Greens' contribution to the GROW curriculum has a profound impact on the young people in the program.

According to B:E Education and Employment Coordinator Courtney Ralph, the experience allows the youth to "connect with an entity outside of systems that is interested and willing to invest in their future. It's creating that asset network based on what they want to do, their passions and dreams."

Together, B:E and Tender Greens are helping youth create their own path to fulfilling those dreams.



Sean Eastwood and Alexis preparing to serve at the 20th Celebration.



Our youth in action from left to right: Caridad refreshing the buffet table at the 20th Celebration. Craig prepping in the Tender Greens kitchen and Keshawnte is pleased with her hand-crafted pasta. Som, Tender Greens Sous Chef demonstrating plating at the 20th Celebration.

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