

2023 IMPACT REPORT



B:E's mission is to support young people as they imagine and create their own life beyond foster care.



Thank you for standing by foster youth as they build brighter futures for themselves and the community!



“In a world filled with uncertainty, you show foster youth they have a constant.”

Dear Friend,

You and your dedication to young people keep me hopeful about our future. When I struggle to find footing in an ever-changing, post-pandemic world, your support helps me catch my balance. Thank you for showing up for foster youth!

Supporting young people as they step into independent adulthood is a huge task. With our current housing crisis and mental health issues on the rise, **youth are having to navigate harder and harder choices.**

Which is why I'm so thankful for you. In a world filled with uncertainty, you show foster youth they have a constant.

I want to tell you about one of these youth—a young man named Marice.

These past few months have been hard for Marice. He was homeless and, despite having a housing voucher, he was struggling to find a safe place to live. Nearly every day, you could find Marice at B:E's office, working with his housing coach, venting his frustrations and applying for apartments.

That is, until a couple weeks ago. Marice *finally* got the keys to his very own apartment! And while he can still be found hanging out at the office, he's now beaming with pride. I can't help but smile along with him.

Your support makes moments like this happen. Thank you for sticking it out with youth for the long haul. With you as part of B:E's village, together we can provide youth with what they need not only to survive, but to thrive.

With gratitude,

Vanetta Johnson

Vanetta Johnson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The problem we're tackling together.

OVER 50,000 FOSTER YOUTH LIVE IN CALIFORNIA.
THIS IS JUST SOME OF WHAT THEY'RE UP AGAINST:



Only **53%** graduate high school on time, compared to **83%** of their peers¹



1 in 4 former foster youth become homeless within 2 years of aging out of care²



93% of foster youth want to go to college.

Only **4%** earn their degree.³

¹Children's Law Center of CA
²CalYouth Survey
³CA College Pathways

You helped **534** young people this year!

BECAUSE YOU SHOWED UP:



332 youth got a helping hand with housing

Youth received **\$35k+** in direct housing assistance

After exiting B:E housing, **100%** of youth remained stably housed

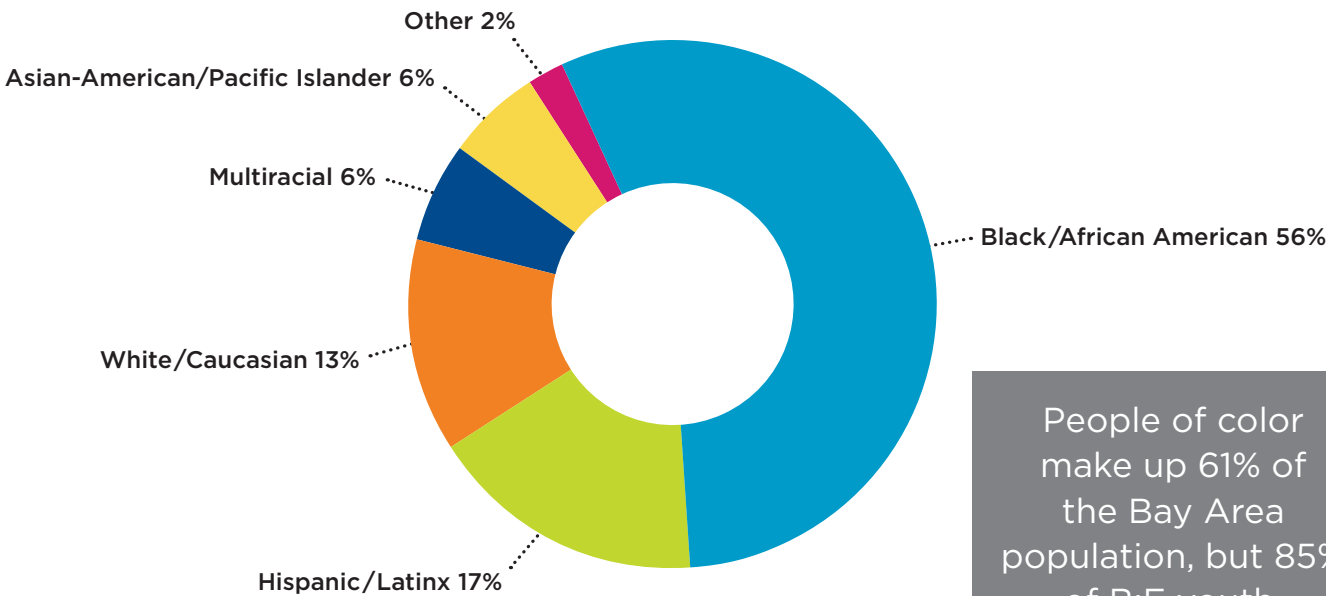


307 youth supported with their education goals

46 students graduated high school

72 college students supported

SELF-REPORTED RACE/ETHNICITY:



People of color make up 61% of the Bay Area population, but 85% of B:E youth.

For financials and more about B:E programs, please visit beyondemancipation.org



You helped Nani on her career path!

Mature beyond her age, Nani is determined to be a survivor and a role model for young people.

Growing up, Nani’s home life didn’t have the safety and stability many people take for granted. She dealt with things no child should ever have to experience, including violence and abuse.

But Nani is determined to thrive despite the hardships she’s encountered.

With the help of her B:E coach, Nani has graduated high school, applied for college scholarships, and is studying psychology with the goal of becoming a therapist. Along with taking college classes, Nani works as a youth advocate in Oakland, supporting young people who are in foster care.

“You can use your environment to become something. Don’t become a victim of your situation. Choose to be a survivor.”



You empowered Jason to go to college!

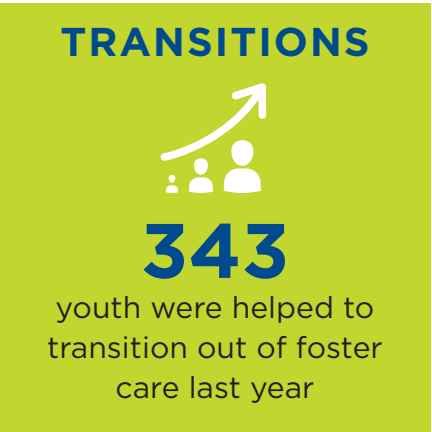
When you meet Jason, one of the first things you notice is his big heart.

After Jason connected with B:E as a teenager, he finally found the supportive community he craved as a kid. With B:E’s support, Jason set goals for school and work and built up the confidence to enroll in college.

“All my life people put me down,” Jason shares. “I want to show them what they’ve missed out on.”

Now that he’s aged out of foster care, Jason is more driven than ever. On top of enrolling in classes at Laney College, Jason joined student government. He hopes to use his voice to advocate for other young people in the foster care system, especially those with special needs.

“I really want to make an impact in the world. I want people to know that somebody is doing something good.”



You gave Briasia community!



Briasia entered foster care when she was only a baby. Because of this, she is no stranger to how lonely being a foster youth can feel.

But the sense of community Briasia found at B:E gave her the strength to dream big. With a safe place to call home in B:E housing, Briasia can focus on paving the way to a better future for her and her son.

Briasia works at a local nonprofit, helping people find housing. Her dream is to launch a nonprofit for single parents seeking community support and start a group home for young girls.

“When I think about all the struggles we’ve overcome, I become more inspired.”



You sent Zevin to his dream school!



Zevin grew up in a home where his basic needs weren’t met. While his family did their best, there were periods where his parents just couldn’t pay the bills, and they’d be without electricity or heat.

But Zevin was determined to beat the odds. He worked hard and graduated high school this spring. His sights were set on higher education, but college felt out of reach.

Thankfully, through B:E, Zevin received support navigating college applications and financial aid and even earned a B:E scholarship. He’s now studying sociology at St. Mary’s College and is already dreaming about grad school.

“I’m going to college with open arms. I’m going to a very welcoming school that wants the best for me.”



B:E Alumni Spotlight:

Where they are today

THESE INSPIRING ALUMNI SERVE AS LIVING PROOF THAT IT'S TRULY POSSIBLE TO THRIVE BEYOND FOSTER CARE.



Daisyann “I’ve been through so much on my own. I’ve learned it’s ok to put yourself first and want the best for yourself. I’m now 34, with a stable job and savings. B:E helped me with college. They made it easy to get whatever I needed without jumping through a lot of hoops. Groups like B:E taught me it’s ok to ask for help.”

Gilbert “I believe in myself. I have learned that I am far greater than the trauma, pain and abandonment I experienced growing up in foster care. Today, I am a grown man with a career, a beautiful wife and an amazing son.”



Ashley “After growing up in foster care in Berkeley, I built a career in foster care system reform. I am happy to be living back on the West Coast with my wife after graduating college at Stanford and getting my masters at University of Baltimore. My path to peace was not without the support of B:E. I’ve seen and experienced first-hand the work it takes to support young people in foster care.”



Banchieri family:

Proof that it truly takes a village

When Pete and Zoe Banchieri decided they wanted to make a difference for local kids who didn’t have the opportunities their own children had, they didn’t have to look far. The Banchieri’s started giving to B:E, and soon after were cooking at B:E Thanksgiving, planting trees at B:E houses, and delivering furniture to youth in B:E’s programs.

Fast forward a few years, and the Banchieri Family has stepped up to level the playing field for foster youth in college by establishing a scholarship fund.

“B:E helps young people create a vision for their future,” observes Pete. “I just want to be the accelerant.”

With financial support, foster youth in college can breathe a sigh of relief knowing they can afford their next meal and textbooks.

The Banchieri’s recognize that supporting young people is a team effort—bringing together family, youth, and B:E to create better outcomes for foster youth.

They serve as living proof that when we all come together, we can build a brighter future for everyone.

“I wanted to make an impact in my community, and I ended up finding community in B:E.”

Want to directly help young people get the support they need? Please visit beyondemancipation.org/get-involved/



Almost half of foster youth experience homelessness. At 22 Marice finally has a place to call home, but between paying rent, keeping the lights on, and buying groceries each week, costs just keep stacking up.

So often, former foster youth are forced to make an impossible choice: a roof over their head or food on the table?

Marice has other choices he wants to make, important choices around his future and his career. Choices that become so much harder to think about when also struggling to meet basic needs.

Young people like Marice deserve not just to survive, but to thrive.

Will you make sure young people like Marice can meet their basic needs so they can focus on their futures?

☒ **YES!** Please use my gift to help foster youth like Marice with life-changing support:

- ☐ **\$50:** A full week of groceries on a budget
- ☐ **\$100:** A full week of groceries and internet
- ☐ **\$250:** A full week of groceries, internet, and cell service
- ☐ **\$500:** A full week of groceries, internet, cell service, and utility bills for the month
- ☐ **\$1,000:** A full week of groceries, internet, cell service, utility bills, and rent support

Give online at beyondemancipation.org/donate