

Beyond Emancipation



With your support, Jazzmine, a former foster youth, attained her master's degree in December.

Jazzmine: Tenacity and Resiliency

When she was 17, Jazzmine moved to San Joaquin County to live with an aunt in kinship foster care. Aging out soon afterward, she contacted local social services, only to be told she didn't qualify for their after-care services for foster youth because she was from Alameda County.

Undeterred, Jazzmine looked online, found Beyond Emancipation (B:E), and reached out. From that point on, B:E has provided long distance support to Jazzmine, from helping her locate a housing program in San Joaquin to enrolling at Cal State Sacramento for her bachelor's of social work, and from there on to the renowned George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, from which she graduated in December with a master's degree.

"Connecting with B:E felt empowering" says Jazzmine, now 26.

"I felt supported and relieved that there was somebody out there willing to help me because that was a really hard time in my life."

B:E's book money program was "a really big help" throughout college and graduate school.

"When San Joaquin County turned me down for services, I was afraid of having to live in a shelter, and working with B:E empowered me to stay focused and get everything together ... It was so great to have that support."

She chose Washington University for her MSW not only because it is one of the highest ranked social work programs in the country but also because she could individualize her curriculum to begin the process of becoming a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) in California. Her studies focused on health, including research into the links between obesity and mental health as well as research on cancer and diabetes.

"I love doing research," Jazzmine says. She is currently applying for research positions and direct service jobs in the medical field in California and St. Louis.

In her spare time, Jazzmine likes to spend time with friends, go to clubs, and knit, a skill she learned in high school. "I find it relaxing," she says. She has knit purses, hats, scarves, even swimsuits.

Jazzmine is deeply appreciative of B:E for "offering that support and stability that former foster youth need to transition into adulthood and become educated and gain the skills to help them become an adult," she says. "It helped me a lot, and I would love to help keep it going."



Top and above photo by: Tasha Jordan, friend of Jazzmine.

Dear Community

One of the benefits of attending Living on My Own workshops is that I am learning how to develop positive relationships with others."
-Celena, 18

With all the hostility in our political landscape these days, I find myself grateful for you - grateful for people who stand for mutuality and respect. Beyond Emancipation (B:E) holds sacred the belief that all people matter, that all people are valuable. Whatever happens, we are committed to serving each young person, regardless of their religious beliefs, or their racial, ethnic, sexual or gender identity.

We stand together in this divisive time - together with you.

"My favorite part of the Living On My Own workshops is the free and safe space. I'm comfortable here and everyone can have their own opinion."
-Sherrel, 18

And while the mounting threats to funding and civil liberties are an urgent call to action, I also feel another call – a call to slow down, be present, and connect with people – all people – with empathy and kindness.

This approach - listening, believing in the limitless potential of all people, and approaching each other with the wholehearted belief that each of us has something of value to offer - is what B:E is all about. Every day - with young people, with each other, and with you - we invest in relationships that open doors to transformation and new beginnings.

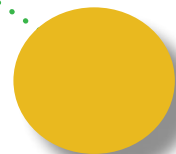
I hope you find connections each day that keep you nourished and hopeful.

With gratitude,



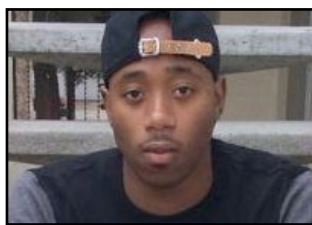
Kate Durham
Executive Director

My favorite part of the Living on My Own workshop is the interactive activities. They help me be more pro-social and interact with people more.
-Erasmio, 17



b2b: Pathway to College Success

For Christopher, B:E's b2b program at Laney College provided a safe haven during a difficult time. Grieving for his best friend, killed in front



Christopher plans to get his BA in sociology and then a master's in social work so he can continue giving back to his community.

of him on Halloween, Christopher struggled to focus on his studies that fall. Yet with the support of b2b, he still managed to earn a 3.50 GPA.

"The thing I loved," says Christopher, "is they were able to just listen and understand. They checked on me and kept me motivated and said: 'You can do it.' I couldn't have done it without them."

Partners in Purpose

b2b is a collaboration between B:E and Laney College's CAFYES and EOPS programs. b2b provides a pathway for young people ages 18-24 who have experienced foster care to enroll at Laney and be successful there.

With your support, 88% of students participating in b2b for four semesters either graduated with an AA or certificate, are still enrolled in community college, or are working at least 30 hours per week.

Now in its 8th year, b2b has supported nearly 200 students, many of whom have earned their associate and vocational degrees or going on to four-year universities.

The program has recently expanded beyond Laney to other Peralta campuses, with student referrals tripling. Over 64 students are now receiving b2b services at Laney, Merritt, and Berkeley City College.



Staff and students at the 2016 b2b Completion Ceremony. Every year, b2b celebrates the accomplishments of students in the cohort. Currently there are over 64 students enrolled in our program.

"Together, we can offer something more powerful and sustainable and helpful to students who are current and former foster youth," says Dr. Mildred Lewis, Dean of Enrollment Services at Laney and Director of EOPS/CARE/b2b. "We're able to accomplish a lot in a short period of time because of the focus on the mission and the work. It's truly unique."



Each year, at the b2b ceremony, Dr. Lewis validates and encourages the youth to continue on their journey and be proud of their accomplishments. She strives to inspire each of them to dream big and know they have multiple levels of support within the learning community.

Feke Lauti, CAFYES program manager at Laney College, notes that the partnership works so well because of its collective impact.

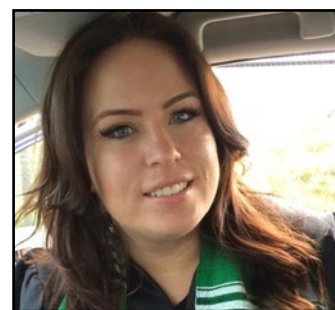
B:E "enhances and elevates" the program, says Lauti, through their services, especially the coaching. Adding, that many

students come to the program in spiritual and emotional pain, and b2b provides them a safe place "to pause from the world."

Impact Down the Road

Three years ago, Carolann completed the b2b program at Laney College and transferred to Cal State East Bay.

"B.E. has done so much for me I can't thank them enough! If it wasn't for B:E/b2b, I wouldn't be where I'm at now. Going through internships with Alameda County and networking landed me a job with the County temporarily as I finish my bachelor's degree. I'll be graduating in June with a B.A. in Sociology. I'm proud to say I've been accepted to SFSU for the Master's Program in Career Counseling! Through b2b I've met people I'm still connected with and who continue helping me to this day. B:E/b2b will always be a part of me and one day I'll give back. Pay it Forward!"



Carolann, one of b2b first participants from 2010-2014, says that the folks she connected with at B:E continue to support her today. Carolann has recently been accepted into SFSU Career Counseling Master's Program.

Team Sarsam: Giving is a Family Affair

It all started in 2006 when the Sarsam family saw a notice in a church bulletin seeking donations of bedding for B:E's housing program.

Although they had never heard of B:E, and didn't yet know anything about our work, the Sarsams were moved to help.

"What struck me was this is something I can do," says Judy Sarsam. "My kids got all excited so when we got home we went online and ordered all the bedding they needed."

It wasn't long before Tony Sarsam joined B:E's board of directors. From that first generous donation of sheets for our entire housing program, the family of seven – now affectionately known at B:E as Team Sarsam – has wholeheartedly supported our youth.

Year after year, the family has provided beautiful back-to-school backpacks and Christmas gifts. Just as with the sheets, the whole family gets involved. "Even at age 6 or 9 or 12, they can fill the backpacks," says Judy.

"B:E is not an organization where you just write a check. We wanted something where we could be more involved, and our kids could be more involved, in helping other kids have a better future."

While the Sarsam's giving has had a huge impact on both the youth and B:E, Judy Sarsam says it's mutual, that her oldest daughter, now 20, plans to be a foster parent someday.



Team Sarsam's generosity has supported hundreds of B:E clients in the past ten years from Christmas presents to stocked backpacks.

The Ways YOU Can Help

- + **DONATE** Go to beyondemancipation.org or use enclosed envelope.
- + **MATCHING GIFTS** Double the impact! Many employers match gifts by their employees.
- + **GIVE A GIFT OF STOCK OR REAL ESTATE**
- + **MAKE A BEQUEST** Name B:E as a beneficiary in your trust, will, or life insurance policy.
- + **MAKE AN IN-KIND DONATION**
- + **BECOME A VOLUNTEER** Email development@beyondemancipation.org

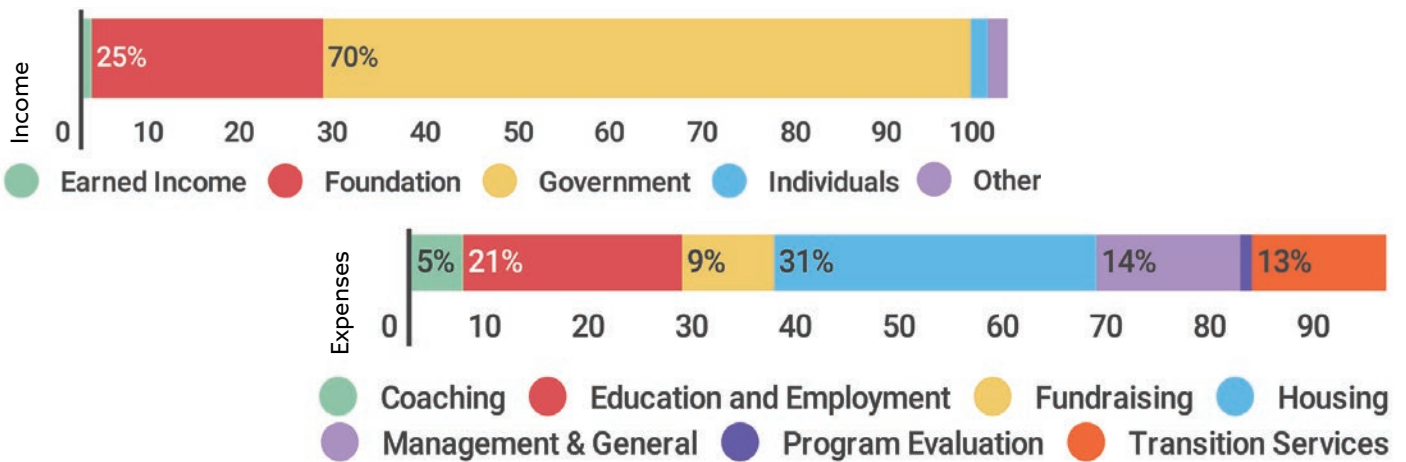
Contact Rory Brown at (510) 667-7636 | rbrown@beyondemancipation.org

Thank you for your support!

Key Financial Information

For the year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Audited financial statements, available upon request.



A Community of Donors

You make all the difference- Thank You!

B:E is grateful you decided to help foster youth.

Corporations

Community Bank of the Bay
 DOWNS United Methodist Women
 Gravity
 Luminance Skincare
 SEEDS Community Resolution Center
 Tender Greens

Foundations

Alex Morris Memorial Fund of
 Horizon Foundation
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 Wells Fargo Bank Foundation
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 Alameda County Social Services Agency
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 Oakland Fund for Children & Youth
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 Katherine Westfall
 Ann Willoughby



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YOUR IMPACT

Over 1000 Youth Served in 2016



Transition Services

699 youth were supported through **6,592** contacts with transition specialists.

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



Housing

84 youth were housed in our community or host housing.

70% of those who stayed more than six months were working and/or in school while in housing.



Education & Careers

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

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



Life Skills

121 youth participated in the Alameda County Independent Living Program.

B:E began providing services in July.